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VOLUME XXV  
NUMBER 5

MAY  
2004

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SAN ANGELO, TX  
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# ANGELUS

DIOCESE OF SAN ANGELO  
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NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF SAN ANGELO

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## West Texas Organizing Strategy – Tom Green County agenda

by Peter Micale, WTA and WTOS

SAN ANGELO – The West Texas Organizing Strategy (WTOS), a coalition of 60 congregations and schools across the region, supports the families of our communities who face economic, social and cultural pressures. WTOS member institutions believe strong families are the foundation of a prosperous society and will work to ensure family needs are addressed so all can share in the prosperity of our community, holding our elected leadership accountable to these ends.

The WTOS met in a convention at the Fellowship Hall of St. Mary's Church in San Angelo, on Sunday, April 18, 2004. Candidates for several political offices ranging from state to local elections were introduced, spoke on their own behalf, and fielded questions from designated directors of the WTOS.

The convention unanimously adopted the declarations which follow, after each was read and addressed by individual directors.

Therefore, the WTOS believes in:

**DIVERSITY:** People of all ages, race and genders need to be represented in all levels of government from management to entry level positions consistent with our population.

**A LIVING WAGE:** Paying a living wage is a long-term investment in our community. Taxing entities such as county, city and the school district and their contractors need to be held accountable for paying a living wage. Tax dollars should only be used to support and attract jobs that provide wages and benefits to support a family.

**EQUITY IN EDUCATION:** All children deserve a quality education that will enable



The various directors were called to the front of the hall to be recognized by the WTOS convention. Political candidates were seated on the stage in the background.

them to be active and contributing members of our community. We need to provide resources to identify and equitably serve high risk children and those with special needs, including gifted and talented, and better support teachers and students in dealing with high-stakes testing. Schools and the administration should be held accountable for ensuring graduates have the basic educational skills needed to succeed in college, vocational training or a career.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** Tom Green County needs to develop safe, decent housing in a price range of the average working class family and initiate and properly manage programs that identify and rehabilitate substandard housing.

see "WTOS" page  
twelve



(Above) S. Mary Kay Bailey, one of the prominent members of the WTOS, made the closing remarks and prayer. (Left) Bishop Pfeifer indorsed the "Strategy" with a financial donation and a press conference at the Pastoral Center on Friday, April 30.



Members from St. Therese Church stood to be recognized as each church congregation was called from the over 500 people in attendance at the WTOS convention at St. Mary's Fellowship Hall on April 18. (Photos by Peter Micale.)



## May – the month of Mary

By Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

May is a special month dedicated to Mary, the Mother of Jesus and our dear Mother. As we honor our earthly mothers during the month of May on "Mother's Day," in a special way, we honor the one who is our spiritual Mother, and who is the Mother of all mothers.

During the month of May, I encourage all to renew devotion to Mary because this is a special way of coming into a deeper relationship with her Son, Jesus Christ. No one knows Christ better than Mary, and she is the one who can teach us the most about him. The only command she ever gave in the entire Scriptures is, "Do whatever He (Jesus) tells you."

I take this occasion to salute and congratulate all the mothers of our Diocese as we remember Mother's Day on May 9, 2004. Thank you for all that you do for Christ, for our Church, for our families, and for our communities. May Christ pour out many blessings upon all our dear mothers, our Mother, always watch over you.



familias, y para nuestras queridas madres, y que María, nuestra Madre, siempre las proteja.

## Mayo – el mes de María

Por el Obispo Miguel D. Pfeifer, OMI

Mayo es un mes especial dedicado a María, la Madre de Jesús y nuestra querida Madre. Como honramos a nuestras madres durante el mes de Mayo en el "Día de las Madres," en una manera especial, honramos a la que es nuestra Madre espiritual, y quien es la Madre de todas las madres.

Durante el mes de Mayo, amino a todos a renovar su devoción a María porque es una manera especial de llegar a una relación más profunda con su Hijo, Jesucristo. Nadie conoce a Cristo mejor que María, y ella es la única que nos puede enseñar más sobre Él. El único mandato que ella nos dio en las Escrituras es, "Hagan todo lo que Él (Jesús) les diga."

Tomo esta ocasión para saludar y felicitar a todas las madres de nuestra Diócesis mientras recordamos el Día de las Madres el 9 de Mayo de 2004. Gracias por todo lo que hacen para Cristo, nuestra Iglesia, nuestras comunidades. Que Cristo les conceda muchas bendiciones a

## Faith and citizenship in an election year

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

SAN ANGELO – This election year is an opportune moment to examine the relationship between our faith and citizenship. A constant theme in the Bible is that our faith must be expressed in action, especially by the care and concern we show the poor and needy. Hence, in this election year we ask who has a place at the table of life in our nation and around the world? Where is the place at the table for children destroyed before they are born; for the hungry and those who lack health care; for families who need decent

work, housing, wages, education and hope for the future? I share with you teachings and challenges taken from various documents of our Holy Father and his offices and the U.S. Catholic Bishops.

### Major Questions

Politics is about much more than our pocket book or economic interest. There are major questions that need to be looked at:

- After September 11, 2001 how can we build not only a safer world, but a better world – more just, more secure, more peaceful, more respectful of human life?

- How will we protect the weakest in our midst – innocent unborn children? How can our nation not turn to violence to solve some of its most difficult problems – abortion – to deal with difficult pregnancies; the death penalty to combat crime; euthanasia and assisted suicide to deal with the burdens of age, illness and disability; and war to address international disputes?

- How will we address the tragic fact the more than 33,000 children die everyday as a result of hunger, the international debt and lack of development around the world?

- How can our society defend the institution of marriage and better support families and their moral responsibilities?

- How are we to confront the critical issue of same-sex unions?

- How will we address the growing number of people without affordable and accessible health care?

- How will our society combat continuing prejudice, overcome hostility toward immigrants and refugees and heal the wounds of racism and discrimination?

- How will our nation pursue the value of justice and peace in a world

of injustices, desperate widespread poverty and peace too often overwhelmed by violence?

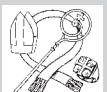
- What are the responsibilities and limitations of families, community organization, markets and governments?

- When should our nation use, or avoid the use of military forces – for what purpose?

- How can we join with other nations to lead the world to a greater respect of human life and dignity, religious freedom and democracy, economic justice, ecology and care for all of God's creation?

- How can we maintain a **see "FAITH" page eleven**

### The Bishop's Schedule



#### MAY, 2004

May 1: Abilene, Dyess Air Force Base - Confirmation at 5:00 p.m.

May 2: Midland, O. Lady of Guadalupe - Confirmation at 10:00 a.m.

May 3: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Presbyteral Coun-

cil meeting at 1:00 p.m.

May 3-7: San Angelo, Christ the King Retreat Center - Priests Retreat

May 7: San Angelo, Holy Angels - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

May 8: Midland, St. Ann - Confirmation at 5:30 p.m.

May 9: Abilene, St. Francis - Confirmation at 9:00 a.m.

May 10: San Angelo, Christ the King Retreat Center - Rosary at

Mary's Grotto at 7:00 p.m.

May 11: Abilene, St. Vincent - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

May 12: St. Lawrence, St. Lawrence - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

May 13: San Angelo, St. Joseph - Confirmation at 7:00 p.m.

May 14: San Angelo, Sacred Heart - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

May 15-24: Rome, Italy - Ad Liminia Visit

May 25: Winters, O.L. Mt. Carmel - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

May 26: Odessa, Holy Redeemer - Confirmation at 6:00 p.m.

May 27: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Meeting of Presbyteral Council and Diocesan Finance Council at 10:30 a.m.

May 29-30: San Antonio Wedding Anniversary of Cousins

May 30-31: Floresville - 50th Bishop's Schedule for June 2004

June 1: McCamey, Sacred Heart

- Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

June 2: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Staff Mass at 8:30 a.m. 25th Anniversary Luncheon for Sister Hilda Marotta, OSF and Sister Adelina Garcia, OFM at 11:30 a.m.

