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## On 80th Birthday, Pope Celebrates Mass With 8,000 Priests

By John Norton  
Catholic News Service



Pope John Paul II blesses the crowd in St. Peter's Square on his 80th birthday May 18. (CNS photo from Reuters)

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Blending celebrations of his 80th birthday with the Jubilee for Priests, Pope John Paul II celebrated a Mass praising God for the gift of his priesthood and reached out to priests who have left the ministry.

Some 8,000 priests from around the world, many wearing white baseball caps to protect against the strong sun, gathered May 18 in St. Peter's Square for what Vatican officials called the largest concelebrated Mass in history.

The pope seemed invigorated by the liturgy, speaking in a strong, clear voice and smiling often as he interacted with the crowd.

He said he thanked God "with the exultation of the Spirit's perennial youthfulness" for the opportunity to celebrate Mass with the priests on his 80th birthday.

God "desired to link my existence to the grace of priestly ministry, as bishop and successor of Peter, to be a witness of God's love for all humanity in these, our times, which are so fascinating," he said.

In a greeting before the Mass, Cardinal Dario Castillon Hoyos, prefect of the Congregation for Clergy, told the pope that those gathered prayed that God might let him "still guide us for a long time."

"We feel that we are led by a man of God, who has won love and respect beyond every human barrier," he said.

"The Lord has truly prepared an athlete to untiringly travel the streets of the world," said the Colombian cardinal.



Priests from around the world fill St. Peter's Square for the Jubilee Mass for Priests May 18. Pope John Paul II, marking his 80th birthday, celebrated the Mass and asked for prayers for priests who have left the ministry. (CNS photo from Reuters)

"Thank you, sweet Christ on suffering which has made you even earth, for those white hairs, for the see "POPE", page five

## Basic Formation Certificates Earned - Congratulations!

By S. Joan Markus, SSND

There was great celebration at Holy Family, Abilene and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Odessa on Saturday, April 29th. Eighty-eight adults received a Basic Formation Certificate for having completed the two-year process. The group began the formation process in the fall of 1998 with a session on Ministry, two sessions on Personhood and three sessions on Spirituality. In January of 1999 the group continued by studying the Hebrew Scriptures for four sessions.

In the fall of 1999, the process continued. The focus included three sessions on Christian Scripture and two sessions

on Christology. Beginning the year 2000, the focus included two segments on Church and two sessions



Photos by S. Joan Markus, SSND and S. Hilda Marotta, OSF.

on Sacraments. The final session was a Retreat Day, reflecting on the experience of the two-year process.

How was the experience? There was general agreement that the participants felt more knowledgeable



about their Catholic faith and consequently more comfortable and secure to be ministers in the church. Many said they know more people

in the diocese through the sharing process and have a better understanding and respect for others. There is a hunger in their hearts to learn more. Many expressed a desire to participate in the Advanced Formation sessions that will be sponsored in the Midland/Odessa Deanery in 2000-2001 and in the



Abilene Deanery in 2001-2002. Congratulations to the following adults who earned the Basic Formation certificate:

Basic Formation Participants  
Abilene Deanery

**Our Lady of Grace, Dyess Air Force Base, Abilene** - Kay David;  
**Holy Family, Abilene** - Sonja Albaugh, Darold Calk, John Deniz, Larry Grice, Alice Grice, Barbara Griffin, Jerry Griffin, Mary Kossbiel, Pamela Mann, Jacquelyn Moritz, Bland Spiegel, Richard Spiegel, Jr., Greg Vidal, Bobby Welch, Gail Wheeler; **St. Vincent, Abilene** - Linda Conley, Lucy Rodriguez, Rosa Sanchez; **St. Mary, Ballinger** - Peggy Freeman, Deacon Enrique Martinez, Martha Zertuche; **Sacred Heart, Coleman** - Becky Balderas, Margie Carrillo, Terry Dulin, Rita Luera; **St. Ann, Colorado City** - Alice Huff; Maria Elena Molina; **Our Mother of Mercy, Merkel** - Lupe Quintero, Angelita

see "BASIC", page eleven



# The Eucharist is a True Encounter with the Person of Jesus

By Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

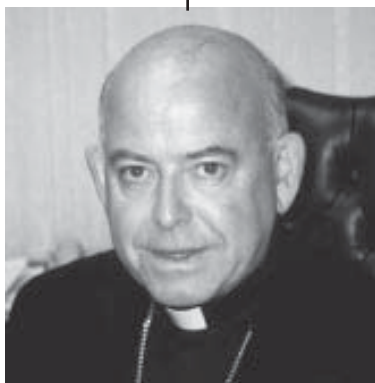
In the long history of the Mass, from the days of the Apostles to our own time, there has been many changes in the way our Church has understood the Eucharist. But, throughout that long tradition is the firm belief in the real presence of the risen Jesus in the Eucharist and in the centrality of the Eucharist in the life of the Church.

When we eat the body of Jesus and drink his blood at Mass, we enter into a true encounter with the person of Jesus. This is the full meaning of the Eucharist. It is a dynamic meeting with the Risen One.

What we do in the Eucharist is not a solitary experience. We do not come to the Eucharist simply as isolated individuals, but rather as persons who are members of a community, as persons who are the Body of Christ. The Eucharist is not Jesus with me, but Jesus with us, and all of us with one another. We are Christ's Body in the world God created, 24 hours a day.

The most important thing the Second Vatican Council did as regards the Liturgy was to give the Eucharist back to the assembly, to the people of God. The Council returned the Eucharist to what it had been in the beginning: an assembly of God's people come together, under the leadership of a priest, to praise God, to hear God's Word, and to "break bread" with the firm belief that the Lord Jesus was present among them.

