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“Habemus Papam!” – We have a Pope!

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

SAN ANGELO – As the long-awaited white smoke billowed from the papal chimney of the Sistine Chapel, the Latin cry rang out at St. Peter’s in Rome, and then around the world, “Habemus Papam!” signaling the election of Pope Benedict XVI, known before as Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger. This joyful cry sparked the ringing of the bells at St. Peter’s Basilica, and then Church bells rang out around the world announcing the man elected to be the successor of the great John Paul II. Before being elected Pope Benedict XVI, he served as Dean of the College of Cardinals and Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

With the whole Catholic world and with all people of good will, I receive this good news with joy and much hope for our Catholic Church in the future.

Where were you when you heard the news of the election of the new Pope? Historical happenings become engraved in our minds, and we always associate them with where we were at a certain time in history. Where was I? I was at the State Capitol in Austin in the Senate Chamber preparing to give the opening prayer for the session of the Senate at 11:00 am on April 19, 2005. I had been invited after Christmas by Senator Robert Duncan to offer prayer with and for the Senators of the State of Texas. As I had been invited to watch the results of the Papal election in the office of Senator Duncan, I had the privilege of announcing to all the Senators, as I began my prayer, “Habemus Papam!” We have a Pope! The Senate floor was filled with joy and excitement.

The new Pope has chosen the name, Benedict XVI, which links him to Benedict

XV, who was Pope during the crucial and tragic moment of human history of the First World War. His reign was from 1914 to 1922. Benedict XV is remembered most for his constant plea for peace and an end to a destructive war that was decimating Europe. His cry for peace as presented in a seven point plan was rejected by both sides involved in the terrible slaughter of the First World War. After the war Benedict XV encouraged the formation of some type of union among states and countries of the world,

see “POPE” page eleven



NEWLY ELECTED POPE BENEDICT XVI SMILES. Pope Benedict XVI became the 265th pope April 19 on the second day of secret elections by the world’s cardinals. (CNS photo from L’Osservatore Romano, Arturo Mari)

Pope Benedict one of the most respected, controversial theologians

by Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As the guiding light on doctrinal issues during Pope John Paul II’s pontificate, Pope Benedict XVI was one of the most respected, influential and controversial members of the College of Cardinals.

Since 1981 the 78-year-old Pope Benedict — regarded as one of the church’s sharpest theologians — has headed the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the Vatican department charged with defending orthodoxy in virtu-

ally every area of church life.

Over the years, Pope Benedict met quietly once a week with Pope John Paul to discuss doctrinal and other major issues facing the church. Insiders said his influence was second to none when it came to setting church priorities and directions and responding to moral and doctrinal challenges.

From November 2002 until his election, he was dean of the College of Cardinals, a key position in the time between popes. Pope Benedict presided over the preconclave meetings of cardinals in Rome, set agendas for discussion and action, and was responsible for a number of procedural decisions during the conclave.

White-haired and soft-spoken, Pope Benedict comes across in person as a thoughtful and precise intellectual with a dry sense of humor. A frequent participant at Vatican press conferences, he is a familiar figure to the international group of reporters who cover the church.

He is also well-known by the church hierarchy around the world, and his speeches at cardinal consistories, synods of bishops and other assemblies often have the weight of a keynote address. When Pope Benedict spoke as a cardinal, people listened.

Sometimes his remarks were bluntly critical on such diverse topics as dissident theologians, liberation theology, “abuses” in lay ministry, homosexuality, women as priests, feminism among nuns, premarital sex, abortion, liturgical reform and rock music.

As Pope John Paul’s pontificate developed,

see “BENEDICT” page eleven



Mother's Day: A time to say thank you and I love you

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

Mother's Day is a special day to express our gratitude to our mothers and to tell them that we love them very much. The person on this earth who is nearest and dearest to us is mother. And, this special day reminds us of the spiritual mother of all of us, the "Mother of God," of Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ.

If our dear mothers have been taken from us from this earth, we thank them and tell them we love them by praying that God give them the gift of eternal life in Heaven. For those who still have their mothers with them, it is a day to visit mother, to call her on the phone, to send her a special gift and note saying thank you and I love you.

We also pause on this great day to say thank you to Mary our dear mother for the many good things she does for us on life's journey. As she interceded with her Son at the wedding of Cana to work His first sign, His great miracle of providing a party for newly weds, we continue to ask her to intercede for us on our life's journey, so that one day we can be with all of our mothers in eternal happiness with our God in Heaven. Mother Mary, we love you, and please teach us more each day about how to be true followers of your greatest Son, our brother, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Happy Mothers Day for all of our mothers.



Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

Día de las madres: Un tiempo para decir gracias y te amo

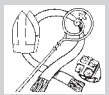
por el Obispo Miguel Pfeifer, OMI

El Día de las Madres es una día especial para expresar nuestra gratitud a nuestras madres y para decirles que las queremos mucho. La persona en este mundo quien es más cerca y querida por nosotros es la madre. Y, este día especial nos recuerda de la madre espiritual de todos nosotros, la "Madre de Dios," de Maria, la Madre de Jesucristo.

Si nuestras queridas madres no están con nosotros en este mundo, les damos gracias y les decimos que las amamos rezando que Dios les dara el don de vida eterna en el Cielo. Para los que todavía tienen a sus mamás con ellos, es un día para visitar a mamá, llamarla por el teléfono, mandarle un regalo especial y carta diciéndole gracias y te amo.

También todos damos una pausa en este día grande para decirle gracias a Maria nuestra madre querida por todas las cosas maravillosas que hace por nosotros en nuestra jornada de la vida. Como ella intercedió con su Hijo en la bodas de Caná para que hiciera su primer signo, su gran milagro de proveer una fiesta para los recién casados, continuamos a pedirle que interceda por nosotros en nuestro camino de la vida, para que un día podamos estar con todas nuestras madres en la felicidad eterna con nuestro Dios en el Cielo. Maria, nuestra madre te queremos, y por favor enséñenos mas cada día de cómo ser seguidores de tu gran Hijo, nuestro hermano, nuestro Señor y Salvador Jesucristo. Feliz Día de las Madres para todas nuestras madres.

The Bishop's Schedule



MAY 2005

May 1: Sterling City, St. Paschal - Mass at 11:30 a.m.

May 2: San Angelo, Christ the King Retreat Center - Pray the Rosary at Mary's Grotto at 7:00 p.m.

May 3: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Mass for Staff at 8:30 a.m. and Staff Meeting at 11:00 a.m.

May 4: St. Lawrence, St. Lawrence - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

May 5: Midland, St. Stephen - Meet with Pastor and Pastoral and Finance Councils at 7:00 p.m.

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

May 7: Abilene, St. Francis -

Confirmation at 5:30 p.m.

May 8: Abilene, Dyess Air Force Base - Confirmation at 9:00 a.m. San Angelo, Calvary Cemetery - Prayer Service for Mother's Day at 3:00 p.m.

May 9: San Angelo, St. Joseph - Confirmation at 7:00 p.m.

May 10: Ballinger, St. Mary - Diaconal Ordination of Emilio Sosa at 5:30 p.m.

May 11: Coleman, Sacred Heart - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

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

May 14-15: Houston - Knights of Columbus State Convention

May 15: Abilene, Sacred Heart - Corpus Christi Procession and Mass at 6:00 p.m.

May 17: Brady, St. Patrick - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

May 18: Big Spring, Sacred Heart (Immaculate Heart, St. Tho-

mas, and Coahoma) - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

May 19: Odessa, Holy Redeemer - Confirmation at 6:00 p.m.

May 20: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Meeting of Diocesan Finance Council and Presbyteral Council at 11:00 a.m. San Angelo Stadium - Relay for Life at 6:00 p.m.

May 21: Odessa, Holy Redeemer - Confirmation at 5:00 p.m.

May 22: Andrews, Our Lady of Lourdes - Confirmation at 10:30 a.m.

May 25: San Angelo, Christ the King Retreat Center - Meeting to Receive the New Directory for Catechesis from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

May 26: Odessa, St. Mary's Central Catholic School - Graduation at 6:00 p.m.

May 28: Abilene, St. Vincent - Confirmation at 5:30 p.m.