June 3: Big Lake, St. Margaret - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

June 4: Brownwood, St. Mary - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

June 5: Big Spring, Immaculate Heart, Sacred Heart, and St. Thomas and San Jose, Coahoma - Confirmation at 5:00 p.m.

June 6: Andrews, Our Lady of Lourdes - Confirmation at 10:30 a.m.

June 7: San Angelo, Bishop's Residence - Cookout for all Priests, Sisters and Bishop's Staff at 6:00 p.m.

June 9: San Angelo - Staff Meeting at 11:00 a.m. Home Mass in St. Mary's parish at 6:00 p.m.

June 10: Colorado City, St. Ann

- Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

June 11: San Angelo - Home Mass in St. Joseph's parish at 6:30 pm.

June 13: San Antonio - Celebration for Archbishop Patrick Flores  
June 14-19: Denver - Meeting of United Conference of Catholic Bishops

June 20: Menard, Sacred Heart - Confirmation at 11:15 a.m.

June 21-23: San Juan, Texas - Meeting of Texas-Mexican Border Bishops

June 24: San Angelo, Christ the King Retreat Center - Speak at Womens' Cursillo at 9:00 p.m.

June 26: San Angelo - Convention Center - Permanent Deacons' Ordination at 10:00 a.m.

June 27: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Marriage Jubilee Celebration at 2:00 p.m.

June 28-30: San Antonio

### 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

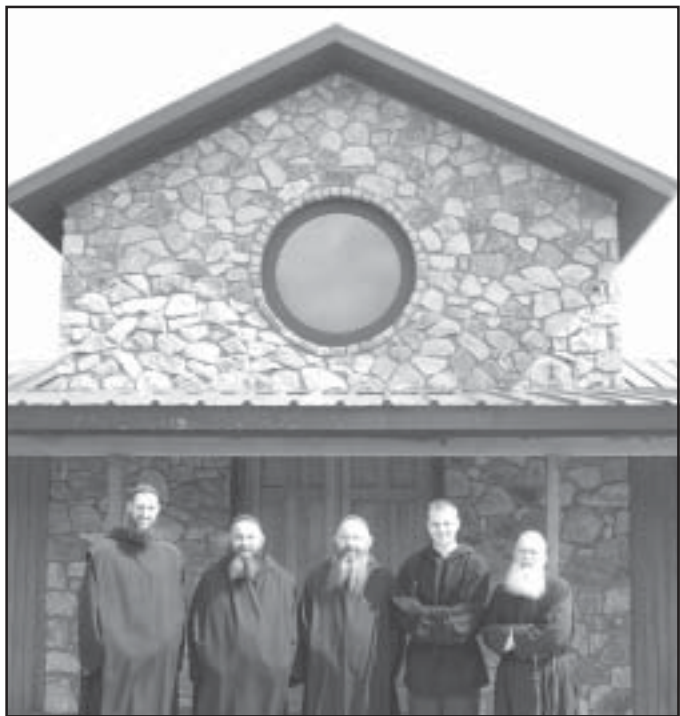
THIRD CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT SAN ANGELO, TEXAS

Printed by the San Angelo Standard-Times

A Scripps-Howard Company

# Vocation Circle

## Mt. Carmel Hermitage celebrates milestones for its members



by Fr. Fabian Maria Rosette, H.O.Carm.

CHRISTOVAL, TX – On May 16, Br. John David of the Holy Cross, O. Carm. will be celebrating his Tenth Anniversary in the service of the Lord as a Carmelite Hermit. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Dolores Molinar of Andrews, Texas who are members of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. Br. John David is a graduate of Andrews High School and South Plains College.

As a founding member of the Hermitage, he has been instrumental in its growth and construction. May God continue to pour blessings upon him in the years to come.

On June 24 another member of the Hermitage is Br. Martin Mary of the Blessed Sacrament, O. Carm. who will make his First Profession of Vows at Mt. Carmel Hermitage at 10:00 am. He is the son of Mr. and

(Individual photos, clockwise from top left) Fr. Fabian Maria Rosette, H.O.Carm., Br. John David of the Holy Cross, O. Carm., Br. Martin Mary of the Blessed Sacrament, O. Carm., and Anthony Alt. (Photos by Stephen Talley.)



(Above) The Community of Carmelite Hermits in Christoval, Texas. (Photo by Lori Hines.)

Mrs. D. Mark Hubbs of Rowlett, Texas and is a graduate of Garland High School. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Chemistry from Texas Christian University and taught Chemistry for two years at the College of St. Thomas More in Fort Worth, Texas. Since his entrance into Mt. Carmel Hermitage in 2001, he has offered his musical talents to enrich the liturgical life

of the Hermitage.

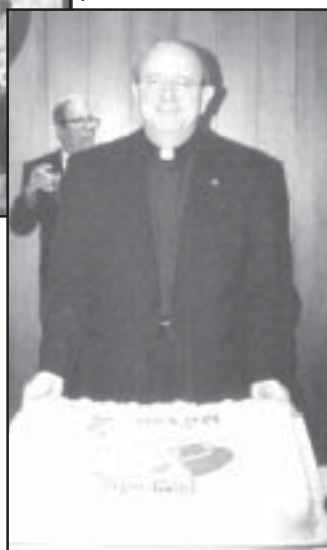
Another man interested in Hermitage life is Anthony Alt, 24, the son of Bruce and Lea Ann Alt of Waverly, Nebraska. He attended the University of Notre Dame and later entered the seminary in Nebraska. He taught Latin at Bishop Lynch High School in Dallas, Texas before entering Mt. Carmel Hermitage.

## Diocesan priests start new assignments



(Left and below) Fr. Tom Barley was installed as Pastor of St. Ambrose Church in Wall and Holy Family Church in Mereta on April 15 at a 6:30 pm Mass. Symbols of the parish and Communion were presented by parishioners of Wall and Mereta. (r to l) Sylvia Chappa, Bessie Wilde, Gloria Schwartz, Tiffany Hoelscher, David and Bella Braden.

(Above and right) On Friday April 16, 2003 Family, friends and parishioners joined Bishop Pfeifer in welcoming and installing Msgr. Larry Droll as the new pastor of St. Ann's Church. Msgr. Droll arrived on March 15 to serve the parish as pastor. A reception was held immediately after giving Msgr. Droll an added occasion to visit with the families. The families and staffs message to their new pastor was beautifully written on the cake "You are a gift from God". Everyone is very excited to have Msgr. Droll as the pastor. Father Rodney White will continue to serve as Associate Pastor. (Photos by Lucie Valles.)



Bishop Michael Pfeifer (center) was the principal celebrant of the Mass and installed Fr. Tom Barley (right). Fr. Romanus Akamike, Pastor of St. Charles Church in Eden (left) assisted at the service. A meal and reception in the parish hall followed. (Photos by Jeanie Schniers.)



# Angelo Catholic School and all Catholic Schools are an "A-plus" for America

by Very Rev. Maurice J. Voity, Rector  
Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart

SAN ANGELO – It's true: Catholic schools mean "A-plus" for America! Angelo Catholic School demonstrates that, day in and day out – nurturing spiritual growth, and telling of the love of God, not only in religion class, but with every action and subject; upholding high scholarly standards, making academic success not just a goal but a stunning achievement for the thousands of students who have passed through ACS over more than a century. The graduates of our parish school can be seen serving the community, church, and nation. In short, they make a faith-filled future truly a part of today's world.

As a product of the Catholic school system from kindergarten through high school, it never ceases to amaze me when I see the very small percentage of our parishioners, indeed the parishioners of all the San Angelo parishes, who send their children to Angelo Catholic School. My parents would never have considered anything but a Catholic school for the education of their children. And I will never be able to repay them for that gift; nor will I ever be able to repay the good Sisters, Brothers, priests and lay teachers who instilled that faith-filled future in me so many years ago.