All the reforms of the liturgy that have come out of Vatican II have had as their ultimate intent to make the Mass once again a human reality. That is, something that people do; yet always a human reality that moved beyond the human to the divine. What people do at Mass, they do with a profound realization that the Risen



# La Eucaristía es un Verdadero Encuentro con la Persona de Dios

Por Obispo Miguel D. Pfeifer, OMI

En la historia larga de la Misa, desde los días de los Apóstoles a nuestro tiempo, han sido muchos cambios en la manera que nuestra Iglesia ha entendido la Eucaristía. Pero, durante la tradición larga es la creencia firme en la presencia real del Jesús resucitado en la Eucaristía y en la centralidad de la Eucaristía en la vida de la Iglesia.

Cuando nosotros comemos el cuerpo de Jesús y bebemos su sangre en la Misa, entramos en un verdadero encuentro con la persona de Jesús. Esto es la significación completa de la Eucaristía. Es un encuentro dinámico con El Resucitado.

Lo que nosotros hacemos en la Eucaristía no es una experiencia solitaria. No vamos a la Eucaristía simplemente como individuales separados, pero como personas que son miembros de una comunidad, como personas que son el Cuerpo de Dios. La Eucaristía no es Jesús conmigo, pero Jesús con nosotros, y todos nosotros con uno y otro. Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo en el mundo que Dios creó, 24 horas al día.

La mas importante cosa el Segundo Concilio Vaticano hizo en respeto a la Liturgia fue dar la Eucaristía a la asamblea, a la gente de Dios. El Concilio devolvió la Eucaristía a lo que era en el principio: una asamblea de la gente de Dios reunidos, bajo el liderazgo de un sacerdote, a adorar a Dios, a oír la palabra de Dios, y a "compartir pan" con la creencia firme que el Señor Jesús estuvo presente entre ellos.

Todos las reformas de la liturgia que han salido del Vaticano II han tenido como su ultimo fin hacer la Misa una vez mas una realidad humana. Eso es, algo que el pueblo hace; pero siempre una realidad humana que movió mas allá del humano

see "EUCARIST" page eleven

see "EUCARISTÍA" page nine

## The Bishop's Schedule



### June, 2000

- June 1: Sanderson, St. James, Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.
- June 2: San Angelo, Christ the King Retreat Center, Media Luncheon at 11:30 a.m.
- June 3-4: Dallas, Wedding
- June 4: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart, Marriage Jubilee Mass at 3:00 p.m.
- June 5-6: San Antonio
- June 7-8: Dallas
- June 8: San Angelo, Bishop's Residence, Outdoor Dinner for Women Religious, Priests of the Diocese and Diocesan Pastoral Staff at 6:00 p.m.
- June 9: San Angelo, Blessing for the Cancer Drive at 6:00 p.m.
- June 10: San Angelo, Holy

- Angels, Wedding at 7:30 p.m.
- June 11: Austin, Diocesan Confirmation
- June 12: Christoval, Hermitage, Vows of Brother David at 5:00 p.m.
- June 13: Miles, St Thomas Church Hall, meet with Farmers and Ranchers of Area at 8:00 p.m.
- June 14-17: Milwaukee, Meeting of National Conference of Catholic Bishops
- June 18: San Angelo, Roy Robb Post Adjudication Facility, Mass with Youth at 10:30 a.m.
- June 19: San Angelo, Dinner with Healthy Families of San Angelo at 7:00 p.m.
- June 20: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Presbyteral Council Meeting at 10:30 a.m.

- June 21: Carlsbad, St. Therese, Confirmation at 7:00 p.m.
- June 22: San Angelo, St. Margaret, meet with Pastoral Council at 7:00 p.m.
- June 23: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Mass at for Staff at 8:30 a.m. Staff Meeting at 11:00 a.m.
- June 25: San Angelo, Coliseum, Diocesan Jubilee 2000 Celebration, Mass at 11:30 a.m.
- June 27-28-29: Rest and Prayer
- June 30: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart, Mass for the Sacred Heart at 7:00 p.m.

### July, 2000

- July 2: Big Spring, Prison Facility, Confirmation at 6:00 p.m.
- July 4: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart, Mass for Independence Day at 9:00 a.m.
- July 5: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center, 8:30 a.m. Staff Mass and 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- July 6-8: Los Angeles, Encuentro 2000
- July 10: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Luncheon for Fr. Andy Wueste, OMI at 11:30 AM
- July 14-30: Rest and prayer

# A Few More Reflections on the Guidelines for Weekday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest


By Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

The temporary guidelines for Weekday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest, which I recently published, were based upon principles recommended by the U.S. Catholic Bishops Committee on the Liturgy. I ask that pastors and pastoral leaders of communities that are close to each other meet together to formulate strategies for the implementation of these guidelines.

At a local level we need good teaching and explanation about the implementations of these guidelines and the difference between these weekday services and the celebration of the Eucharist. I strongly encourage that the weekday celebrations not be used when Mass is being celebrated in a nearby Church. Pastors of nearby parishes, especially in a larger city, need to publish in their Sunday bulletins the weekday schedules of Masses of the nearby churches so as to help bring this about.

As always we need to make new efforts to pray and work for more vocations to priesthood and religious life. Everyone is called to be a promoter of vocations.

*Pray for  
Vocations*



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# Diocese Of San Angelo Seminarian Is Eager For Summer Ministry Experience In Lithuania

By Fr. Tom Barley

This summer, Ruben Covos, a seminarian of our Diocese is going on a ministry experience sponsored by Conception College Seminary of Conception, Missouri. Ruben is 26 years old and the son of Ervey and Felicitas Covos of Holy Redeemer Parish in Odessa. He is a third year student at Conception College Seminary. The Seminary is run by Benedictine monks. Ruben is one of six seminarians selected by the seminary faculty to go on this ministry experience to Lithuania. He already has ministry experience working with youth groups from Mexico and within our Diocese. This experience will help him to broaden his vision of Church and youth ministry. He will leave on June 26.