May 29-30: San Antonio - 50th Priestly Anniversary of Monsignor Larry Stuebben

May 31: Ft. Stockton, St. Agnes (St. Joseph) - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

JUNE 2005

June 1: Big Lake, St. Margaret - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

June 2-3-4: San Angelo, Christ the King Retreat Center - RCIA

Forum, Concerning the Baptized

June 2: Midland, St. Stephen - Meet with Pastor, Pastoral and Finance Councils at 7:00 p.m.

June 3: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Council - Meeting of Diocesan Review Board at 10:30 a.m.

June 4: Sanderson, St. James - Confirmation at 5:00 p.m.

June 5: San Angelo, Holy Angels - Mass at 11:00 a.m. and Closing of Forty Hours

June 6: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Staff Mass at 8:30 a.m. Staff Meeting at 11:00 a.m.

June 7: San Angelo, Christ the King Retreat Center - Social and Dinner with Priests of the Lubbock Diocese and San Angelo Diocese at 5:30 p.m.

June 8: Odessa, St. Mary - Presentation to Hospital Ministry Group at 7:00 p.m.

June 9: Stanton - Rural Life

Mass at 6:30 p.m.

June 10-12: San Diego
June 13-14: San Antonio - M.A.C.C. Meeting

June 15-18: Chicago - Meeting the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

June 20: Stanton, St. Joseph - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

June 21: San Angelo, St. Mary - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

June 22-25: El Paso - USCCB-Bination Migration Conference

June 26: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Marriage Jubilee Mass at 2:00 p.m.

June 27-28: Rest and Prayer

June 29: Abilene, Sacred Heart - Mass for 5th Anniversary of the Perpetual Adoration Chapel at 7:00 p.m.

June 30: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Presbyteral Council Meeting at 11:00 a.m. San Angelo, St. Mary - Home

Mass at 6:30 p.m.

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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!

Tunica, Mississippi - a place divided

by Lydia Martinez

SAN ANGELO—After traveling over 750 miles with 5 women in a car, we came to the first stop, of our 11-day, 5-city, University of Notre Dame Campus Ministry Symposium journey, in Tunica, Mississippi. If you have heard anything about Tunica it is probably something about the casinos, since it is known as “America’s Third Largest Gaming Resort Destination.” We were informed that Tunica spends its casino revenue on making the town “cute” for the tourist instead of helping the poor.

After stopping off in the town for a wonderful meal with Sister Gus and Sister Ange, we headed to our hotel room at one of the Casinos. It was amazing to see this little town, and then about 10 miles away, nine huge casinos. We were told that Tunica was allowed to have casinos if they were “on the water.” While walking through the casino we saw that “on the water” meant stepping over a place in the floor that was covered and realizing that we were now “on the water.”

The next morning we woke up to a beautiful view of the Mississippi River a few feet away from our room. We then headed off to meet Sisters Mal, Gus, and Ange, to learn about the history of Tunica. I do not think that any of us were ready for the lessons we were about to learn.

We stopped off at the town square where the sidewalks were a bit different than the sidewalks in Texas. There were two levels, one about 6 inches higher than the other. Sister Mal told us that the sidewalks were different levels because in the past, the blacks walked on the lower level and the whites on the higher level. We could not believe what we had been told but our journey of learning about the segregation in Tunica had just begun.

Next we met two people that we will never forget. Freddie Brandon is a black man and Minnie Carter a black woman. Both work with Sister Ange, and Sister Gus at the Catholic Social Services Center. We all headed out to pile into their

bus when we saw our second surprise, the Mississippi state flag flying high over the town square. We were shocked. The flag incorporates a Confederate flag. We asked Freddie what it was and he said he never paid attention to it. That was the end of that question.

In response to our request for “soul food,” our first stop we made was for lunch at the People’s Restaurant, a “Finger Lickin’ Good Buffet.” This was what might have been known as a black restaurant, where the local black folks ate. We had a wonderful meal and conversation with the sisters, and some of the local people who work with them. I noticed that the only people who entered the restaurant were black people. The only people in the restaurant that were not black were the 4 of us and the sisters. Over lunch we had the opportunity to visit with and learn from Freddie, Minnie, and Barbara. We spoke about life in Texas and they spoke about life in Mississippi. Before we left we took pictures with some of the workers and owner and thanked them for their hospitality. We assured them we would mail them a picture.

After lunch, we all piled back into the bus. Freddie drove us on a tour of the town. We visited the “white” neighborhoods and the “black” neighborhoods.

We saw dramatic differences. Freddie told us that if a black person moved into a house in the “white” neighborhood, the whites would move out of the neighborhood. The thought of not living among people of different races was frightening.

Next we headed out into the country. On our way we stopped at the local Catholic Church. The sisters informed us that the congregation consisted of about 12 white families. This community of faith had been in existence for over 60 years and never has a black person gone through the RCIA process to become a Catholic. I could not imagine going to a place of worship where there were not people of all races.

As we left the town we headed to what the locals call the “Redneck Camps.” Before we entered the camp,

we saw a levy which was pretty exciting to us, because now we really know what we are singing in the chorus of Don McLean’s American Pie song... “I drove my Chevy to the levy but the levy was dry...” And indeed it was dry. Upon entering the camp we saw trailer houses after trailer houses that were near a lake. Freddie and Minnie told us that blacks were not welcome down there and only the “Rednecks” lived in the camp. They told of us a time when the camp flooded and the rednecks would not accept food because they would never take “handouts” from the blacks. I was happy when we left the camp because I had a creepy feeling just driving around in there.

Next we visited the place that touched my heart the most. This place is known as the Nellie Johnson Village. This is where the sisters along with Freddie and Minnie work. They put love into action with the building of homes for the poor. We drove up only to have 3 lovely women walking away hauling their goods. Freddie and Minnie asked Georgia May if she would open her house and show us around. The three greeted the Texan strangers with smiles and hugs. Georgia was very happy to allow us into her home. I have never encountered any person that was so grateful to have their own home. The look on her face and the emotion in her voice truly touched my heart. This woman was proud of the hard work and long hours she put into helping people build a house that she knew one day would be hers. I had to hold back tears as we gave our good-bye hugs to the wonderful woman who did not even know she had taught us many lessons. Everyone there, the future home owners, the leaders of the housing projects, and the 4 of us know that Catholics were part of this amazing project, and were full of pride.

Sitting at the table reflecting over my encounters, I could not help but admire every person I had encountered. Sister Gus and Sister Ange were courageously amazing to come into a city so divided and to try to break down the color barriers by working for the poor and along side black people. These women truly touch every person they come into contact



Newman Center students Diana Mandujano, Jamie King, Missy Garza, Lydia Martinez with Sr. Gus and Minnie Carter and owners of the Peoples Restaurant. (Photos courtesy Sr. Malachy Griffin OP.)



(L to r) Sr. Malachy Griffin OP, Freddie Brandon, Sr. Angelo Iussala OP, Minnie Carter and Sr. “Gus” (Mary James) Griffin, OP.

with. I think Freddie said it best when he spoke about his skepticism about coming to work with the Sisters, “When love is shown, you can’t go around it.”

Minnie and Freddie said that they believed whites in Tunica were not ready for change but that is because they are not the ones being discriminated against. These two people have so much strength and will-power and try to build a better town. Again Freddie said it best,

“Now that I gotta deal with them (whites), I’ll smile when I see them,

then once I pass, I’ll go back to frowning.”

I’m so thankful that I live in the place where I live and go to church with people of all races. I never knew how much people could be discriminated against until I visited Tunica. I am glad that I do not have to smile when I encounter some folks and just go back to frowning when they pass. Just remember, “When love is shown, you can’t go around it.”

May Necrology

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

- 3 - Deacon Edward Martinez (1985)
- 16 - Deacon Eliseo Carrillo (1989)
- 17 - Rev. Lee Zimmermann, C.M. (2000)
- 19 - Rev. John Lavin (1983)
- 19 - Deacon Hubert Collins (1999)
- 21 - Rev. Thomas Leahy, SAC (1969)
- 29 - Deacon Robert Daigle (1986)



Catholic Communication Campaign 2005 collection May 15: Good news for everyone.

by Ramon E. Rodriguez

WASHINGTON – “This has been a year of many debuts made possible by the hard work of the staff of the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC) and our diocesan communicators with the support of our diocesan bishops and parish priests and the generosity of the people in the pews,” according to Msgr. Francis J. Maniscalco, Director of the U. S. Bishops Department of Commu-

Catholic best-sellers list.

Video programming appearing on the affiliates of national networks includes:

“Faith Works: Across the U.S.A.”

age of important news conferences or meetings of the bishops’ conference.