My parents sacrificed to send my brother and me to our parish elementary and high school in New York. But you know, they didn't really

consider it a sacrifice. They considered it a necessity and their duty and obligation as Catholic parents to give us the best possible education in our Catholic faith. At the same time, they also recognized that we were receiving a first-rate education, second to none. The academic achievements of our classmates, and the contributions they have made as adults, both to our country and our Church, would fill volumes. And I attribute that one-hundred-percent to our Catholic school education.

The same is true at Angelo Catholic School. Almost all of our graduates excel in their academic pursuits when they leave ACS after the sixth grade. You read about them almost every day in the newspaper. They appear in the top of their class, and at the top of the various academic competitions that take place in the public school system throughout the year. Many educators in our public school system have told me that they can almost always pick out the students who have come from Angelo Catholic School, because they stand out in the most positive ways.

I urge you to consider sending your children to Angelo Catholic School if you are not already doing so. We have excellence in education from our three- and four-year-old early childhood education program, right through our sixth grade.

Some people automatically assume that they cannot afford a Catholic school for their children. I would argue that in these trying times, you

cannot afford not to send your children to a Catholic school. How can you put a price tag on having your child in a school which is Christ-centered; where academic achievement is fostered and encouraged; where your children are nurtured in Catholic Christian values and morals; where every child is seen as a gift of God and receives the love and care they deserve?

Please at least look into the possibility of your children attending ACS. It is not as expensive as you think; and there is financial assistance available for those who qualify.

Call me personally at the Parish Office, 658-6567, and I will personally make time to take you on a tour of our school, and show you the benefits of a Catholic education.

Most of the time, it all comes down to a matter of priorities. When your child's religious upbringing is your number one priority, then you will sacrifice other things to make that happen.

*(Editor's Note: Fr. Voity's thoughts apply equally to the two other excellent Catholic schools in the Diocese: St. Ann's in Midland and St. Mary's in Odessa.)*

# Bartimeo (El modelo del verdadero discípulo de Jesús)

por Obispo Miguel Pfeifer, OMI

SAN ANGELO – La llamada principal de cada cristiano es ser un verdadero discípulo de Jesús. Dios nos ha dado muchos modelos del discipulado comenzando con la propia Madre de Jesús, la Virgen María. Además tenemos el ejemplo de los Santos para inspirarnos y animarnos para cumplir con esta llamada.

En el evangelio de Mc 10, 46-52, leemos de un discípulo menos conocido, Bartimeo pero, muy parecido a nosotros. La historia de Bartimeo representa la de nosotros y el espíritu de fe necesaria para seguir a Cristo.

Las siguientes reflexiones que comparto con ustedes viene de un reflexión sobre Bartimeo del Misal Mensual para el 30° Domingo Ordinario.

### Bartimeo

Poco antes de entrar en Jerusalén, Jesús se encuentra con un ciego llamado Bartimeo, que le grita: "¡Jesús, hijo de David, ten compasión de mí!" ¿Quién es este hombre? ¿A quién representa?

- Bartimeo es el hombre del siglo I y del siglo XXI que, sentado al borde del camino, siente necesidad de una luz que le dé sentido a su vida.

- Bartimeo es el hombre de todos los tiempos que en su búsqueda de Dios escucha voces que lo animan en esta tarea: "¡Ánimo! Levántate, porque él te llama"; y otras que son obstáculo en esta búsqueda: "¡Lo reprendían para que se callara".

- Bartimeo es el hombre que sabe escuchar y distinguir en el ajetreo del mundo los pasos de Jesús, el Salvador.

- Bartimeo es el hombre que no duda en soltar el manto de las falsas seguridades, de las cosas secundarias y superfluas que nos ahogan, atrapan o ciegan.

- Bartimeo es el hombre siempre dispuesto a dar el salto de la fe, a poner toda la confianza en Jesús.

- Bartimeo es el hombre que se sabe llamado e interpelado por Jesús: "¿Qué quieres que haga por tí?"

- Bartimeo es el hombre que se sabe lo que quiere y lo pide: "Maestro, que pueda ver"; pero al mismo tiempo reconoce que él tiene que poner todo lo que está de su parte: "Vete; tu fe te ha salvado".

- Bartimeo es, en pocas palabras, el modelo del verdadero discípulo de Jesús.

## Ethics and Integrity Workshop Dates

Deanery	Place	Date	Time
<b>Abilene</b>	Holy Family, Abilene	May 15, 2004	10:00 am - 1:00 pm (Eng)
	Holy Family, Abilene	June 5, 2004	10:00 am - 1:00 pm (Eng)
	St. Mary, Brownwood	June 7, 2004	6:30 - 9:30 pm (Eng)
<b>Midland/Odessa</b>	St. Stephen, Midland	May 3, 2004	7:00-10:00 pm (Eng)
	Sacred Heart, McCamey	May 17, 2004	7:00-10:00 pm (Eng)
	Sacred Heart, Big Spring	June 2, 2004	7:00-10:00 pm (Eng)
<b>San Angelo</b>	Sacred Heart, Menard	May 11, 2004	7:00-10:00 pm (Eng)
	St. Mary, San Angelo	May 18, 2004	7:00-10:00 pm (Eng)
	Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Ozona	June 1, 2004	7:00-10:00 pm (Eng)

### Ethics and Integrity for Church Personnel

## Diocese of San Angelo

www.san-angelo-diocese.org

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Confidential: 325-651-7500 FAX: 325-651-6688  
mikedosa@aol.com

Report abuse of minors to: State of Texas 800-252-5400



# Kerry's kiss with NARAL

by Dave Andrusko  
*National Right to Life News*

WASHINGTON – From the perspective of Planned Parenthood, NARAL Pro-choice America (formerly The National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League), and NOW (National Organization for Women), it was fitting and proper that U2's "It's a Beautiful Day" would be reverberating in the background of the April 23rd rally in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the John Kerry campaign. Senator Kerry's appearance was a love fest, an exchange of political vows, sealed by Kerry's quick peck on the cheek of retiring NARAL President Kate Michelman.

At the rally, Kerry appeared in front of hundreds of cheering abortion supporters and was introduced with great fanfare by the leaders of major pro-abortion organizations. All of this was in hope of drawing a sizeable crowd for the pro-abortion "March for Women's Lives" that took place two days later in Washington.

For example, Planned Parenthood's political action arm – the Planned Parenthood Action Fund – was for the first time, endorsing a presidential candidate, John Kerry, according to its director, Gloria Feldt (who is the president of Planned Parenthood). Michelman pledged that "Nothing is more important to NARAL Pro-Choice America, nothing is more important to me" than electing Kerry the next President and vowed that pro-choicers would wear out the soles of so many shoes canvassing for Kerry "that come November, our national shoe leather industry will be in the throes of an historic boom."

For his part, Sen. Kerry described Ms. Michelman as "one of the great modern-day civil rights leaders in the United States," and vowed to protect Roe v. Wade, which (echoing the catch phrase of the day) "has never been more at risk than it is today." For good measure Kerry ridiculed President George W. Bush's opposition to abortion as a "politi-

cal weapon" that is "used by politicians in this nation."

Sen. Kerry employed parts of his standard stump speech, thrashing President Bush for alleged failures on all fronts. But abortion was the reason most of the crowd had come.

Yet Kerry was also sensitive enough to know that the public has heard a great deal lately about the barbaric partial-birth abortion technique. Even more than usual, Kerry strove to deny that he was "pro-abortion," but rather pro-"right to privacy," which is needed, he said, to "protect the full measure of rights of human beings in our country."

Feldt and Michelman engaged in a kind of pleasant one-upsmanship to see who could best describe the upcoming election in the most apocalyptic terms. "The outcome of this election is critical to the lives of women and men and families, both here and abroad," Feldt avowed. "This is our moment and it's John Kerry's moment for this nation," Michelman insisted. "There has



Democrat Presidential candidate John Kerry kisses NARAL President Kate Michelman at a rally sponsored by the Kerry campaign.

never, not in my life, not in NARAL Pro-Choice America's life, not in our country's life, never, never been a more important presidential election for the women of this nation and the women of the world."