The six seminarians from Conception Seminary who will be on this trip to Lithuania hope:

1.) To work with people and agencies in an underprivileged country to provide assistance to persons in need through an organized volunteer program;

2.) To experience life in a non-American context, and to have opportunities to meet and converse with a variety of persons, especially young people;

3.) To experience ecclesial life and share faith with people in a non-American ecclesial community;

4.) To integrate this experience into priestly formation through structured preparation and reflection.

The trip will have a dual ministerial education and priestly formation focus. In Lithuania, the seminarians teach English, catechism, plan and participate in summer camp activities for young people. They will work with Lithuanian Catholic counselors and youth min-

isters. The seminarians will meet Lithuanian priests, religious, seminarians, and lay people. Many of these Lithuanians lived and practiced the Catholic Faith under the decades of Communism and its efforts to suppress the Church and the people. They have remained faithful in spite of the suppression. Ruben Covos say: "I hope not to just be a teacher, but to be a learner from the tremendous faith journey of the Lithuanians. I hope to be able to grow from this experience and from the faith I have experienced from people from Mexico and the West Texas." The seminarians will be under the supervision of American and Canadian personnel. Topics to be studied will include working with children and adolescents, religious education and teaching, liturgy planning, spiritual formation, camp activities, language preparation, cross-cultural experiences, and personal and professional boundaries. These contacts and experiences will help the seminarians to broaden their understanding of the depth and strength of the Catholic Church and its role in the lives of the People of God.

To prepare themselves, the seminarians have studied the Lithuanian language, history, and customs. They have prepared themselves for the primitive conditions that are common in the country – rationed food and water, no plumbing, sleeping outdoors or on floors. While some Lithuanians speak English, many others do not. The seminarians will learn to communicate without a common spoken language. No matter how prepared one is for another culture, there are always surprises. They have also been told of the love of the people and their hunger to practice the Faith.

At the end of their summer stay

in Lithuania, the seminarians will journey by bus with Lithuanian teens to Rome for the Jubilee Year World Youth Day with Pope John Paul II. Can you imagine how exciting this will be?

When Ruben returns home to the Diocese, can you imagine how rich he will be in experiencing the universality of the Catholic Church? He will have seen the Church that survived and flourished under fifty years of Soviet oppressed and how that Church continues to grow and live faithfully to the call of Jesus Christ. Ruben Covos will come back richer in Faith. The challenge will be for Ruben to integrate this ministerial experience into his priestly formation through structured preparation and then reflection when he returns to Conception Seminary in August.

Ruben wishes to thank every one who has helped him to turn the plans for this experience into reality. This includes a special thanks to his family and friends who have worked to raise funds to fund this ministry experience; the Knights of Columbus Council in Sweetwater, Texas; and his home parish of Holy Redeemer and to the generosity of Our Lady of Lourdes in Andrews, Texas. He also thanks everyone else who has helped to make this experience possible and to those who continually offer their prayers for this trip and for their continued support in their priestly formation. These thanks are offered on behalf of all of the six seminarian brothers. You will be in my prayers each day of this ministry experience in Lithuania.

Ruben states he will taking an important part of the mission statement from Our Lady of Lourdes Parish that means a great deal to him – "To spread the Gospel to the People of God".

## Vocation Circle

*This month we take a look at the vocation of Fr. Mike Goode, CPPS. He is the pastor of both parishes in Sweetwater - Holy Family Church and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. When you meet him you will always be greeted by his smile and his warm heart and welcoming voice. While Fr. Mike is one of the few priests in the Diocese actually born in the Diocese he chose to be ordained for the Precious Blood Fathers. The Precious Blood Fathers have faithfully served in the San Angelo Diocese for at least 30 years. Today they minister in parishes in the Abilene Deanery. While the Diocese has received the gift of the service of many priests from various religious groups from outside the Diocese, Fr. Mike Goode, CPPS is one of our gifts to the universal Catholic Church. It is our blessing that he has come back to be with us for a few years.*

Part of the journey of my life – Vocation.

I believe "vocation" is integral to any believer's life: In some way, each human being in this world is being called. A believer in Christ, however, is also called to realize the call is from an infinitely personal living God who loves, forgives, and offers "purpose" to weak human beings. He speaks from the beginning of our lives through loved ones who nurture our hearts, through the Church and her sacramental life and through the Scriptures as taught by the Church, and through the events of daily ordinary life.

I had the privilege of being born and raised right here in West Texas. I was born in San Angelo, Texas and raised in Fort Stockton, Texas, a town I love with all of my heart.

My dad, Milton, who died in 1989, came from San Saba, Texas, having been raised in a Church of Christ background. Mom, Loraine (Cassie) came from Westphalia, Texas, having been raised in a German-Catholic environment. Dad became a Catholic when he and mom married.

I and my three sisters grew up in a Catholic home environment: Devotions and Sunday Mass were important parts of my spiritual upbringing. I graduated from Fort Stockton High School in 1968 and went to the University of Texas at El Paso for college. During my years in El Paso, I had the privilege of being involved in the Newman Center program on Campus, and gradually began to appreciate my Catholic Christian background for myself as I personally began to appreciate the value of it. Before, it had just an "automatic" thing, a "given" in my life through the people who nurtured me as a boy in Fort Stockton.