The website also includes materials to assist diocesan communicators and parish priests in their efforts to promote the collection.

“Our lives are saturated with media messages. It sometimes seems that the world is full of only bad news,” Msgr. Maniscalco said. “The CCC is How the Good News Gets Around.” The Catholic

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

SAN ANGELO – My dear sisters and brothers in Christ: The 2005 Catholic Communication Campaign Collection is just days away – May 15, 2005! The CCC undertakes media projects that promote Gospel values and brings the Catholic Church’s message to the marketplace. Supported by a national collection, the CCC tells stories of faith alive today. It’s how the Good News gets around!

Now more than ever your donation is needed to help the CCC share the Good News with millions of people. 50% of your donation will be used by our diocese for local programming and projects. Tune in, get inspired, and share with your friends and neighbors all the Good News that the CCC has to offer!

Please be generous! Thank you for your past generosity and pray to the Holy Spirit to guide all of our communication efforts.

aired on ABC-TV affiliates in October 2004 as part of the “Vision & Values” series. It examines “typical” days in the lives of several Catholics as they live out their faith.

“Come to the Water: The Adult Journey to Baptism” airs on ABC-TV stations Spring 2005. This program presents the spiritual journey of adults from various backgrounds seeking baptism.

“Personally Speaking” with Msgr. Jim Lisante, a one-hour talk show with guests Tim Russert, Margaret Colin, and Aaron Neville aired on NBC-TV affiliates in June 2004 as part of the “Horizons of the Spirit” series.

The latest information about CCC is available to bishops, pastors, and parishioners on its new website, <http://www.catholic-communicationcampaign.org/news>.

Visitors to this site will find information on program scheduling, the collection date for their diocese, the CCC’s quarterly bulletin insert, View in the Pew, as well as reviews of current films and videos, Mass times, streaming video of featured programming or cover-



Bishop Pfeifer (L) stands with long time receptionist Pauline Castillo and her husband Raymond who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary at a luncheon at the Pastoral Center hosted by the Bishop. (Photo by Peter Micale.)

LIMEX beginning new cycle in diocese

by S. Hilda Marotta, OSF

SAN ANGELO – The Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension (LIMEX) will begin a new cycle in the Diocese of San Angelo in the fall, 2005. LIMEX is a four-year graduate level program that is offered on-site and leads to a Master of Religious Education or Master of Pastoral Studies degree. Focus areas include: Pastoral Life and Administration, Christian Spirituality for Ministers, Youth Ministry, Small Christian Community Formation, Religion and Ecology, Market Place Ministry, Hispanic Ministry and Religious Education.

The program consists of ten courses which are taken in learning groups at a local site and led by a Loyola-certified facilitator. In addition to the ten core courses, students choose two additional courses in their focus area.

Information sessions have been held in each deanery. Persons who are involved or preparing for ministry or seeking deeper connections between faith and work are encouraged to consider participating in this program.

For more information about LIMEX, contact S. Hilda Marotta at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in San Angelo, 325-651-7500.

Communication Campaign is an activity of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops that develops media programming, public service announcements, and other resources to promote Gospel values.

Donations of Catholic parishioners make possible the work of the CCC.

Ethics and Integrity Workshop Dates

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

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

San Angelo Deanery

May 12, 2005, Thursday, 7-10 pm (Eng), Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart, San Angelo

Midland/Odessa Deanery

May 25, 2005, Wednesday, 7-10 pm (Eng), St. Ann, Midland

Abilene Deanery

May 17, 2005, Tuesday, 7-10 pm (Eng), Immaculate Heart of Mary, Sweetwater
 May 23, 2005, Monday, 7-10 pm (Eng), Holy Family, Abilene

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



Culture of the Eucharist

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

SAN ANGELO – In his apostolic letter, “Stay with us, Lord,” (in Latin, “Mane nobiscum, Domine”) Pope John Paul II states that he hopes that the Year of the Eucharist will serve to promote the “Culture of the Eucharist” in Catholic communities in order to witness to God’s loving presence in the world.

In this special letter, the Holy Father strongly encourages that the celebration of Sunday Mass be intensified, as well as Eucharistic adoration outside of Mass, and recommends the rosary and Eucharistic processions, especially on the Feast of Corpus Christi. The Pope believes that these are ways of witnessing with greater force the presence of God in the world, and he asks Catholics not to “be afraid to speak of God and be proud to manifest the signs of the faith.”

The Culture of the Eucharist implies a public presence of the faith, the Pope states, “It is a mistake to think that a public reference to the faith can affect the just autonomy of the state and civil institutions, or that it might even encourage attitudes of intolerance.” John Paul II emphasizes that the etymological value of the word, Eucharist (to give thanks), and says that “Whoever learns to give thanks may be a martyr like Christ crucified, but never an executioner.” Our Holy Father stresses that this “thanksgiving” take place especially “in our secularized culture, which breathes the forgetfulness of God and cultivates the self-sufficiency of man.”

The Year of the Eucharist, which begins with October, 2004, and will end October, 2005 with the Synod of Bishops of the World on the Eucharist, seeks to recover the meaning of the Eucharist at a time when the world experiences “dark shadows of violence and blood which do not cease to sadden us,” the Holy Father writes.

In this recent apostolic letter, “Stay with us, Lord,” Pope John Paul II states that he hopes two objectives will be achieved during this special Year: to value Sunday Mass more, and to intensify Eucharistic adoration. “If the fruit of this Year is only to revive in all Christian communities the celebration of Sunday Mass and to increase Eucharistic adoration outside of Mass, this Year of grace will have achieved a significant result,” the Pope writes. Our Holy Father hopes that the apostolic letter will help all the faithful to rediscover “the gift that Eucharist as light and strength for your daily life in the world, in the exercise of respective professions and in contact with the most diverse situations.” In particular, John Paul II suggests rediscovering the Eucharist “to live fully the beauty and mission of the family.”

In this apostolic letter, Pope John Paul II also presents the Eucharist to the world as “a great school of peace,” which can form women and men to be “the weavers of dialogue and communion.” “The lacerated image of our world, which has begun the new millennium with the specter of terrorism and the tragedy of war, invites Christians more than ever to live the Eucharist as a great school of peace,” our Holy Father writes. The Pope continues, “The Christian who participates in the Eucharist learns to make himself or herself a promoter of communion, peace, and solidarity.” The Pope goes on to remind the faithful that the Eucharist must lead to “a more just and fraternal society.” The Pope states “the criteria according to which the authenticity of our Eucharistic celebrations will be verified is love and attention for those who are in need.”

If Catholic Christians heed the words of our Holy Father in his recent apostolic letter, we all will indeed be promoting not only a “Culture of Eucharist,” but also a “Culture of Life” which should lead all of us to have a new respect for one another and for all life from its first beginning at conception until its natural death.

There is a moral imperative to feed the hungry and to give water to those who thirst

[Caring for those in a “persistent vegetative state”]

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

SAN ANGELO – All human beings need and deserve the basic necessities of life in order to sustain life itself. This is so obvious and in accord with common sense, and Jesus makes this as one of the conditions on how we will be judged on the Last Day—whether or not we reached out and helped our neighbor with their basic human needs. Christ tells us: “Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me... For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink...” [Mt.25:35-40] A hungry and thirsty neighbor is Christ Himself.

When Jesus spoke these words, obviously there must have been hungry people who needed some kind of assistance in order to eat, and thirsty people who needed water given to them in order to drink. It is not hard to imagine that there were people who needed additional assistance, such as spoon-feeding, soft foods, and perhaps a straw fashioned from a reed. Through modern medicine, we have fashioned new ways of feeding the hungry and giving water to thirsty people, even to those in what we call a “persistent vegetative state.”

The Catholic position on providing food and water for people described as being in a “persistent vegetative state” was explained by dear Pope John Paul II in an address to the Pontifical Academy for Life and the International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations saying that, “Even our brothers and sisters who find themselves in the clinical condition of a ‘vegetative state’ retain their human dignity in all its fullness. The loving gaze of God the Father continues to fall upon them, acknowledging them as His sons and daughters especially in need of help.”

In this same address, the Pope

pointed out, “The sick person in a vegetative state awaiting recovery or a natural end, still has the right to basic health care [nutrition, hydration, cleanliness, warmth, etc.] and to the prevention of complications related to his or her confinement to bed. He or she also has the right to appropriate rehabilitative care and to be monitored for clinical signs of eventual recovery.”