Kerry was largely content to leave the heavy lifting to Feldt and Michelman. He didn't, for example, specifically say, as he did earlier this year to the Associated Press, that "I am proud that I am the only presidential candidate to pledge that I will support only pro-choice judges to the Supreme Court."

Nor did he need to mention that his new campaign manager was as-

sociated with EMILY's List, a PAC that lends its considerable resources only to pro-abortion female Democratic candidates. Or that he had voted against passing the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act on six occasions. Or that he had most recently voted against the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, known as Laci and Conner's Law. Or that Michelman had assured the New York Times that, "Even on the most difficult issues, we've never had to worry about John Kerry's position."

Nor did any who attended the March.

# Kerry's supporters revile priests at pro-abortion march

by Kristinn, *freerepublic.com*

WASHINGTON – The best way I can explain what I witnessed at today's so-called March for Women's Lives is to reference the movie, *The Exorcist*. When priests who have come to expel the evil spirit from her confront the possessed child, Regan, she reacts in shockingly vulgar, profane ways.

That is how thousands of 'pro-choice' demonstrators reacted to the presence of a lone priest blessing and praying for them along the march route.

Father Reynolds stood for hours this afternoon on Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, in front of the Navy Memorial. Other members of the clergy and pro-life activists were spread out along the same block. Almost non-stop, he made the sign of the cross with his right arm while speaking to the marchers offering blessings and prayers.

The response was nothing short of satanic. Father Reynolds was cursed at and flipped off by hundreds

of marchers, many of whom sported Kerry stickers. Many other marchers mocked the sign of the cross. Some denounced God while others denied His existence.

Marchers screamed at the top of their lungs against the priest. Those who support the murder of children repeatedly accused him of being a child molester.

One woman walked up to the priest and stood just on the other side of the police-manned fence separating the sides. She made the sign of the cross, but finished by thrusting her hips forward at the priest while she dramatically grabbed her crotch.

All the while, 'pro-choice' marchers were walking behind our lines with the permission of police. This caused me and another man to stand guard by Father Reynolds because the 'pro-choice' marchers kept harassing him and the police were slow to intervene.

I was wishing I had a video camera to document this. To see Kerry supporters acting in such a reveal-

ing and demonic manner was unsettling. Hour after hour passed of this vile, contemptuous behavior toward the priest. None on their side tried to rein in their evil behavior. It was the Democrat party at its most real.

The last group in the march was a bunch of homosexuals in drag who stopped and sang crude, profane songs meant to insult the clergy.

Father Reynolds blessed the men, as he had done thousands of others all afternoon. His faith was not shaken by the way he was treated today. He remained in good spirits throughout. His blessing arm was almost worn out, though.



Advocates of legal abortion display signs for Democrat presidential candidate John Kerry during the March for Women's Lives in Washington April 25. Kerry, a Catholic, supports legalized abortion. (CNS photo by Paul Haring)

## Should pro-abortion politicians receive Communion?

by Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) – Denying Communion to a politician such as Sen. John F. Kerry, who supports legalized abortion, must be the last resort in a process to convince the politician to uphold moral truths when voting, said the president of

the U.S. bishops' conference.

"In the nature of the church, the imposition of sanctions is always the final response, not the first response, nor the second nor maybe even the 10th," the conference president, Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., told Catholic News

Service.

The bishop spoke to CNS in Rome April 23, the same day the bishops' conference in Washington released a statement he made regarding Catholics in political life.

The statement came in response **see "SHOULD" page nine**



# Bishop celebrates Earth Day with ACS students

by Peter Micale, WTA

SAN ANGELO – As he has done in the past, Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer donated, had planted, and blessed a red oak tree on the grounds of Holy Angels Church and/or the Holy Angels Campus of Angelo Catholic School. Students from Angelo Catholic School got a lesson in horticulture from the owner of Olive’s Nursery, Mr. Tommy Olive, when he explained how mulch would help the growth of the tree.



(Left) Bishop Pfeifer reads Gospel during the Earth Day Mass celebration.

(Right) Bishop Pfeifer and ACS students look on as Mr. Olive puts mulch around the tree. (Photos by Lori Hines).



# Revival energizes black Catholics attending national convocation

by Catholic News Service

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — An hour of praise and worship and a nearly-two-hour revival energized participants at the National Black Catholic Convocation April 20 at St. Rita Parish in Indianapolis.

During the revival, Father Patrick Smith, pastor of St. Teresa of Avila Parish in Washington, challenged black Catholics to grow in faith and to reach out to young people who desperately need to hear about the good news of Jesus Christ. His talk was based on Ezekiel’s vision of dry bones that

are brought to life by God, as described in chapter 37, verses 1-14. “What God wants to do is change the lyrics of your life. We need to take the time to listen to the word,”

Father Smith said. “We need to talk about teen pregnancy and abortion, stuff we don’t talk a whole lot about sometimes,” he said. “But, realistically, why talk about the teen pregnancy rate or the abortion rate or the divorce rate or the illiteracy rate or the teacher turnover rate in inner-city schools or the crime rate or the homicide rate or the unemployment rate? Why talk

about all that if there is no solution?”

The priest added, “Unless we bring this stuff into the light, we’ll never be healed of it. Things change when they get brought into the light. But I think we’re just basically afraid.”

Musician Roscoe Hager from the Leon C. Roberts Liturgical Institute drums during the National Black Catholic Convocation revival at St. Rita Parish in Indianapolis April 20. He is a member of St. Augustine Parish in Washington. (CNS photo by Mary Ann Wy and, The Criterion)



# Parish leaders meet at Retreat Center

(Photo by Peter Micale.)

by Peter Micale, WTA

SAN ANGELO – Directors/Coordinators of Religious Education and Coordinators of Youth Ministry from throughout the Diocese met at Christ the King Retreat Center on April 16, 2004. Sr. Hilda Marotta was the facilitator for the reflection day. The topics that were discussed were: A Hunger for God – Nourishing a Spiritual Attitude; A Menu – Developing a Practice of Prayer; Main Course – Awareness of God’s Presence; and A Way of gratitude and Generosity.



**Parish Secretaries Please Note:**

The Diocese web page ([www.san-angelo-diocese.org](http://www.san-angelo-diocese.org)) has been updated with the available data in the Pastoral Center.

Please check your parish’s information – personnel, Mass schedules, phone numbers, etc. – and send any corrections by mail or email to [PMAngelus@aol.com](mailto:PMAngelus@aol.com).



# Combining hearts and efforts

by Missy Garza

SAN ANGELO – Throughout the fall semester students at the Newman Center have been raising funds in an effort to bring fellow university students from San Pedro Sula, Honduras to ASU.

At the beginning of the semester the students, faculty, and friends were asked to clean out their closets

and bring their unwanted treasures for a garage sale. Fortunately, the center received a great number of items and also sold many.

In October, Frances Ramirez, Mary Lou Alfaro, Senaida Garza, and Alex Rios gave their time and talent to give haircuts to help with the Honduran fund. Donna Kay's Hair Salon provided the stylists



Mary Lou Alfaro, Stylist with Diana Mandujano. (Photos courtesy S. Malachy Griffin.)



with salon chairs so that they could cut hair with ease.

In November, students worked with Raul Martinez in making a design for the latest Newman Center t-shirt. Various students have sold shirts at the Newman Center during lunchtime through the semester.

(Left front) Lydia Martinez, Missy Garza, Gabrielle Garza, Amy Saiz, S. Malachy Griffin. Back: Mario Saenz.

Most of the shirts have been sold; however, there are still a few left to be sold.

Also in November, the Catholic Community of St. Joseph's in Stanton helped with the efforts to raise money. Students from the center traveled to Stanton to help with a breakfast at the parish and all the proceeds were given to the fund. To coincide with the Catholic Social theme of thinking globally and

acting locally students went trick-or-treating for canned goods. All cans received were donated to the Catholic Outreach of San Angelo.

With all the effort put forth this semester what truly shines is the community built within the Newman Center. Individuals have come together to work towards a common goal. In the spring semester we will continue to work and try to raise funds and unite as one.