I know that two very special priests helped in my deciding that Catholic Christianity was to be important to me all my life. Fr. Francis Frey, currently ministering in St. Mary's Church in Odessa, Texas; was pastor of St. Agnes in Fort Stockton during the 1960's. He always taught High School religion classes and took many of us teenagers camping, to concerts in Alpine, Texas, etc. We teenagers of the parish of Saint Agnes Church always felt part of the church because of people like Fr. Frey. Fr. Sam Homsey, CPPS, was pastor of Saint Agnes throughout the 1970's. He was always patient with me as I would have many questions about faith, about seminary possibilities, and about priesthood itself.

After graduation from college, I was accepted into the seminary program at St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota the following fall semester studying under the auspices of the Society of the Precious Blood. I was ordained on June 15, 1979 in Fort Stockton and spent my first year of priesthood studying Spanish in Puebla, Mexico. I was in St. Mary's in San Angelo for three years then until 1983 when I moved to Immaculate Heart Parish in Sweetwater as Pastor until 1987. I then lived in our formation house in Kansas City, Missouri until 1989 working with Precious Blood seminarians. In July of 1989, I became the pastor of St. Mary's in San Angelo and lived in that parish for the next 7 years. Now, I've been back here in Sweetwater for the past several years. My life is linked with countless others who have nurtured and loved me, who have accepted and forgiven me, and who have taught me about Christ in good and bad times. I believe that is how the Lord God works in our lives day by day.

*When you think about it, there are many, many ways to serve the People of God, the Church. All of us are called in some way or another to be active in the Church. How will you choose to answer God's call? Contact your local priest, woman religious, deacon or lay minister for ideas. If you choose a vocation in a religious order or the diocesan priesthood, contact - Fr. Tom Barley, Director of Vocations and Seminarians at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, P.O. Box 1829, San Angelo, Texas 76902.*

## Vatican Thanks San Angelo Diocese for Financial Support

From the Vatican, May 12, 2000

Dear Bishop Pfeifer,

I am writing in the Holy Father's name to thank you for the financial support which you continue to give to the universal ministry of the Successor of Peter. This year your Diocese has sent the sum of \$18,255 as

the contribution for the financial support of the Holy See. For this gesture of ecclesial communion His Holiness is deeply grateful.

The Holy Father expresses his gratitude in fervent prayer for the whole People of God in San Angelo. Upon all of you he cordially invokes

the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Redeemer, and gladly imparts his Apostolic Blessing.

With personal good wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

O. Carel Sodaou

Secretary of State



# NCCB/USCC President Issues Statement On Catholics For A Free Choice

by Msgr. Francis J. Maniscalco

WASHINGTON—Galveston-Houston Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops/U. S. Catholic Conference, issued the following statement on the status of the organization "Catholics for a Free Choice":

"For a number of years, a group calling itself Catholics for a Free Choice (CFFC) has been publicly supporting abortion while claiming it speaks as an authentic Catholic voice. That claim is false. In fact, the group's activity is directed to rejection and distortion of Catholic teaching about the respect and protection due to defenseless unborn human life.

"On a number of occasions the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB) has stated publicly that CFFC is not a Catholic organization, does not speak for the Catholic Church, and in fact promotes positions contrary to the teaching of the Church as articulated by the Holy See and the NCCB.

"CFFC is, practically speaking, an arm of the abortion lobby in the United States and throughout the world. It is an advocacy group dedicated to supporting a abortion. It is funded by a number of powerful and wealthy private foundations, mostly American, to promote abortion as a method of population control. This position is contrary to existing United Nations policy and the laws and policies of most nations of the world.

"In its latest campaign, CFFC has undertaken a concentrated public relations effort to end the official presence and silence the moral voice of the Holy See at the United Nations as a Permanent Observer. The public relations effort has ridiculed the Holy See in language reminiscent of other episodes of anti-Catholic bigotry that the Catholic Church has endured in the past.

"As the Catholic Bishops of the United States have stated for many years, the use of the name Catholic as a platform for promoting the taking of innocent human life and ridiculing the Church is offensive not only to Catholics, but to all who expect honesty and forthrightness in public discourse. We state once again with the strongest emphasis: 'Because of its opposition to the human rights of some of the most defenseless members of the human race, and because its purposes and activities deliberately contradict essential teachings of the Catholic faith, . . . Catholics for a Free Choice merits no recognition or support as a Catholic organization' (Administrative Committee, National Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1993)."

# Bishop Fiorenza: Campaign Against Vatican's U.N. Status Anti-Catholic

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The campaign by Catholics for a Free Choice to end the Vatican's permanent observer status at the United Nations is reminiscent of "other episodes of anti-Catholic bigotry," the head of the U.S. bishops said May 10.

Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston said Catholics for a Free Choice, which supports legal abortion, claims to be an authentic Catholic voice. He said "that claim is false."

The bishop, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, issued a statement criticizing the group for "its rejection and distortion of Catholic teaching about the respect and protection due to defenseless unborn human life."

Frances Kissling, president of Catholics for a Free Choice, announced last year that her organization was launching a "See Change" campaign calling on the United Nations to end the Vatican's permanent observer status and put it on the same level as a nongovernmental organization — or NGO — such as the World Council of Churches.

In its current status, the Vatican does not have a vote at the United Nations but, after securing permission, it makes statements on issues the world body deals with, and uses other opportunities to influence delegates.

Kissling's group has a consultative status at the United Nations as an NGO and she has been an active lobbyist at U.N. meetings.

In mid-March a spokeswoman for the United Nations told Catholic News Service that the U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan cannot conduct the review of the Vatican's U.N. observer status called for by Catholics for a Free Choice.