Then the Pope continued, “I should like particularly to underline how the administration of water and food, even when provided by artificial means, always represents a natural means of preserving life, not a medical act. Its use, furthermore, should be considered in principle, ordinary and proportionate, and as such morally obligatory in so far as and until it is seen to have attained its proper finality, which, in the present case consists in providing nourishment to the patient and alleviation of his or her sufferings. The obligation to provide the normal care due to the sick in such cases includes, in fact, the use of nutrition and hydration. The evaluation of probabilities, founded on waning hopes for recovery when the vegetative state is prolonged beyond a year, cannot ethically justify the cessation or interruption of minimal care for the patient including nutrition and hydration. Death by starvation or dehydration is, in fact, the only possible outcome as a result of their withdrawal. In this sense, it ends up becoming, if done knowingly and willingly, true and proper euthanasia.”

In that particular address, the Holy Father was clearly affirming the moral imperative to feed the hungry and to give water to those who thirst, even if they are in a vegetative state. In another statement, the Pope does point out that there might be an occasion where such basic help could be refused if the

person’s condition is such that at a certain point in life these means were a cause of pain and illness. The Pope said, “Simply put, we are called to provide basic means of sustenance such as food and water unless they are doing more harm than good to the patient, or are useless because the patient’s death is imminent.”

In the recent Terri Schiavo case, Cardinal Theodore McCarrick on March 21st quoted Pope John Paul II in stating that people in Mrs. Schiavo’s status still have a right to basic health care such as nutrition and hydration. He called it euthanasia to remove the feeding tubes to her as ordered by a Florida court.

The Terri Schiavo case has drawn unprecedented attention to Living Wills across the country, with tens of thousands of requests for the documents in the last few weeks. Living Wills allow people to say how far they want medical care to go and place limits on that care in case they become so ill that they are unable to communicate. However, a standard Living Will from a Catholic perspective can be a very bad idea and open the door for immoral procedures. The better option is to choose an advance health care directive—a Durable Health Care Power of Attorney.

While it is most important that each person indicate the type of care he or she wishes to receive or not receive, if one is incapacitated, it is also necessary from a moral point of view that these directives are in accord with the latest teaching of the Catholic Church as given by Pope John Paul II, and do not allow for euthanasia or assisted suicide. What a lot of people call a Living Will turns out to be a document that gives a blank check to an unknown physician to use whatever means

see “**IMPERATIVE**” page ten



St. Mary Church, San Angelo, renovated

by Peter Micale, WTA

SAN ANGELO – It took an awful lot of faith for a humble parish to embark on an expensive project to renovate and expand their church, but faith is one thing in abundance at St. Mary Catholic Church in San Angelo. As awesome as the task appeared to be it was driven by necessity. St. Mary will celebrate its 75th anniversary in August of this year and in those many years only one renovation had occurred. That renovation took place in 1953, some 52 years ago. The wear and tear on the church building was glaringly obvious: torn carpeting, crumbling plaster, linoleum that had been patched and re-patched again. In addition, although the faith and dedication of the parishioners remained strong, no liturgical updates had been added since the changes initiated by Vatican II. The baptismal font was on wheels, the altar was a distant vision to anyone sitting beyond the first few rows, and seasonal ceremonies had to be rigged to fit the occasion. The happy circumstance requiring a new building was the growth occurring in the parish – more than 36% over the past ten years. Consequently, in 2001 an official renovation committee was formed and a plan devised to accomplish the project, estimated to cost approximately \$750,000. The N.C. Sturgeon Construction Company, owned by Chuck Sturgeon, committed to the parish that the plan would be achieved.

The development plan to accomplish the renovation was scheduled to occur in three phases, the first being that the parishioners themselves would demonstrate their commitment by contributing the first \$125,000. St. Mary parishioners contributed beyond the goal. Funds came from individuals in the form of \$5.00 weekly pledges, and others gave substantial amounts according to their means. Fundraisers were held; enchiladas and menudo were sold. Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Zapata, long-time members of the parish donated a beautiful diamond ring for a Mother's Day give-away. EVERYONE became involved in some way.

More importantly, the regular tithe never decreased.

Once the parish commitment and sacrifice were demonstrated, solicitations were made to the public at large. Catholics, non-Catholics, religious and secular groups in the community all answered the call. Holy Angels Catholic Church donated church pews from their old church building to St. Mary's to offset the expense of new pews. The Knights of Columbus conducted fundraisers and other parishes allowed for raffle tickets to be sold through their congregations. Special dedication opportunities were offered to raise additional funds and, perhaps most importantly, several

grants were successfully secured including a generous donation of \$60,000 from Catholic Extension Society, and the Kennedy Foundation. Close to home, was a very generous donation from Mrs. Eva Tucker. By November of 2003, \$300,000 dollars had been raised. In 2004, Bishop Michael Pfeifer approved the construction plans and granted permission for the parish to actually begin construction. The parish liturgy committee beautifully prepared the church gymnasium as the temporary location for the Celebration of the Eucharist.

St. Mary Catholic Church is a parish rich in history and tradition. There exists within the parish generations within families who can claim all of their sacraments having been taken at that one church. Change was a bit difficult. It was hard to see some of the old trees come



Bishop Pfeifer was joined by Bishop Joe Vasquez, Pastor Terry Brenon and many priests of the Diocese in celebrating the Mass. (Photos by Stephen Talley.)



Young parishioners look at the new Baptismal Font during the celebration. They may have been considering a quick dip as the air conditioning was laboring with an overflow crowd.

down and to see the old building torn into. However, the plan was not to change the spirit of the parish or the traditions that are dearly loved, but to add to and build on for the future. Much of the "new" church was recycled from the old. For example, the new stained glass windows were made from pieces of the old. The Mosaic of Our Lady of Guadalupe, long a fixture in the church, was refurbished and is central in the Reservation Chapel. The doors from the original church built in 1930 have been restored and are displayed in the new building.

The most significant part of what might be yet another church renovation story goes beyond the St. Mary Parish itself. Located in a rather depressed part of the city of San Angelo the surrounding community has long revered and respected what the church has stood for. Parish lead-

ership is now seeking to add community programs to be held at the parish that will be of benefit to its neighbors. The Pastoral and Finance councils have as a goal to establish revenue generating programs that partner with other agencies in the community. The entire renovation project has renewed the sense that with faith in God much can happen where there seems little likelihood. No doubt that is because of the special spirit which moves within St. Mary's parish, and God's good graces, it will celebrate at least another 75 years of life and worship.

The dedication of the renovated Church was on Friday, April 15, 2005 at 6:30 pm with Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI, presiding. Bishop Joe Vasquez, from the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, preached the homily. The newly renovated Church was filled to overflowing.

If you don't ask, you don't get!

by Peter Micale, WTA

SAN ANGELO – Spencer Wells, a kindergarten student at the Holy Angels campus of Angelo Catholic School knew that the waiting lounge at his school looked rather barren. So he just happened to mention the lack of furniture to a friend of his, Pete Terrazas. Who is Pete Terrazas? Well, he just happens to own a furniture store in far off Ft. Stockton.

Young Spencer has a bright future ahead of him as a recruiter, fundraiser and problem solver. Pete Terrazas came through with a generous donation of new furniture, coffee tables and lamps that now fill up the lounge.

The staff, parents and students of Angelo Catholic School thank Pete for his generosity.



Spencer Wells (L) stands with his friend Pete Terrazas in front of the Terrazas Furniture store. (Photo courtesy Spencer Well's mom.)



Bishop mourns passing of Pope John Paul II and celebrates the election of Pope Benedict XVI



Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer celebrated a Mass at the Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart on April 4 for the remembrance and in thanksgiving for the life of Pope John Paul II. The Cathedral was full of worshippers, and San Angelo Mayor J. W. Lown also gave a reflection.



(Above) The Mayor presented Bishop Pfeifer a newly minted "Mayor's Coin" after the Mass for Pope John Paul II.



(Right) On April 20, Bishop Pfeifer presided at Mass at the Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart in celebration of the election of Pope Benedict XVI. (Photos by Peter Micale.)

Natural Family Planning - Billings ovulation method

Natural Family Planning (NFP) is a safe, effective method of achieving or avoiding pregnancy based upon self observation and the use of fertile and infertile periods. NFP conforms with Church Teaching on morality and is educational means of family planning without the use of contraceptives.