# Annual Seder meal celebrated

by Peter Micale, WTA

SAN ANGELO – The annual Seder meal was held at the Holy Angel's Fellowship Hall on the evening of Sunday, April 4, 2004. Approximately 350 people commemorated the Passover Meal with tidbits of traditional Jewish food during the reenactment of the Old Testament story. This was quickly followed by a good old fashioned Texas steak dinner with all the trimmings.



(Above, l to r) Fr. Charles Greenwell was the Narrator and story teller during the Passover meal. Robin Kalvoda was a reader at the head table; Bishop Pfeifer narrated the part of the Father; Ben Kalvoda read the part of the child. Delores Fohn on far right and her husband Gerald (not shown) were also at the head table.



(Left) Deacon candidate Harry Pelto, the Father at his table, provides water, a basin and towel to Mrs. and Mr. Charles Ahern, and his wife Cathy (foreground) to wash their fingers prior to beginning the Seder meal. (Photos by Peter Micale.)



# A new beginning – my story

## Starting over after the death or divorce of a spouse

by Kathy Keaton

SAN ANGELO – I had never been to the retreat center before and wasn't quite sure what to expect in the beautiful but Catholic setting. I felt awkward being one of the only Protestants there as well as one of the few widows present. I had already learned that most of the others sitting quietly around me in the Chapel of Christ The King Retreat Center were Catholic and divorced.

It was so quiet and calm as we sat there in the beautiful serene setting. I could feel each and every beat of my heart. I could feel the breath going into and out of my lungs. Yet I felt numb and detached from the body that belonged to me. As I glanced around the room everyone else looked so normal. I would soon learn that inside they all felt just like me. We were all apprehensive, alone and full of questions and self-doubt.

We were all attending "A Beginning Experience Week End" By the end of the three days we would be bonded like a family. We would walk out of the retreat center into the same world we left, but newly anchored in friendship with each

other and in Christ. We would feel hope for a new beginning and the dawning of each new day.

For each of us, the week-end experience, like our lives was individual and different. Some in the room were broken and angry after being lied to and deceived. Some were feeling guilty and full of remorse for choices they had made that had hurt others. Still others were dealing with the ghost of the other woman or other man that had robbed them of the love and commitment of their spouse. The room was full of broken families, broken hearts and broken vows and promises. By the end of the week-end each of us would have shared and cried and examined the various steps of our grief. Denial, bargaining, anger, fear and acceptance.

Most around me had tried hard but unsuccessfully to make their marriage work. Many had been to counseling or shared with their spiritual advisor. All had prayed for God to make them better, make their spouse better, save their marriage and now heal their hearts and give them peace.

As widows and widowers we

were experiencing the same emotions. We were dealing with denial, anger and guilt, trying to accept the loss of our hopes and dreams, not by separation or divorce, but because of the death of our spouse. Some of us had been caregivers lovingly but helplessly standing by the side of our spouse as cancer or dementia or alcohol or drugs took control. One of us had returned home to find the lifeless body of a spouse who had taken his own life. Still others had headed off to work and gone about their normal day only to get a sudden phone call reporting that their husband or wife's life had been suddenly taken in an automobile accident.

The shock and pain of suddenly and unexpectedly finding yourself alone, whether it is due to death or divorce, accepting and adjusting to being alone takes time. In grief and loss there is no right or wrong. Healing is different for everyone.

### Information

Three times a year the San Angelo Catholic Diocese offers "The Beginning Experience," a week end of healing and new

# School for charismatic spiritual directors

NEW MEXICO – The Pecos Benedictine Monastery is still taking applications for its remaining 2004 session, scheduled for June 9-July 7. Two more School sessions are planned for 2005. Anyone sensing the Lord leading them into the ministry of spiritual direction and wanting to receive training can call or write for information and application forms. The School office can be reached by E-mail at [spiritdir@cybermesa.com](mailto:spiritdir@cybermesa.com); by telephone at 505/757-6415, ext. 239; or by writing to the School at Pecos Benedictine Monastery, P.O. Box 1080, Pecos, NM 87552-1080.

The Monastery, about 25 miles east of Santa Fe, offers guests more than 1,000 acres of peace blessed daily by prayer and the upper Pecos River. In addition to its School, it schedules retreat programs and provides for non-structured private retreats for individuals and groups. Spiritual direction is available upon request in advance.

For further information, E-mail [guestmaster@pecos-nm.com](mailto:guestmaster@pecos-nm.com) or visit the Monastery's web site [www.pecosabbey.org](http://www.pecosabbey.org).

hope for those who are separated, divorced or widowed.

The loss of a loved one through divorce, separation or death is one of life's most traumatic experiences. Many who have suffered these losses often feel left out by their church, uneasy around friends and unsure of their future. It takes courage and hope to face the future alone when all of your hopes and dreams included a spouse who is now gone.

"The Beginning Experience," sponsored by The San Angelo Catholic Diocese is an instrument of healing within the church. "The Beginning Experience" who's members also have experienced the pain of the loss of a spouse due to separation, divorce or death help other grieving singles move from the darkness of being alone into the future with renewed hope.

Priests, Pastors and Laity lead, share and unite throughout the week-end to help others begin to heal their pain.

From Friday evening until Sunday afternoon, participants are prayerfully guided and gently lead through a program of presentations, personal and private

reflection and small group sharing. A sense of community begins to develop in the safe and confidential atmosphere of care and concern at the Catholic retreat center.

The spiritual week-end is designed to be a time of new awareness, a time of healing, forgiving and letting go of past guilt and anger, regret and other heavy burdens we so often cling to. The week-end offers the opportunity for reconciliation and truly a new beginning for those who find themselves unexpectedly alone.

Those attending "The Beginning Experience" weekend share that they have experienced:

- Emotional and spiritual healing.
- New self respect
- New skills for dealing with the pain of loss.
- New tools to form healthier family relationships
- Renewed energy to be more confident, caring, effective parents
- The ability to return to their church and workplaces ready to begin moving forward to improve life for themselves and their families.

## Benefit Dinner, Appreciation and Farewell Party for Father Prasad Gallela

Pastor of St. Joseph, Rowena;  
St. Thomas, Miles; and St. Boniface, Olfen

**Sunday, May 16th**

St. Joseph Parish Hall, Rowena, Tx.  
BBQ meal served from 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
(Plates to go will be available) All plates: \$6.00

Auction begins at 1:00 p.m.

*Fr. Prasad will be returning home to India this summer and plans to build an Ashram. The Ashram will be like a community center to help care for the hungry and homeless.*

*Proceeds will help Father with this mission.*

For more information or to donate an auction item call:

Pat Lange 442-2331 or 442-4201

Items can also be dropped at St. Joseph Church office  
between 8 am - 12 noon Monday through Thursday.

**Your support is appreciated!**





# Scholars, experts say world needs renewed Catholic political theory

by *Cindy Wooden*  
*Catholic News Service*

ROME (CNS) — While holding different opinions about the moral legitimacy of the U.S.-led war in Iraq, Catholic philosophers and theologians and legal and defense experts agreed that the church's moral teaching on politics and war must be re-discovered and renewed.

The world needs the updated voice of the Catholic Church to promote international relations and policies that truly protect the dignity of the human person in a changing world, said U.S. Catholic commentator George Weigel, one of the organizers of an April 28-29 academic discussion.

Under the sponsorship of the philosophy faculty at Rome's Gregorian University, about a dozen scholars met for a one-day, closed-door discussion and a one-day public conference on "Catholic Thought and World Politics in the 21st Century."

Antonio Maria Baggio, a philosopher and one of the conference organizers, said "neoconservatives"

in the United States, including Weigel and Michael Novak, tried to explain that the war in Iraq was morally legitimate by basing it on the "classical" formulation of the just-war theory without taking into account the development of the church's teaching over the centuries.

"It is natural that someone reaches for the just-war theory when his country is threatened and others are saying 'war is not justified,'" Baggio said.