Myriam Dessables, a staff member in the office of the spokesman for the secretary-general, said such a review could be conducted only if it was formally requested by the General Assembly and that, so far, no government has taken or proposed any action that could lead to a vote on such a request.

Bishop Fiorenza in his May 10 statement called the Catholics for a Free Choice campaign an effort to "silence the moral voice of the Holy See at the United Nations."

He pointed out that the NCCB has stated publicly a number of times that Catholics for Free Choice "is not a Catholic organization, does not speak for the Catholic Church, and in fact promotes positions contrary to the teaching of the church."

He said the group is primarily "an arm of the abortion lobby in the United States and throughout the world" funded by a number of powerful and wealthy private foundations to "promote abortion as a method of population control."

"The use of the name Catholic as a platform for promoting the taking of innocent human life and ridiculing the church is offensive not only to Catholics," he said, "but to all who expect honesty and forthrightness in public discourse."

The Vatican released Bishop

Fiorenza's statement in its daily press bulletin May 16.

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., who has introduced legislation in the House to protect the Vatican's U.N. observer status, agreed in a separate statement with Bishop Fiorenza's remarks regarding Catholics for a Free Choice.

Smith said the group's current attempt to remove the Vatican from its position in the United Nations is a "flagrant anti-Catholic attempt by radical fringe groups to clear the way for their pro-abortion, anti-family agenda at the United Nations."

In his May 11 statement, Smith, who is Catholic, also said the Vatican is "under assault by those who desire to see the disintegration of the Catholic world view in our global governing body."

"We cannot allow this to happen," he said.

Kissling, responding in a May 12 statement to Bishop Fiorenza's comments, said Catholics for a Free Choice is not "motivated by anti-Catholicism" but by a "love of the church and a commitment to a vision of church that represents the conscience of every individual."

She described her group as "the voice of Catholics who disagree with the church on sexual and reproductive health and rights."

She also said she takes "small comfort" in the belief that her organization is criticized because it is "effective in presenting the views of many of the world's Catholics."

# Bishop McHugh, Thomas Monaghan Honored By Pro-Life Group

by Tracy Early  
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — The National Right to Life Committee gave its annual Proudly Pro-Life Awards April 25 to Bishop James T. McHugh of Rockville Centre and Thomas S. Monaghan, a Catholic who founded Domino's Pizza and now devotes much of his time and fortune to pro-life causes.

Sponsors of the award said Bishop McHugh had stood "at the most important decision points" in the pro-life struggle for more than

three decades, and in the early years "provided crucial assistance and guidance" in building pro-life groups in many states.

"As a direct result of his efforts, the unincorporated forerunner of the National Right to Life Committee was formed in 1968 and provided the base on which the National Right to Life Committee Inc. was incorporated in 1973," the award citation said.

Darla St. Martin, a Protestant who is associate executive director of the committee, credited Bishop

McHugh with leading the movement to become ecumenical and interfaith, and because of that to grow, she said, in a way comparable groups in other countries have not done.

"He made his vision into our reality," she said.

Gail Quinn, pro-life director for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, recalled Bishop McHugh's service as pro-life director for the conference before he became a bishop, and said the Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities that

he led in developing continues to guide the work of Catholic parishes.

Archbishop Renato R. Martino, Vatican nuncio to the United Nations, said Bishop McHugh had been "steadfast in service to the Holy See's Mission to the United Nations," serving on Vatican delegations to U.N. meetings whenever there was "need of expert assistance" on pro-life issues.

Monaghan, who lives in Michigan, was honored as a supporter of pro-life causes there and throughout the United States. "His opposition to euthanasia played a crucial role in the defeat of a 1998 referendum which would have legalized assisted suicide in Michigan," the award citation said.

It also noted that his Ave Maria

foundation is funding a new Catholic law school, to open this fall, and has established the Thomas More Center for Law and Justice to provide legal counsel on issues of religious freedom, the family and sanctity of life.

Elizabeth DeVos, who has been active in the Republican Party in Michigan and currently is finance director for the national Republican Senatorial Committee, said Monaghan was one of the few donors who asked her if Michigan Republicans were committed to the right to life position before he contributed.

When she assured him they were, he became the largest donor to the

see "BISHOP", page ten



# Pope Says Time Is Right To Reveal Third Secret Of Fatima

By *Benedicta Cipolla*  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said the time was right to reveal the so-called third secret of Fatima, which can help illuminate the many tribulations of the 20th century.

"In light of the Fatima apparitions, the events of this rather troubled historical period take on a singular eloquence," the pope said at his weekly general audience May 17.

The audience marked the first time the pope commented publicly on the third part of the message, revealed to three shepherd children in 1917.

"Seeming that the time was ripe, I felt it opportune to make public the content of the so-called third part of the secret," he said.

During a May 12-13 papal trip to Fatima, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, announced that the pope had ordered the publication of the third secret.

Cardinal Sodano said it included a reference to a bishop clothed in white, who "falls to the ground, apparently dead under a burst of gunfire." The pope believes the reference applies directly to the 1981 attempt on his life, the cardinal said in his announcement May 13.

Speaking to 40,000 pilgrims in St. Peter's Square May 17, the pope said his pilgrimage to Fatima represented an "opportunity to thank the Blessed Virgin for the protection she has given me throughout my pontificate."

He said the ring he placed at the foot of Mary's statue in Fatima symbolized his thanksgiving. The late Polish Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński of Warsaw gave Pope John Paul the ring shortly after his election as pope. The cardinal had told the pope that he would lead the church into the third millennium.

During his trip to Portugal, the pope beatified two of the children who witnessed the Marian apparitions.