2005 Class Schedule

Mon., May 16, 2005	7 pm – 9 pm	St. Joseph, San Angelo
Fri., July 29, 2005	5:30 pm – 9 pm	Christ the King Retreat Ctr.
Fri., Sept. 9, 2005	7 pm – 9 pm	St. Joseph, San Angelo
Sat., Nov. 5, 2005	10 am – Noon	St. Joseph, San Angelo

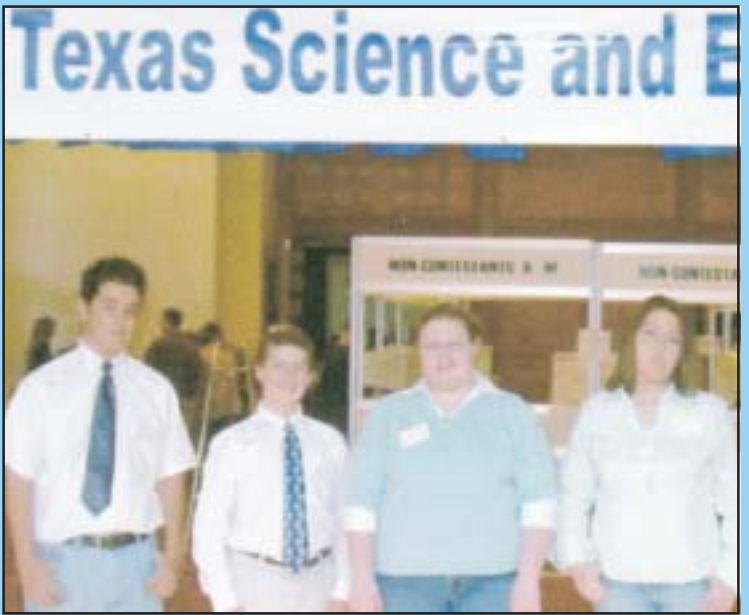
Registration Fee: \$35.00 per couple
To Register Contact: Carl & Amy Perez 325-658-4480 or John & Bonnie Rangel 325-486-8917

Parishes or individuals may call to schedule classes within the diocese.

St. Ann's students attend Texas State Science Fair

by Eileen Shayeb

MIDLAND – St. Ann's Catholic School sent five students to the Texas State Science Fair held March 31-April 2, 2005 in San Antonio, Texas. Gabrielle Shayeb, Amber Stark, Ryan Gordon, Dominick Silipo and Wil Steward represented St. Ann's School at the competition after placing 1st and 3rd in their project fields at the U.T.P.B. Regional Science Fair held February 26. Shayeb and Stark placed 1st with an energy conservation project. Gordon and Silipo placed 3rd with a project that demonstrated Newton's Laws of Gravity. Wil Steward placed 3rd in the chemistry division using metals and corrosion. We would like to acknowledge their hard work and success on a job well done.



Students from left to right are: Dominick Silipo, Ryan Gordon, Gabrielle Shayeb, Amber Start, not pictured is Wil Steward. (Photo courtesy Eileen Shayeb.)



Confirmation as seen through the eyes of young people

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

SAN ANGELO—The Confirmation season, which usually runs from Easter into mid-June, is one of the busiest times of the year for me, as I spend much time traveling from community to community to be with our young people as we celebrate the beautiful Sacrament of Confirmation. In preparation for my visit to celebrate this Sacrament with our young people, I send each class a letter and invite the candidates to send me a letter giving the Scriptural Readings they select for our Mass and in which they share their thoughts and reflections on this beautiful Sacrament, the new coming of the Holy Spirit and how they can use the gift of the Spirit in their daily lives.

Each Confirmation season I receive many informative and inspirational letters from the candidates for Confirmation which help me to realize that they are well-prepared for the new coming of the Holy Spirit in this joyful Sacrament.

While space does not allow me to share letters from all the classes of Confirmation, I share with you here the reflections of the Confirmation class of St. Ann's Church in Sonora. I celebrated Confirmation with them on April 16, 2005.

We are the Confirmation Class of 2005 of Saint Ann's Catholic Church in Sonora, Texas... We would like to express our thoughts for which you have asked us to prepare. First, you asked, "Who is the

Holy Spirit and what will the Spirit do for you?" The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Holy Trinity who is the unseen presence that Jesus Christ left to guide, lead, and inspire us as His disciples in our every day life. As said in John 16:13, "But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth."

The Holy Spirit will guide us in the right direction and keep us from the traps of being deceived by all evil. We can live the Sacrament of Confirmation in our daily lives by helping others as Christ commanded us to do. As quoted in Mathew 25:40, "I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these Brothers of mine, you did it for me."

We can also live the Sacrament of Confirmation by making a commitment to be good Christians. As good Christians, we will bring others closer to God, pray for other people, attend Mass, and receive the Sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation. In order to profess our faith as adult Catholic Christians, we will take on more responsibility to fulfill duties in the Church such as taking leadership roles in Parish Council and Ministries.

When we are confirmed, we will receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, which will help us to understand what God expects of us. We will use all the gifts wisely. The gift of Wisdom will allow us to be more open minded and see the choices

we will face in our lives. It will enable us to accept God in our lives. The Gift of Knowledge will help us learn from our mistakes and that of others. Sometimes in our daily lives we are quick to judge and look down upon others; the gift of Understanding will help us be compassionate and understanding of others and their situations Right judgment will help us in the process of choosing right from wrong. As young people we have many decisions to make. Dealing with peer pressure is the ultimate challenge we face constantly. By living the Gift of Courage we will stand up for what we believe and defend our decisions. We want to be like the Apostles and show the courage they did after receiving the Gifts of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. They were able to go out and preach the Good News about Jesus Christ and no longer were afraid. We will use the Gift of Reverence throughout our lives. Foremost we will show reverence for God by taking time every week to attend Mass and spend quality time with Him. By respecting the people around us we are following one of His commandments, "Love one another as I have loved you." We can use the Gift of Wonder and Awe by recalling His presence and power. As quoted in Sirach 44:35, "It is the Lord who has made all things and to those who fear Him, He gives Wisdom."

The gospel we chose is accord-

Rev. Dr. John Gonzales Castro, O.M.I. has been assigned as director of the Christian Renewal Center, Dickinson, Texas, beginning July 15, 2005. He has been the director of Christ the King Retreat Center for the past five years.



Christ the King Retreat Center May Calendar

- 3 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- 8 Mother's Day
- 10 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- 17 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- 19 Day of Reflection for San Angelo Deanery Priests
- 20-21 Teams of Our Lady
- 20-22 Beginning Experience
- 24 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- 25 National Directory for Catechesis
- 27-29 Engaged Encounter
- 30 Memorial Day - Office Closed
- 31 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

ing to John where it is stated we should believe and have faith in only one person, Jesus Christ. As the true Shepherd, we should only hear His call in which we will be saved and have an abundant life in Heaven.

We anxiously await your presence to confirm us and be strengthened by the Holy Spirit to guide and lead us in the right direction to a deeper relationship with God.

¡Oye! "Joven, ven y sígueme."

por el Obispo Miguel Pfeifer

SAN ANGELO—¿Te llevas bien con Dios, el Padre bueno que cobija a todos con su cariño? ¿Sabes que Jesús esta vivo, y sientes que sus palabras, signos y entrega tienen que ver contigo? ¿Te gusta hablar de Dios como de Alguien que procura que sus hijos vivamos bien, Alguien mas cercano que el aire que respiras?

donde unidos con el Papa, llevamos adelante la misma misión de Jesús?

¿Tienes ganas de que mejoren las cosas? ¿De no quedarte con los brazos cruzados cuando puedes ayudar a quien sufre desgracias, anda desorientado o vive acorralado por los desordenes de este mundo. . . ? ¿Tu corazón se inclina hacia el que sufre por lo disparate de esta vida?

¿Tienes animo de trabajar con gente como tu, para que todos descubran a ese Dios, y se llenen de alegría y deseos de trabajar por los demás?

¿ Te atrae pertenecer a una comunidad con gran variedad de actividades para buscar el mayor bien de la gente y la gloria de Dios?

Entonces, es probable que Jesús te este diciendo: "joven, ven y sígueme." No te quedes con la duda.

Intentions of the Holy Father for May

Missionary – That the Pontifical Missionary Works, proposed by the Holy Father and the bishops for the evangelization of all nations, may help the people of God to feel that they have a real part to play in the mission 'ad gentes'.