"The position of the church is the path of humanity. If I am asked to send my son I want to be completely sure first that absolutely everything else was attempted first," he said.

"The church, in its history, has not limited itself to deepening the strict just-war doctrine. Instead it has dedicated itself to elaborating and putting into practice the conditions for peace, that is, to work to prevent war," Baggio said.

In fact, he said, the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" begins its discussion of war under the commandment "Thou shall not kill" and fo-

ambiguously pro-abortion," Cardinal Arinze said, "Yes."

"If the person should not receive Communion, then he should not be given it," the cardinal said.

Citing Cardinal Arinze's response to the specific question about Kerry, Bishop Gregory's statement said, "Each diocesan bishop has the right and duty to address such issues of serious pastoral concern as he judges best in his local church, in accord with pastoral and canonical norms."

At the same time, he wrote, the U.S. bishops have established a task force "to discuss issues with regard to the participation of Catholics in political life, including reception of the sacraments, in the cases of those whose political advocacy is in direct contradiction to church teaching."

In the CNS interview, Bishop Gregory said it would be difficult to answer the hypothetical question of what he would do in the unlikely event that Kerry showed up at a Mass he was celebrating.

"One thing I would do," he said, "would be to preach on the integrity

of human life because it would be a great opportunity to proclaim clearly and in a public way what the church teaches."

When asked if he would give Kerry Communion, Bishop Gregory said, "as a bishop, the first thing I have to do is teach. I have to teach the truth."

Bishop Gregory said the U.S. bishops' task force studying the question of Catholics in political life would try "to offer some options and perspective to bishops so that we can respond with a certain degree of unanimity."

However, he said, individual bishops still will need to determine how to handle particular cases in their own dioceses.

"Teaching the doctrine of the church faithfully and truthfully is not an option. Bishops must do it," he said.

"But we must do it — as St. Augustine says — we must 'abhor the sin but not the sinner,'" Bishop Gregory said.

men and women are brothers and sisters.

"When we speak of war," Father Coda said, "we always must have before our eyes those who will be killed in war."

Father Coda, like the other speakers at the conference, said current Catholic teaching was not that all wars under all circumstances are immoral.

"We must discuss whether in a certain situation a war would be justified," Father Coda said, "but we must discuss it on our knees. For a Christian, every victim is Christ."

In his presentation, Weigel said contemporary international law and much of recent Catholic commentary "seem to have reached the settled view that the first use of armed force is always bad, while the second use of armed force — in response to that always-bad first use — may be morally justifiable."

"This is not, however, the classic Catholic view," he said.

Weigel said more thought needs to be given to defining aggression and considering if aggression can be said to be under way when a nation is amassing weapons of mass destruction, when its leadership acts without constraint and when the nation has a history of aggression against others.

During a break in the meeting, Weigel said he still was convinced that the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq last year was morally justified and, despite the fact that the situation is still tense and deadly there, lives have been saved since Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is no longer in power.

"The difficult process of helping a free, self-governing Iraq emerge does not change the moral legitimacy" of the war, he said.

"I am perfectly aware that others came to other moral judgments," he said, adding that he is sure that those judgments, like his, "were made in a thoughtful and prayerful way."

## EDICTAL SUMMONS

The Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo hereby sends this notice to Sherri Dianne Stilwell, whereabouts unknown.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo, at 804 Ford Street, San Angelo, Texas 76905, on or before the 31st day of May, 2004, to answer to the Petition of Helard Montie Low, now introduced before the Diocesan Tribunal in an action styled, "Helard Montie Low vs. Sherri Dianne Stilwell, Petition for Declaration of Invalidity of Marriage," said Petition being identified as Case: Low — Stilwell; Protocol No.: SO 04/19, on the Tribunal Docket of the Diocese of San Angelo.

You may communicate with the Tribunal in person or in writing (to P. O. Box 1829, San Angelo, Texas 76902-1829). Failure to communicate within the prescribed period of time will be considered your consent for the Tribunal to continue its proceedings in the above-named case.

Given at the Tribunal of the Diocese of San Angelo on the 1st day of May 2004.

Rev. William R. DuBuisson,  
O.M.I., M.C.L., J.C.L.  
Judicial Vicar

## EDICTAL SUMMONS

The Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo to Sharon Kay Nabors (Harris), whereabouts unknown.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo, at 804 Ford Street, San Angelo, Texas 76905, on or before the 31st day of May, 2004, to answer to the Petition of Helard Montie Low, now introduced before the Diocesan Tribunal in an action styled, "Helard Montie Low vs. Sharon Kay Nabors (Harris), Petition for Declaration of Invalidity of Marriage," said Petition being identified as Case: Low — Nabors (Harris); Protocol No.: SO 04/20, on the Tribunal Docket of the Diocese of San Angelo.

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O.M.I., M.C.L., J.C.L.  
Judicial Vicar

## SHOULD

### from page five

to remarks Cardinal Francis Arinze, prefect of the Congregation of Divine Worship and the Sacraments, made at an April 23 press conference on a new Vatican document about abuses associated with the liturgy and the Eucharist.

The document reaffirmed church teaching that a Catholic, in a situation of serious sin, must go to confession before approaching the Eucharist.

Cardinal Arinze was asked explicitly whether that meant Kerry, the probable Democratic nominee for U.S. president and a supporter of legalized abortion, should be denied Communion unless he goes to confession and repents for his position.

"The norm of the church is clear," Cardinal Arinze answered. "The church exists in the United States. There are bishops there, let them interpret it."

However, when asked more generally if a priest should refuse Communion to a politician who is "un-



# How the Good News gets around Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC) - 2004

by Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

SAN ANGELO – Throughout this past year, we have endured a time of great challenge. Our personal, family and faith lives have been tested, leaving many of us in search of strength, comfort and inspiration. We, as Catholics, have a responsibility to reach out to others and to meet this need. Our Lord calls upon us to “Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). Now more than ever, the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC) must communicate the importance of family and God’s abounding love.

Pope John Paul II has chosen “The Media in the Family: A Risk and a Richness” as the theme for World Communications Day 2004. The Holy Father reflects his concern that the media enrich family life, not damage it. By supporting the Catholic Communication Campaign, we respond to the challenges and exhortations contained in our Holy Father’s World Communications Day message.

The CCC plays an important role in our society. The CCC seeks to renew the mind of the secular media. It also touches, heals and

sustains the faith of viewers and listeners across our nation.

Since 50% of your contribution to the CCC’s annual campaign stays right here to support our own local projects, your generosity has a direct benefit here at home. Indeed, half of the funds are applied to the *West Texas Angelus* budget to keep down costs.

The other 50% supports CCC’s efforts to reach our brothers and sisters throughout the country. Past annual collection proceeds have allowed CCC to:

- Air Church Without Borders on 134 ABC-TV stations, reaching 68% of the top 25 markets;

- Hold the world premiere for the film *The Face: Jesus in Art* at Radio City Music Hall. The film has since aired on more than 200 PBS stations across the country;

- Introduce a new radio ministry, *Catholic Radio Weekly*, which has grown to more than 50 stations throughout the country;

- Produce and maintain an Internet video outreach connecting Catholics all over the nation to the many diverse ministries of the Church. In 2003, Web site visitors were able to view reflections

on Pope John Paul II’s twenty-five years as pope, learn about the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, follow cyclists across the country to help break the cycle of poverty in the United States, and unite with the sick on the eleventh annual World Day of the Sick, held for the first time in this country, as well as listen to interviews with newsmakers. Parishes and dioceses are now also able to link directly to these stories.

- Produce and distribute radio and TV announcements “La Familia Unida Esperanza en la Vida.” More than 450 Hispanics stations air these spots, including Univision and Telemundo, reaching over 28 million Hispanics.

- Produce and distribute the “Talk to the Ones You Love” campaign of radio and television announcements that were shown more than 75,000 times on broadcast and cable stations.