Though Francisco and Jacinta Marto were not martyrs, the pope said at the audience, "they demonstrated a life of Christian virtues to a heroic degree, despite their tender age . . . the heroism of children, but true heroism."

The pope emphasized that their beatification did not depend on their visions of Our Lady of Fatima, but on the "faithfulness and commitment with which they met the singular gift received from the Lord and from holiest Mary."

"They deserve not only to be recognized as credible witnesses of apparitions, but to become examples of life lived according to the Gospel," he said.

The third child visionary, Carmelite Sister Lucia Dos Santos, now 93, met with the pope during his trip.

Sister Lucia placed the third part of the message in a sealed envelope in 1943 and delivered it to her bishop, who then sent it to the Vatican, where it remained secret except to the popes and a few close aides.

The third secret was expected to be published soon, along with commentary by the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

## Pope's Audience Text, May 17

By *Catholic News Service*

VATICAN CITY (CNS) —

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today I wish to renew my gratitude to God for the visit which he enabled me to make to Fatima last Friday and Saturday. There, I had the joy of beatifying Francisco and Jacinta, two of the shepherd children to whom Our Lady appeared in

1917. Despite their tender age, these young children showed a great capacity for holiness. They led a deep prayer life and were especially faithful to the rosary. They did penance for the conversion of sinners. In this way, they were an example to all, children and adults, of how to follow God's will and be open to his

see "AUDIENCE", page eleven

# House Approves Awarding Congressional Gold Medal to Pope John Paul II

By a vote of 416 to 1, the House today approved legislation to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Pope John Paul II, H.R. 3544, sponsored by Rep. James A. Leach, (R-IA), Chairman of the House Banking and Financial Services Committee. Leach's floor statement in support of the bill follows:

Floor Statement of Representative James A. Leach On Minting of a Congressional Gold Medal for Pope John Paul II

Mr. Speaker: On rare occasions Congress awards the Congressional Gold Medal to persons who have contributed significantly to making the world more humane. This bill authorizes that such a medal be struck for the Pope.

John Paul II's dedication of his Pontificate to the freedom and dignity of every individual human being, his use of moral authority to hasten the fall of totalitarian regimes, his efforts to reconcile Christendom and reach out with respect to people of all faiths, and most of all his commitment to the teachings of Jesus Christ provide a model of grace to all peoples of the world.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, the apostle Paul wrote, "I have become all things to all, to save at least some. All this I do for the sake of the gospel, so that I too may share in it."

Last Thursday, John Paul II celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, and St. Paul's observation is an appropriate summary of Karol Wojtyła's extraordinary trajectory on this earth, from the small town of his birth in southern Poland, Wadowice, through the war years in Cracow, leadership of Cracow's Archdiocese during difficult Communist times, finally to the Ministry of Peter in Rome. In this journey he has left an indelible mark on his Church and the history of our times.

With the world watching, John Paul II has begun to show burdens of age, but he has lost none of the extraordinary vigor that has characterized the 21 and a half years of his Pontificate, one of the longest in Church history.

On New Year's eve, for instance, he celebrated a long, formal Te Deum in Saint Peter's Basilica, had

dinner in his quarters with Vatican aides and friends, after which they all sang carols. At midnight he appeared in his window and delivered his traditional New Year's greeting to an adoring crowd in St Peter's Square below. Then he celebrated yet another mass, his first of the new millennium, in his private chapel. His staff was exhausted, but by nine the next morning, he was in another basilica in Rome, leading another mass.

From the moment he became a priest in Cracow, Karol Wojtyła has conceived his role as a pastor — a representative of Christ on earth who has to be seen by the faithful. Since he became Pope in October 1978, he has made 92 pastoral trips abroad to 123 countries and territories, meeting more leaders and bringing the message of God to more people than any other Pontiff before him.

This year alone, he has been to Mount Sinai in Egypt, followed in Christ's footsteps in the Holy Land and prayed at the shrine to the Virgin Mary in Fatima, who, he believes, interceded to save his life when he was shot in St Peter's Square in 1981.

As leader of a billion members of his faith, John Paul II is generally considered the pre-eminent religious leader in the world. But his moral authority goes beyond his church. It extends to all who seek a message of love and compassion, of dignity that defies materialism, of freedom of thought unconstrained by political oppression.

Above all, he has urged people all over the world never to give up hope. He likes to recall that his first words in St. Peter's Square were an echo of Christ's exhortation, "Be not afraid." Wherever he has traveled, John Paul II has championed human rights and individual dignity, both of which, in his view, include freedom of worship. With this definition of liberty, he turned the Church in his native Poland into a protector not only of Catholics, but of all citizens oppressed by Communism, no matter their religion, if any. In so doing, he helped discredit the Communist system in Poland and brought

see "MEDAL", page eleven

## POPE

from page one

more dear in our eyes, for your steps, as spiritually intrepid as physically tired," he said.

The liturgy included prayers for the pope, who suffers from what is thought to be Parkinson's disease, to "be able to continue to irradiate ... the gift of his spiritual paternity, the wisdom of his heart, the witness of his prophetic gestures."

In a prayer for the dead, the pope's parents, brother and sister were mentioned, along with deceased priests.

The celebration included prayers for an increase in priestly vocations and for priests "who have distanced themselves from the ministry, for those who are in difficulty or in a vocational crisis."

In his homily, the pope asked for prayers for priests who have left the ministry and encouraged fallen-away priests to remain committed Christians and to seek laicization, a Vatican dispensation of officially releasing them from priestly duties.

Interrupted by applause from the priests gathered in the square, the pope said, "I think also of those priests who, for different circumstances, no longer exercise the sacred ministry, though they continue to hold in themselves a special configuration to Christ through the indelible character of holy orders.