General – That those persecuted for the sake of faith and justice may experience the consolation and strength of the Holy Spirit.

Plática con algún sacerdote o una religiosa. la Diócesis de San Angelo, Reverendo Rodney White en el teléfono (432) 682-6303. También, ponte en contacto con el Director de las vocaciones para



Sexual abuse of children – raising awareness

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

SAN ANGELO – The month of April was designated Sexual Assault Awareness Month. During April there were many activities throughout San Angelo that were sponsored by groups such as Assault Victim Services, Children's Advocacy Center, and the Tom Green County Coalition Against Violence to raise the awareness of sexual assault and child abuse in the community. Similar organizations also sponsored activities in the other cities

throughout the diocese.

The Diocese of San Angelo would like to commend these efforts and is honored to support them through our many ethics workshops and child sexual abuse seminars over the past two years. It is our hope that we have helped to raise awareness of this problem, empowered parents and children to resist becoming victims of this crime, and reached out to past victims to begin a process of healing and reconciliation.

It is important that we support

prevention programs in our community, schools and parishes. While most of us will ensure that our children have the information they need to protect themselves, we know that many children who are being molested will not get such vital information from their parents. Hence, there is a need for publicly supported programs. However, we must be aware that whenever such a program is brought into a school or church curriculum, children will begin to make disclosures about abuse.

We must be ready to accept that children will disclose abuse by fathers, uncles, grandfathers, coaches, teachers, babysitters, and others trusted to care for them. We must be prepared to deal with this reality as a community and be ready for the emotional fallout from such an event. We would like to encourage anyone who may have to deal with such a situation to take advantage of help that is available from the various agencies and organizations in your city. These organizations are able to provide vital information for reporting incidents of child abuse as well as providing counseling for victims and their families.

Such organizations would in-

clude local police and sheriff departments, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Children's Advocacy Center, Assault Victim Services, and Rape Crisis Centers throughout the diocese. Local school systems can also be a source of help and information in many areas. Sources for information on the prevention of child sexual abuse include:

Prevent Child Abuse Texas (www.preventchildabusetexas.org)

Stop it Now (www.stopitnow.org)

Yellow Dyno Statistics (www.yellodyno.com/html/childabusestatistics.html)

Diocese of San Angelo (www.san-angelo-diocese.org)

Bishops' official hails house passage of bill requiring that parents be notified before a teen's abortion

WASHINGTON—Yesterday (April 27, 2005) the U.S. House of Representatives in a bipartisan vote of 270-157 passed the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act, H.R. 748. The bill, sponsored by Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fl.), protects minor girls from being taken across state lines for secret

abortions without their parents' knowledge, and prevents abortionists from doing abortions on out-of-state teens in the absence of parental involvement or judicial authorization.

"Yesterday's vote affirms the proposition that parents should be involved in abortion decisions affecting their teenage daughters

— even when their daughters are taken across state lines," said Cathy Cleaver Ruse, Esq., Director of Planning and Information for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities. "Abortion advocates have lost another round against a common-sense measure supported by most Americans."

"The practice of taking teens across state lines for secret abortions strikes at the heart of the family and the rights of parents," said Ruse. "But more than that, it presents a grave danger to the girls who are subjected to an invasive surgical procedure without their medical history or records, and with no medical fol-

low-up or intervention."

The next step for the bill is the U.S. Senate, which in the past has failed to take action on this type of legislation. The Senate sponsor for the bill is Senator John Ensign (R-Nv.). "We call upon the Senate to listen to the American people and pass this important bill," said Ruse.

Three special collections to become parish second collections on a two year trial.

by Leslie T. Maiman, Jr., Chancellor

SAN ANGELO – Bishop Pfeifer has accepted the Presbyteral Council's April 26th recommendation that the three annual collections for "The Church in Latin America", "Black and Indian Missions", and "Catholic University of America" be taken up as second collections in our parishes and missions and removed from the upcoming diocesan budget. This policy will be effective with the new fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2005, on a two year trial basis.

Historically, these three special

collections, which are ordinarily taken up as second collections throughout the parishes of the United States, were funded within the Diocese of San Angelo by means of an annual contribution made *directly* from the diocesan budget. During the current fiscal year, ending 6/30/05, the Diocese of San Angelo will have directly contributed approximately \$20,000 from the diocesan budget towards these three special collections combined.

The rationale for moving these three special collections from diocesan funded to parish second

collections for this three year trial period is two-fold: -1- To potentially increase the total contribution made to each of these three special collections (as the average second collection taken up throughout our parishes and missions exceeds what the diocese is directly funding to each of these three appeals); and -2- To reflect shifting diocesan funding priorities wherein the \$20,000 total, currently allocated to these three special collections, can be better allocated, beginning 7/1/05.

see "COLLECTIONS" page ten

Knights of Columbus appoint new field insurance agent for San Angelo Diocese

The Knights of Columbus has announced the appointment of N. Lee Castro as Field Agent for the San Angelo Diocese. Lee earned his State of Texas Insurance License in April after completing a 30 hour course of instruction. Mr. Castro serves over 835 local council members of the Knights of Columbus and their families. He is responsible for 9 councils within the San Angelo Diocese. These councils include 4 in San Angelo which are 2136 – Sacred Heart, 12008 – Holy Angels, 12798 – St. Joseph's, 13514 – St. Mary's, Council 6811 in Miles, Council 2772 in Olfen, Council 8572 in Ozona, Council 11282 in Eldorado, and Council 10609 in Sonora. Mr. Castro can be reached at anytime at (325) 650-5989.





Editor retires from *Angelus*

by Peter Micale

SAN ANGELO – It is with a certain amount of sadness that I am reporting to the readers of the *ANGELUS* that this is the last edition for which I will serve as its Editor. The date of my retirement is May 9th, the date that the May issue will be printed.

This will be the sixth retirement, or at least, the sixth vocation that I will be leaving; and I can say with all candor that it has been the most rewarding. Having served our democracy in the military for twenty seven years was the highest honor, but it came at a high price of separation from family and the sometimes awareness of impending danger. The vocation of serving the Diocese as an Editor, Director of Communications, Pro-Life and Family-Life Director, and also as the first Victim Assistance Coordinator was at once demanding, exhilarating and professionally satisfying. I will leave them with many fond memories of friendships and acquaintances made for the remaining days of my life. I have welcomed the Bishop's invitation to stay on as the Pro-Life Director on a volunteer and part time basis, so from time to time my by-line will appear in upcoming editions.

I will be everlastingly grateful to Steve Talley and his wife Penny of the Talley Press for their invaluable help in guiding me through the many pitfalls of producing a readable diocesan newspaper that has passed on the teaching of our Bishop and the Catholic news of the day and month.

My replacement is a much qualified and award winning journalist and writer. Jimmy Patterson is a former religion editor and writer, and family humor columnist with the Midland Reporter-Telegram, and has been a journalist since 1980. His book, "Sticky Door-knobs," humorous stories of family, was published in 2000, and he has been a finalist in the national McLaren Comedy Playwriting Contest. He has been honored numerous times for his newspaper reporting and writing by the Associated Press, the Hearst Corporation and the Texas Association of Broadcasters. His children's short story, "The Happiest Elf" was chosen Best Feature Writing by the Hearst Corporation in 1994. He has worked in public relations with the United Way of Midland and the Midland Chamber of Commerce since 1999. Jimmy and his wife of 21 years, Karen, have three children: Jennifer, 19; Kelsey, 16, and James, 11. Jimmy and his family attend Our Lady of San Juan Catholic Church in Midland.

It is now essential that all parishes send articles, photos, festival announcements, etc. to the following e-mail address: jimmylpatterson@grandecom.net. If e-mail is not available to you then material such as digital photos and hard copies of texts must be mailed to: Jimmy Patterson, 3511 Shandon, Midland, TX 79707.

Please make every effort to send in address changes to parish mailing lists of the Angelus by e-mail to: mikedosa@aol.com. This will speed up the process and save you cost of mailing.

Catholics send millions of postcards urging senators not to use a pro-abortion litmus test for judges

WASHINGTON – Millions of postcards were sent to the district offices of U.S. Senators coast to coast as part of the "End Roe Litmus Test" campaign. The campaign, sponsored by the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment and the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), invited Catholics to send a message to their Senators that support for Roe v. Wade should not be used as a litmus test for judicial nominees.