This year’s collection date is May 16, 2004. To learn more about the Catholic Communication Campaign, I invite you to visit the CCC web site: [www.usccb.org/cc](http://www.usccb.org/cc) and ask that you make a generous contribution to this year’s

**How the Good News Gets Around!**

Contribute to the Catholic Communication Campaign. For more than 25 years, the Catholic Communication Campaign has been spreading the Gospel message locally and nationally on radio, television, in print and on the Internet. Donations from Catholic parishioners, like you, make the work of the CCC possible. Please contribute generously to the Campaign in your upcoming parish collection.

**Catholic Communication Campaign**

To find out more visit [www.usccb.org/cc](http://www.usccb.org/cc)

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops - Catholic Communication Campaign  
3211 Fourth Street, NE - Washington, DC 20017 • (202) 546-5137 • Fax: (202) 546-3173

collection.

In partnership with the other dioceses, the CCC provides materials that are enriching, inspiring and entertaining for family members of all ages. I thank you for your past support. Let us

continue to create, inspire and answer Christ’s command to love one another as He has loved us. And let us ask God’s Holy Spirit to guide us as we communicate and proclaim the Gospel message to the world.

## CARDINAL

from page twelve

life. It is addressing, among other things, the question of reception of the sacraments by politicians whose positions contradict church teaching.

The cardinal said the Vatican has shown interest in the task force,

which expects to complete its work after the presidential election this year.

“I think it’s important that we be on the same wavelength, and I think we are,” he said of his Vatican meetings.

He said any differences that arise among bishop members of the task force on some of the thorny issues

involved will prove a healthy thing in the end.

“We may not reach a consensus on everything. But I think we will reach a consensus on some practices,” he said. He said it was not yet certain whether the task force would draft guidelines or simply suggest “best practices.”

“It certainly will do deep consultation among the bishops of our country, among the different episcopal conferences all over the world, and certainly here at the Holy See,” he said.

“And having done that we’ll be talking to theologians and pastoral people and to each other, trying to come up with something which will be helpful to the church, to our Catholic people and to people in political life,” he said.

## EDICTAL SUMMONS

The Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo to Guy David Adams, whereabouts unknown.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo, at 804 Ford Street, San Angelo, Texas 76905, on or before the 31st day of May, 2004, to answer to the Petition of Debra Ann Crawford (Calhoun), now introduced before the Diocesan Tribunal in an action styled, “Debra Ann Crawford (Calhoun) vs. Guy David Adams, Petition for Declaration of Invalidity of Marriage,” said Petition being identified as Case: Crawford (Calhoun) – Adams; Protocol No.: SO 04/15, on the Tribunal Docket of the Diocese of San Angelo.

You may communicate with the Tribunal in person or in writing (to P. O. Box 1829, San Angelo, Texas 76902-1829). Failure to communicate within the prescribed period of time will be considered your consent for the Tribunal to continue its proceedings in the above-named case.

Given at the Tribunal of the Diocese of San Angelo on the 1st day of May 2004.

Rev. William R. DuBuisson,  
O.M.I., M.C.L., J.C.L., Judicial Vicar

## Intentions of the Holy Father for May

*General* - That the family – founded on the marriage of a man and a woman – may be recognized as the basic cell of human society.

*Mission* - That through the motherly intercession of Our Lady Catholic people may come to regard the Eucharist as the heart and soul of the missionary activity.

**FAITH**  
**from page two**

balanced perspective as regards development and concern for all the environment?

*Our Catholic Response*

Our Catholic faith helps to bring some direction and solutions to these critical issues. We have a consistent moral framework anchored in Scripture and expressed in the ongoing social teaching of the Church. The Catholic position on human life based on many clear references in the Bible is that human life is sacred, made in God's image from the moment of conception and must be respected at every stage of life from the womb to the tomb. A recent Vatican statement reminds us that a well-formed Christian conscience does not permit voting for a political program or law that contradicts fundamental principles of our faith. It also reminds us that we should not isolate a particular element of Catholic doctrine.

In our Catholic tradition responsible citizenship is a virtue; participation in the political process is a moral obligation. As believers we are called to become informed, active and responsible participants in the political process as this is what it means to be a good citizen. Hence, in this election year we ask who has a place at the table of life in our nation and around the world? We need a new kind of politics – focused on moral principals, not on polls; on the needs of the vulnerable, not on the contributions of the powerful; and on the pursuit of the common good, not the demands of special interests.

*Catholic Politicians*

Catholics who seek political office have a particular responsibility to bring together their faith, moral convictions and public responsibilities. Catholic elected officials and those pursuing a public office have a great duty to defend human life in all its stages and every condition. Catholic candidates and elected officials have a serious moral obligation to be guided by moral principles, and not party platform. They need to be clearly informed about the clear teaching of the Catholic Church as given by Pope John Paul II in The Gospel of Life, and in the 1998 statement of the U.S. Catholic Bishops, Living The Gospel of Life and in

more recent statements of the Vatican.

Catholic candidates and elected officials are seriously mistaken when they claim that though they personally oppose such evils as abortion, they can not force their religious views on others. The US Catholic Bishops in their 1998 statement address this contradiction, "Most Americans would recognize the contradiction of this statement; although I am personally opposed to slavery, racism or sexism, I cannot force my personal views on the rest of society. We urge those Catholic officials who chose to depart from the Church's teaching on the inviolability of human life in their public life to consider the consequences for their own spiritual well-being, as well as the scandal they risk by leading others in this serious sin – Catholic public officials who disregard Church teaching on the inviolability of the human person indirectly collude in the taking of innocent life . . . no public official, especially one claiming to be a faithful and serious Catholic, can responsibly advocate for or actively support direct attacks on innocent human life." The US Catholic Bishops call on Catholic officials to reflect on the grave contradiction of assuming public roles and presenting themselves as credible Catholics when their actions on fundamental issues of human life are not in agreement with the clear teachings of the Catholic Church.

Some Catholic politicians who are unwilling to comply with the clear teaching of the Church on abortion and other life issues respond – "I don't make decisions in public life based on religious belief." Do these politicians mean to say that their faith, their religion, the Ten Commandments, their Catholic education and the defined teaching of the Church in no way influence the decisions they make or will make in public life? This is a very dangerous moral position and raises great ethical concern for the basis of their decisions – political expediency? Party platform? opinion polls? or what? These Catholic politicians repeatedly speak in favor of abortion and constantly have voted in favor of the brutal, barbaric practice of partial-birth abortions.

Other Catholic politician try to defend their opposition to the Church's teaching on these critical

life issues by replying: "When I was sworn into office, I took an oath to uphold the Constitution. My constituents have the right to expect that I will represent people of all faith." These politicians often go on to say, "I believe any effort to pressure legislators by threatening to deny them the sacraments is contrary to the principles of democracy." These Catholic officials must realize a fundamental principal of government that the primary constitutional responsibility of an elected official is to defend and protect human life – both born and unborn. Life in the Constitution is higher than any other "constitutional concern." It should be pointed out that criteria for the reception of the sacraments is not based on a democratic decision, but on moral and pastoral standards based on the Gospel of Christ through the teaching office of the Church that outline very clearly what is a serious moral fault that would prohibit one from receiving the sacraments of the Church.

Catholic officials who openly support the taking of human life through abortion, euthanasia or the destruction of human embryos, must realize that they are going against clear and defined teaching of the Catholic Church. It must be pointed out that those politicians who take this stand are objectively committing a serious moral evil. These officials can no longer hide behind the false façade of "my conscience tells me this." To be good Catholics their personal views and policies must give way to the clear, unequivocal teaching of the constant and highest authority of the Church to which they say they belong. In critical life issues of faith and morals individuals must submit to the teaching authority of the Church. Otherwise they are not good Catholics and should refrain from receiving Communion.

Catholic politicians who state that they are personally opposed to abortion or same sex unions, but they cannot force their personal views on the rest of society, must realize that they are splitting their conscience in a schizophrenic moral manner. Catholics who are public office holders enjoy the blessing of only one conscience – they do not have one conscience for their private lives and one for their public responsibilities, one for church matters and another for state matters.