"I also pray a great deal for them, and I invite everyone to remember them in prayer, so that, thanks also to a procedurally obtained dispensation," they remain committed Christians in communion with the church, said the pope.

Alluding to a priest shortage facing the church, the pope prayed that "the church can count on the generous service of many and holy priests in the new millennium."

The priesthood was a gift from God for all humanity, he said, and he urged the priests and all believers to join him in giving thanks.

In his address, Cardinal Castrillon Hoyos said that Pope John Paul had given priests "a precious certainty: that the priestly mission is the highest realization attainable for a man, a supremely human realization precisely because it is divine."

Entwined with the priesthood's inherent dignity, said the pope, was Christ's example of humbly serving others.

He said that priests must guide the church "not with force but with cheerfulness, not with the attitude of masters but by offering an exemplary witness," even to the point of shedding their blood.

After the Mass, the pope continued his birthday celebration at a lunch in the Vatican with 78 cardinals and three patriarchs. Twelve 80-year-old priests were also specially chosen to attend.



# St. Joseph Parish Celebrates Confirmation - First Eucharist

by Michael Wyse

On May 11, the people of St. Joseph Parish gathered at the San Angelo Convention Center for a very special celebration. In a month when graduates all over the country hear that graduation does not mark the end but rather a beginning to a new way of life, St. Joseph's gathered to celebrate a very special beginning for 120 children and youth as they celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist. In preparation for the event, people of the parish had spent the day transforming the convention center into a beautiful church. Families involved in sacramental preparation had crafted beautiful family banners that decorated the back wall behind the altar and the entire stage area had been converted to a lovely sanctuary. As people entered, they were greeted by a flowing fountain of water from which they could bless themselves and be reminded of the flowing waters of their own baptism.

During the homily, Bishop Pfeifer told the assembly how pleased he was to be at St. Joseph's, and that where the people of St. Joseph gathered to do Liturgy, was where St. Joseph Church was to be found. He shared some of the thoughts with the assembly that the candidates had written to him earlier. The bishop reminded the candidates that this occasion marked a time of beginning for them; a time for them to call upon the Holy Spirit



Photos by WTA: Peter Micale.

to give them the strength and zeal to proclaim the Gospel and be of service to the people of God. Following the homily the assembly chanted "Veni Sancti Spiritus" as Bishop Pfeifer confirmed the candidates, 69 who would also celebrate their First Eucharist that evening. The solemnity of the occasion was further enhanced by the presence of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, providing an honor guard for the Bishop and candidates. Afterwards the celebration continued as over 700 people enjoyed a wonderful recep-

tion hosted by next year's sacramental preparation families.

This is the fourth year that St. Joseph has celebrated the Restored Order of the Sacraments of Initiation in which children preparing for First Communion are also prepared for Confirmation. The Restored Order has had a very positive impact on the parish. Parents,

who are the primary catechists in this process, have become much more involved in their children's religious education and formation. Families have grown together spiritually and developed a deeper awareness of their call to be witnesses to the Gospel, not only as individuals, but as a family. Many parents are also moved by the process

to complete their own Sacraments of Initiation as well as have marriages blessed. The parish also has seen increased interest and involvement of the parishioners in the sacramental celebrations, with as many as 75 parishioners from the various parish ministries taking an active part before, during, and after the Confirmation & First Eucharist Liturgy each year. St. Joseph's pastor, Fr. Joe Vasquez, reports, "I think the Restored Order Process has been a real blessing in our parish. For me, the greatest joy is seeing the change it has made in many of our families."



## Catholic Outreach Services Assist San Angeloans

by Pat Dishman

Catholic Outreach Services

When a loved one, family member or friend passes away, we are often not thinking as clearly as we normally do. That is why it is important to have in mind ways of honoring his/her memory. One way is to send a memorial to Catholic Outreach Services (COS), an outgrowth of St. Vincent de Paul Society in San Angelo. Outreach uses memorial donations to help the poor and needy in San Angelo and Tom Green County.

For example, from time to time COS has to purchase such items as

diapers, hams or turkeys for Christmas food boxes, and fans to help make the heat more bearable, particularly for the elderly and sick. Memorial funds help defray these costs. An acknowledgement card is sent to the person giving the memorial and to the family member(s) designated by the giver.

Individuals and families could also choose to honor parents, children, special friends and others on those occasions when you want to recognize them but are not sure how to do so. Celebrate a new life, a graduation, a new job or retirement - you choose the reason for your

donation and COS will gratefully acknowledge the person(s) you are recognizing. All gifts to COS are tax-deductible.

Fans are needed now as the heat wave has hit full force. Last year, 15 box fans were donated. With the excessive heat already experienced this year, no doubt numerous clients will be requesting fans. Some local agencies are asking the public to donate fans. COS is asking members of the local parishes to consider donating fans or to make a monetary donation and the staff will purchase the fans. You may reach COS at 915-658-4124.

*You Are Invited To Hear*  
**FR. RICHARD THOMAS, S.J., of El Paso**  
Executive Director  
Of Our Lady's Youth Center  
**Tuesday, June 20, 7 P.M.**

**The all-volunteer staff of O.L.Y.C. operate a Food Bank, Clinic, Radio Station, Ranch, Counseling Center, Youth Programs and Jail and Mental Hospital Ministries.**

**Father Thomas will speak of his thirty-five years experience with the poor in Texas, New Mexico and Old Mexico.**

**COME and hear how he does it . . .**  
**HOW O.L.Y.C changes the reality of the poor:**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 7 P.M.**  
**St. Ann's Church Parlor**  
**Illinois & M Streets, Midland**  
**ALL ARE WELCOME**

**Volunteer Today!**



# Pope Names Bishop For Beaumont, Coadjutor For Austin

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has appointed Auxiliary Bishop Curtis J. Guillory of Galveston-Houston as bishop of Beaumont, Texas, and named Auxiliary Bishop Gregory M. Aymond of New Orleans to be coadjutor bishop of Austin, Texas.