"Abortion advocacy groups have

pledged to spend \$10 million dollars every year to see that only judges who promise to endorse Roe are confirmed," said Cathy Cleaver Ruse, Esq., Director of Planning and Information for the USCCB Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities. "Yet even legal scholars who favor legal abortion have said Roe is not good constitutional law."

In January Cardinal William Keeler wrote to all U.S. Senators urging them not to use a pro-abortion litmus test for nominees. "By any measure," he said, "support for the Supreme Court's 1973

Roe v. Wade decision is an impoverished standard for assessing judicial ability." Cardinal Keeler is Chairman of the USCCB's Committee for Pro-Life Activities. The End Roe Litmus Test campaign also included an e-mail component.

"Roe v. Wade is bad law, bad medicine, and bad social policy," said Ruse. "No Senator should make a litmus test out of what Justice Blackmun's former law clerk Edward Lazarus calls 'one of the most intellectually suspect constitutional decisions of the modern era.'"

IMPERATIVE from page five

the physician decides for a person who is incapacitated. With an increasing trend in hospitals and society to judge "futile care" based on the quality of life, a Living Will can become very dangerous because of the way it is interpreted by the physician. Sadly more and more hospitals are relying on "futile care" standards. This means, that instead of denying treatment because it won't work, they are denying treatment precisely because it would work, because it would preserve a life that perhaps some do not consider is worth living. Living in a culture where the law favors euthanasia, there needs to be protections to ensure that arbitrary decisions are not made about the life of a person. Americans need protection to ensure that it won't be practiced on them.

In a Durable Health Care Power of Attorney, a person designates an agent to act on his or her behalf if the patient is unable to do so. This means that the agent should know the teaching of the Church and possess the practical wisdom to apply them to change in circumstances.

I encourage Catholics to opt

for a Durable Health Care Power of Attorney versus a Living Will which can be easily interpreted against the moral wishes of a person in critical need. I strongly recommend that this document include the following directives as regards health care directives—"I wish to follow the moral teachings of the Catholic Church and to receive all the obligatory care that my faith teaches we have a duty to accept." And, "I direct that those caring for me avoid doing anything that is contrary to the moral teaching of the Catholic Church. I want those making decisions on my behalf to avoid doing anything that intends and directly causes my death by deed or omission. Medical treatments may be forgone or withdrawn if they do not offer a reasonable hope of benefit to me, or if they entail excessive burdens, or impose excessive expense on my family or the community. There should be a presumption in favor of providing me with nutrition and hydration, assuming of course, they are of benefit to me."

There is indeed a moral imperative to feed the hungry and give water to those who thirst. All patients, no matter how severe or hopeless their illness, have the basic right to nursing care, emotional support, food, and water. Hydration and nutrition are biological necessities. Food and water are not medication. We go into the kitchen not to the pharmacy for dinner. Unlike all other modalities of care (e.g. antibiotics, cardiac drugs, etc.), the

withdrawal of hydration and nutrition is universally fatal. This means the doctor, not the disease, kills the patient. The hospital is an inappropriate place to kill a patient. It is neither fair nor appropriate to involve health professionals in hastening the death of a patient. Unlike respirators, dialysis, and other technology, artificially administered nutrition and hydration are not usually burdens or painful. If we allow ourselves to become convinced, however subtly through the use of mystifying and dehumanizing terms, that some people are not really human, then we not only dehumanize them; we also dehumanize ourselves.

[For more information on the critical issue of Living Wills and Health Care Proxies, one can write for information at the National Catholic Bioethics Center, 2399 Drexel Road, Philadelphia, Penn. 19151.]

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Thus during the first year of this two year trial period, the designated dates for these three second collections will be as follows:

Catholic University of America – Sunday, September 11, 2005

The Church in Latin America – Sunday, January 22, 2006

Black and Indian Missions – Sunday, March 5, 2006

Bishop Pfeifer asks for your prayerful consideration and support of these three special collections.

FOCUS ON INITIATION: CONCERNING THE BAPTIZED

Concerning the Baptized, co-sponsored with The North American Forum on the Catechumenate and The Diocese of San Angelo will be held at Christ the King Retreat Center, San Angelo, Texas on June 2-4, 2005.

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

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



POPE**from page one**

known then as the League of Nations.

While only Benedict XVI can share why he chose the name, already there seems to be a significant connection between the name and the peace that the new Pope will promote in our world, following in the footsteps of the great promoter of peace, John Paul II.

As Prefect of the powerful Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith which he led, the new Pope was a very close advisor of John Paul II. Perhaps no one better than he understood the doctrinal and moral commitment of Pope John Paul II to foster peace among people built on respect for each individual human person, who as the Pope constantly stressed is made in the very image and likeness of God. Surely Benedict XVI will take many cues from the papacy of John Paul II as the Church continues to address many critical issues, especially in the area of bioethics.

The new Pope's life story in many ways sums up the experience of European Catholicism in the 20th century. He was born in Bavaria in 1927, and grew up in the shadow of Nazi Germany. When Ratzinger was in the equivalent of high school, membership in the Hitler Youth was made compulsory and he was briefly enrolled, though he asked to be removed and never attended any activities. He was later conscripted into the German army and served briefly in an anti-aircraft battalion before deserting. His family was anti-Nazi, and Ratzinger never demonstrated the least affinity for National Socialism.

I had the privilege of meeting our new Pope when he was known as Cardinal Ratzinger. I remember well the meeting that the Texas Bishops had with the Cardinal in Rome to reflect on certain questions of teachings and doctrine, and then we invited him out for a meal. It was a very lively and enjoyable evening and I came to know the Cardinal as a man. As Cardinal, Pope Benedict XVI, visited Texas several times, and the last time I saw him was at a bioethics conference several years ago that was held in Dallas, Texas for

the Bishops of the United States, Canada and Latin America. At that Conference, Cardinal Ratzinger stressed the importance of moral guidance as regards so many critical issues being addressed in the field of bioethics. Like his predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI was critical of a modern day technical imperative or principle that if it can be done by science, then it ought to be done. Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI recognize that there is a great tendency today in the field of technology and bioethics to use utilitarian ethics as the supreme standard. When he headed the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Pope Benedict XVI identified a new, central threat to faith—which is relativism. He said, "Relativism is an especially difficult problem for the Church because its main ideas—compromise and a rejection of absolute positions—are so deeply imbedded in democratic society."

Habemus Papam! I invite all Catholics of the Diocese of San Angelo and all people who have been waiting for a new Pope, to offer prayers for Benedict the XVI so that he may be guided by the wisdom, the light, the knowledge and love of the Holy Spirit that has been poured out upon the Church.

BENEDICT**from page one**

some Vatican observers said Pope Benedict's influence grew.

"He's become the last check on everything, the final word on orthodoxy. Everything is passed through his congregation," one Vatican official said in 1998.

"I'm not the Grand Inquisitor," Pope Benedict once said in an interview, referring to the head of a medieval church tribunal focusing on heresy.

But to the outside world, he has been known as the Vatican's enforcer. He made the biggest headlines when his congregation silenced or excommunicated theologians, withdrew church approval of certain books, helped rewrite liturgical translations, set boundaries on ecumenical dialogues, took over the handling of cases of clergy sex abuse against minors, curbed the role of bishops' conferences and pressured religious

orders to suspend wayward members.

In 2003, the doctrinal congregation issued a document that said Catholic politicians must not ignore essential church teachings, particularly on human life. That set the stage for a long debate during the 2004 U.S. election campaign on whether Democratic Sen. John F. Kerry, a Catholic who supports legalized abortion, should be given Communion.

Pope Benedict's congregation also published a document asking Catholic lawmakers to fight a growing movement to legalize same-sex marriage.

Pope Benedict has frequently criticized the growth of church bureaucracy and its output of studies, reports and meetings. Asked once whether the Vatican would operate better in Germany, he responded, "What a disaster! The church would be too organized."

"The saints were people of creativity, not bureaucratic functionaries," he added.

In his first decade at the helm of the doctrinal congregation, Pope Benedict zeroed in on liberation theology as the most urgent challenge to the faith. He silenced Latin American theologians like Franciscan Father Leonardo Boff and guided the preparation of two Vatican documents that condemned the use of Marxist political concepts in Catholic theology.