Some Catholic politicians use other worn-out arguments like, "I respect your views, but I have to represent all the people." or "I am personally opposed to abortion, but can't impose my views on others." The response to these superficial positions should be the following: This is precisely what we are trying to say to you. If you neglect the unborn, you are not representing all the people. Roe v. Wade excludes the unborn from protection however we demand as Christians, based on clear Biblical references that the unborn are human and sacred to God, that they be included. A public servant cannot ignore an entire segment of the public that is being destroyed. We also say, that this is not a matter of views because we are talking here about a clear teaching of the Catholic Church, and to be a good Catholic in certain grave matters one must accept the teachings of the Church over one's personal view or position. Law is supposed to protect human life despite the views of those who would destroy it. It must also be pointed out that medical research, more and more confirms that the unborn from conception are true human beings.

Other politicians would say, "The government should not be involved in such a personal decision as abortion." Our response is, the reality is that our government is involved at every level. And, the government must be involved when we are treating human life, because the primary purpose of government is to promote and defend life. The right to life is not granted by any government. It is given by God. Governments exist to protect life and to enable it to flourish. Moreover, when somebody's choice destroys somebody else's life, that choice is no longer a personal, private matter.

*Being Good Catholics And Good Citizens*

In January 2003, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith issued "Doctrinal Note on Some Questions Regarding the Participation of Catholics in Political Life." The document stated "A well formed Conscience does not permit one to vote for a political program or individual law that contradicts the fundamental contents of faith and morals."

This election year calls for all Catholics to examine clearly what it

means to be a Catholic, accepting the latest and clearest defined teaching of the Church on human life, abortion, cloning, marriage, and same-sex unions. Catholics need to seriously realize that when they promote the unjust taking of human life by their vote or support of such political candidates who support these views, they share in the responsibility for this grave evil.

The dual calling of faith and citizenship is at the heart of what it means to be a Catholic in the United States at this time. I urge all Catholics to register, vote, and become more involved in public life to protect human life and human dignity and to advance the common good. Faithful citizenship challenges us to seek a place at the table of life for all of God's children.

**EDICTAL SUMMONS**

The Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo to James Lowell House, whereabouts unknown.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo, at 804 Ford Street, San Angelo, Texas 76905, on or before the 31st day of May, 2004, to answer to the Petition of Carol Lea Brockhouse (McTaggart), now introduced before the Diocesan Tribunal in an action styled, "Carol Lea Brockhouse (McTaggart) vs. James Lowell House, Petition for Declaration of Invalidity of Marriage," said Petition being identified as Case: Brockhouse (McTaggart) – House; Protocol No.: SO 04/21, on the Tribunal Docket of the Diocese of San Angelo.

You may communicate with the Tribunal in person or in writing (to P. O. Box 1829, San Angelo, Texas 76902-1829). Failure to communicate within the prescribed period of time will be considered your consent for the Tribunal to continue its proceedings in the above-named case.

Given at the Tribunal of the Diocese of San Angelo on the 1st day of May 2004.

Rev. William R. DuBuisson,  
O.M.I., M.C.L., J.C.L.  
Judicial Vicar



# Cardinal seeks study of major issues, not telling people how to vote

by John Thavis  
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) – When church leaders speak out about major issues like abortion during an election campaign, they are not telling people how to vote, Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington said.

Instead, they are encouraging Catholics to study the candidates' positions on a wide range of questions and weigh them all very carefully, Cardinal McCarrick said in an interview with Catholic News Service April 27.

Life issues like abortion and euthanasia come first because "without life, you cannot have any other human values," the cardinal said.

But the church is not a single-issue institution, he said.

"One (issue) may be primary, but there are many issues that have to be considered. There are probably people who are with us on one issue but against us on many other issues. All these things have to be weighed very carefully — without giving anybody any direction on how they should vote," he said.

Cardinal McCarrick spoke four days after a Vatican official, Cardinal Francis Arinze, made headlines

around the world when he said that Catholic politicians who were unambiguously pro-abortion should not be given Communion. He was presenting a new Vatican document on Eucharist-related abuses.

Cardinal Arinze's remarks were read by many as a reference to Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry, the probable Democratic nominee for U.S. president and a supporter of legalized abortion, who has continued to receive Communion.

Cardinal McCarrick, in Rome with several other U.S. bishops on their "ad limina" visits required of heads of dioceses every five years, discussed the issue April 27 with Cardinal Arinze, the head of the Vatican's Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments. Cardinal Arinze seemed surprised that his remarks had caused a political stir, Cardinal McCarrick said.

"He made it clear that where he stands is what the document said. The document goes so far, and no further," Cardinal McCarrick said.

The Vatican document said that "anyone who is conscious of grave sin should not celebrate or receive the body of the Lord without prior sacramental confession, except for grave reason." It did not speak about withholding the Eucharist as a

sanction.

Cardinal McCarrick said that while church law foresees situations in which Communion should be denied interpreting the law is a delicate question.

"I think the canons (church law) sort of remind us that we have to tell our people that if they are not in communion with the church, they should not go and receive Communion. But that doesn't say to us that we should deny them Communion when they come," he said.

"I would be very uncomfortable to have a confrontation at the altar, because it implies that I know precisely what's in a man's heart or in a woman's heart, and I'm not always sure," he said.

Cardinal McCarrick said his approach to Catholic politicians who clearly oppose important church teachings is to make sure they know what the church teaches, keep dialogue open, and let them know that



Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick gives Communion during a Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington earlier this year. In an April 27 interview with Catholic News Service, the cardinal said church leaders should remind Catholics that if they are not in communion with the church they should not receive Communion. But church law "doesn't say to us that we should deny them Communion when they come," he added. (CNS file photo by Nancy Wiechec)

"if they are taking a public stand there will be some sanctions of a certain nature."

In that situation, the church should find "some way of saying to our people that this is not an ideal situation," he said.

But that does not mean singling out political candidates, he said.

"To the best of my knowledge, no one is talking about anyone in particular. And certainly in the United States we're not talking about anyone in particular. We're talking about a genus of people, a group of people, who may be Catholic and who may not be ac-

cepting of the teaching of the church," he said.

Cardinal McCarrick met privately with Kerry in mid-April. He said the encounter lasted nearly an hour and was "a good meeting, a meeting where we discussed many things." He declined to elaborate, saying that when he meets someone "as a priest" he does not think it appropriate to give details.

Cardinal McCarrick heads a task force established by the U.S. bishops to discuss issues related to Catholic participation in political

**see "CARDINAL" page TEN**



U.S. Marines from Gulf Company, 2/7, a part of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, pray during an open-air Mass at a military base near the town of Fallujah, Iraq, April 25. (CNS photo from Reuters)

## WTOS

from page one

**HEALTH, SAFETY AND CIVIL RIGHTS:** San Angelo and Tom Green County have a high teen pregnancy and minority drop out rate, gang activity and juvenile delinquency. The community does not give adequate resources to youth programs and creating a safe environment with respect for our children and their rights. Child abuse, domestic violence and health care needs require more time, money and attention. As a growing retirement community, strides need to be taken to ensure all of Tom Green County's elderly have suffi-

cient health care, housing and transportation.

**WATER:** Tom Green County residents and businesses need continued access to reliable, high quality water supplies. Equitable water plans and policies are essential to rural and urban families, whose livelihood is dependent on affordable water.

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** If Tom Green County is to continue to be a good place to raise a family, we must invest in and maintain clean parks, viable public transportation, accessible libraries. We need to ensure no community is overlooked in the development and maintenance of neighborhood infrastruc-

ture such as streets, sidewalks, drainage and basic city services.

**INTEGRITY IN OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM:** law enforcement should be an extension of the community. To this end, we support a philosophy and practice of community policing for all law enforcement agencies. We need to hold our justice system accountable to its citizens through parity of sentencing, rehabilitation efforts and adequate legal representation.

This grass roots effort was a true example of empowerment "of the people, by the people, and for the people" and an example of the democratic process in its finest form.