But after the collapse of Marxism as a global ideology, Pope Benedict identified a new, central threat to the faith: relativism. He said relativism is an especially difficult problem for the church because its main ideas — compromise and a rejection of absolute positions — are so deeply imbedded in democratic society.

More and more, he has warned, anything religious is considered "subjective." As a result, he said, in places like his native Germany the issue of abortion is being confronted with "political correctness" instead of moral judgment.

He said modern theologians are among those who have mistakenly applied relativistic concepts to religion and ethics. He said Jesus is widely seen today as "one religious leader among others," concepts like dogma are viewed as too inflexible and the church is accused of intransigence.

Msgr. Timothy Schwertner
40th Anniversary of His Ordination

Sunday, June 5, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.
Mass at St Joseph's Catholic Church
20th Street & Division, Slaton, Texas
Reception immediately following
in St Joseph's Hall until 5:00 p.m.
FMI 806-828-3944

Pope Benedict has been particularly sensitive to wayward trends in Asian theology, especially as they find popular expression. He banned the best-selling books of a late Jesuit theologian from India and declared a Sri Lankan theologian excommunicated for his writings on Mary and the faith. The Sri Lankan theologian later reconciled with the church.

After review by Pope Benedict's congregation, U.S. Father Charles Curran, who questioned church teaching against artificial birth control, was removed from his teaching position at The Catholic University of America in Washington in 1987. Earlier this year, Pope Benedict made a similar judgment about Jesuit Father Roger Haight, who was banned from teaching Catholic theology over his book touching on the divinity and salvific mediation of Jesus.

The pope also has focused on ordinary Catholics, saying there can be no compromise on dissent by the lay faithful. He helped prepare a papal instruction on the subject in 1998 and accompanied it with his own commentary warning Catholics they would put themselves outside the communion of the church if they reject its teachings on eight specific issues.

The same year, he issued a document on papal primacy — a topic of intense ecumenical discussion — saying that, as a matter of faith, only the pope has the authority to make changes in his universal ministry.

Pope Benedict's theological ideas are based on years of study, pastoral ministry and Vatican experience. Born in Marktl am Inn April 16, 1927, the son of a rural policeman, the pope moved with his family several times during his younger years. His priestly studies began early but were interrupted by World War II.

In a book of memoirs, Pope Benedict recalled that while a seminarian he was enrolled by school officials in the Hitler Youth program; he soon stopped going to meetings. After being drafted in 1943 he served for a year on an anti-aircraft unit that tracked Allied bombardments. At the end of the war he spent time in a U.S. prisoner-of-war camp before being released.

Ordained in 1951, he received a doctorate and a licentiate in theology from the University of Munich, where he studied until 1957. He taught dogma and fundamental theology at the University of Freising in 1958-59, then lectured at the University of Bonn, 1959-1969, at Munster, 1963-66, and at Tubingen from 1966 to 1969. In 1969 he was appointed professor of dogma and of the history of dogmas at the University of Regensburg, where he also served as vice president until 1977.

A theological consultant to West German Cardinal Joseph Frings, he came to the Second Vatican Council as an expert or "peritus." At the council, he was said to have played an influential role in discussions among the German-speaking participants and gained a reputation as a progressive theologian.

After the council, he published several major books, including "Introduction to Christianity," "Dogma and Revelation" and "Eschatology." He was named a member of the International Theological Commission in 1969.

Pope Paul VI appointed him archbishop of Munich and Freising in 1977 and named him a cardinal later that year.

Before his election, Pope Benedict lived in an apartment just outside the Vatican's St. Anne's Gate. He walked to work daily across St. Peter's Square, rarely attracting people's notice.



Bishop Pfeifer celebrates Earth Day

by Peter Micale

SAN ANGELO – This year’s celebration of Earth Day began with a Mass at Holy Angels Church at 1:30 PM on Friday, April 22, 2005. Bishop Pfeifer offered this special Mass with all the students of Angelo Catholic School, and a tree was planted on the Holy Angels Campus located at 2315 A & M Avenue.

On April 22, 1970, the first Earth Day was held, due to the efforts of Senator Gaylord Nelson. People all over the country made promises to

help the environment. Everyone got involved and since then, Earth Day has spread all over the planet.

In April, 2003, Bishop Pfeifer wrote: “A key to turning the world around, to solving the ecological crises is to discover the sacred mysteries that surround us in the universe and on Planet Earth. A major work of our time is to make sure that the Earth does not fall into deficit as a result of our presence. What sense does it make to have healthy humans living on a terminally ill planet?” Hence, for several years

now the children of Angelo Catholic School have helped Bishop Pfeifer plant a tree on the campus of Angelo Catholic School at Holy Angels Church.

As in past years, during the Mass, the Bishop asked students to share their reflections about Earth Day, especially on how we can all work together to protect Planet Earth, which is our home and source of life. Some of these reflections follow. Special prayers were offered for God’s guidance as we deal with critical questions that affect the environment and ecology.



Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer sprinkled Holy Water on the newly planted tree, and also blessed the children of Angelo Catholic School who attended the Mass and the tree planting. (Photo by Peter Micale.)

ACS Students write about what Earth Day means to them

by: Darby Fly 3rd Grade

SAN ANGELO – God gave us this earth. We need to take care of it and we should not pollute. It will ruin this wonderful gift God has given us. Don’t litter it will spoil this beautiful place. And finally, follow the example of St. Francis of Assisi.

by Jordan Minjarez - 5th Grade

God Said: “See, I give you every seed bearing plant all over the earth and every tree that has seed bearing fruit on it to be your food; and to all the animals of the land; all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground, I give all the green plants for food.”

Today, we celebrate Earth Day.

An annual event established to deepen our care for life on our planet. Earth Day serves to remind each person of their right and responsibility to preserve and improve the earth and for quality of life.

Inherit the Earth, it belongs to each of us. Its health, wealth and beauty is our health, wealth and beauty.

by ACS Sixth Grade Class Michael Gonzales - Chief Writer

The Earth is something that should be treasured. I think that every person on this planet should know how lucky they are to have the chance to live on it. When God gave us this awesome planet, he expected us to take care of it. However, over the past century, air pollution, litter, noise pollution, and

light pollution have all begun to destroy our Earth little by little. We need to redeem ourselves with God by finding ways to resolve the problem. Car-pooling, recycling, picking up trash, and conserving electricity are a few ways we can save our environment. We should all cherish the time we have on this great planet, and we should all start now.



The Legion of Mary Acies of the Mary, Mother of Unity Curia of San Angelo. (Photo by Debra Vasquez.)

by Debra Vasquez, Our Lady Queen of Peace Praesidium

SAN ANGELO – “I am all yours, my Queen, my mother, and all that I have is yours.” Bowing in rever-

ence to the exposed Blessed Sacrament, each Legionary then approached the statue of Our Lady, presented a gift of flowers and declared her loyalty to Mary, Queen

Legion of Mary holds Acies for Annual Re-Consecration to Our Lady

of the Legion. “Totos Tuus,” “all yours” the motto of our beloved Pope John Paul II visible on the papal coat of arms. Little did we know that as our annual consecration took place, the same words may have been offered by our beloved Pope, John Paul II, with his last breath as Our Queen lead him to his heavenly home. The Legion of Mary Acies of the Mary, Mother of Unity Curia of San Angelo on Saturday, April 2 held special memories as the day we re-consecrated ourselves to Our Queen, joining our hearts as one with Pope John Paul II.

The *Acies* is a Latin word meaning an army set in battle array and is the day of annual consecration for legionaries to come together in solidarity to renew their allegiance and loyalty to Mary, Queen of the Legion. We ask her for her blessing and strength to carry out yet another year’s battle with the forces of evil. The *Acies* was hosted by the Holy Mary Mother of God Praesidium of St. Mary’s Catholic Church, San Angelo. In attendance were the Praesidia of Our Lady Queen of Peace, Sacred Heart Church, Abilene; Our Lady Queen of the World, St. Mary’s Church,

Odessa; and Our Lady of Grace, St. Joseph’s Church, San Angelo.

Music was coordinated by Sister Kim Nguyen with Lorenzo Hatch accompanying on the piano. The opening hymn, “Immaculate Mary” was sung. The opening, closing, rosary and Catena were led by Sister Ofelia Davila. Scripture reading was the Gospel of Luke, 1:26-56. Father Terry Brenan addressed the 24 members present, exhorting them to live their lives in faithfulness to Mary and their consecration. Benediction was given with concluding prayers and hymns.