The appointments were announced June 2 in Washington by Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Bishop Guillory, one of 12 active black Catholic bishops in the United States, succeeds Bishop Joseph A. Galante, who was named coadjutor bishop of Dallas last year. Bishop Guillory, 56, will be the sixth black bishop to head a diocese.

Bishop Aymond, 50, will serve as coadjutor to 69-year-old Bishop John E. McCarthy, who has been

bishop of Austin since 1985. Since a coadjutor has automatic right of succession, Bishop Aymond would immediately become head of the Austin Diocese upon the death or retirement of Bishop McCarthy.

Bishop Guillory was named auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Galveston-Houston in December 1987. He served a three-year term as chairman of the U.S. bishops' African-American Catholics Committee and has spoken out against racism in America. He also has served on the bishops' committees for the diaconate, education and the church in Latin America.

The son of a Louisiana sharecropper, Curtis J. Guillory was born in Mallet, La., on Sept. 1, 1943, the eldest of 16 children. He attended Catholic school and entered the seminary of the Society of the Divine Word in Bay St. Louis, Miss.,

in 1960. He was ordained a priest of the Divine Word on Dec. 16, 1972.

Bishop Guillory studied at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and at Jesuit-run Creighton University in Omaha, Neb.

He was associate pastor of St. Augustine Church in New Orleans from 1972 to 1976, when he was named pastor. He continued to serve in that parish until 1982, when he became director of the Augustine Tolton House of Studies in New Orleans.

In Beaumont, Bishop Guillory opened a press conference with greetings in a number of languages representing the diversity of the diocese, including French, Italian, Spanish and Vietnamese.

"All of us are shaped by faith and cultures," he said. "I believe God created different cultures and ethnic groups so that we might have a



Bishop Curtis J. Guillory (CNS photo from Texas Catholic Herald)



Bishop Gregory M. Aymond (CNS photo from Catholic Spirit)

greater insight into his love and compassion. I will continue to minister to all God's people, no matter the racial or ethnic background because we are all God's children, created in his image and likeness."

The Beaumont Diocese covers nine counties in southeast Texas and has a Catholic population of

nearly 88,000 out of a total population of more than 577,000.

Gregory Michael Aymond was born in New Orleans on Nov. 12, 1949. After grade school and high school, he went to St. Joseph Seminary College in St. Benedict, La.,

see "BISHOPS," page ten

# Religion, Politics Play Roles In Catholic Press Convention

By Catholic News Service

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Religion and politics were frequent themes as the Catholic Press Association held its annual convention May 24-26 in Baltimore.

Featuring an address by satellite from Republican presidential hopeful George W. Bush and a blast against anti-Catholicism from the president of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, the convention also allowed more than 400 Catholic journalists to focus on their own publications and to honor their best.

A May 26 appearance by Texas Gov. Bush — who answered questions by satellite — made national news when Bush said he did not believe any innocent people had been executed in Texas and criticized the Clinton administration for failing to denounce the campaign to change the Vatican's permanent observer status at the United Nations.

Vice President Al Gore, the likely Democratic Party nominee for president, had declined an invitation to address the CPA convention.

During his 15-minute appearance, Bush reiterated his support for capital punishment and his opposition to partial-birth abortions and talked about education reform, tax breaks for struggling families and the need to create a "hospitable society."

"I believe our country must be prosperous but prosperity must have a purpose ... to make sure the American dream touches every willing heart," he said.

"I want to take down the toll booth on the road to the middle class," with lower taxes, greater access to health insurance and more opportunities for homeownership, Bush said.

On the issue of abortion, Bush said as president he would sign a ban on partial-birth abortion and that in making judicial appointments, he will choose jurists "who will strictly interpret the Constitution" and "will not use the bench from which to legislate."

"I want America to be, in the words of Pope John Paul II, a hospitable society," Bush said, adding that social reforms should promote a culture of life and affirm every person "in the image and likeness of God. . . . As a country we must keep our pledge to the first guarantee of the Declaration of Independence."

At the convention's opening banquet May 24, William Donohue of the New York-based Catholic League said that despite "a tremendous amount of progress" in recent years, the Catholic Church continues to be defamed and disparaged in American society.

"A lot of people think that the election of JFK in 1960 took care of

the anti-Catholicism problem," but that is not true, Donohue said.

He criticized the "lame submissive mentality" among many Catholic lay people who consider the problem of anti-Catholicism to be something handled by the bishops and not addressed by them.

Another convention speaker, Father J. Bryan Hehir, addressed the topic of religion and politics at home and abroad.

The convention was also entertained in another session by comedian Mark Russell, who stood at the piano as he does in his public television specials and regaled his audience with stories about his Catholic upbringing and contemporary politics.

Robert Wicks, author, psychologist and chair of the pastoral counseling department at Loyola College in Baltimore, offered his techniques for living a hopeful life at another session May 25.

If you're not praying, you may be a "wonderful professional but you're not a Catholic professional," he told the Catholic journalists.

"Prayer is a necessity to survive in the work you do," he said. As valuable as pens and notepads, computers and telephones may be for journalists, they're not the most important tools of the trade for the Catholic journalist.



Presidential candidate Texas Gov. George W. Bush addresses the Catholic Press Association convention in Baltimore by video link May 26. (CNS photo by Nancy Wiechec)

The convention in Baltimore featured three Masses and 37 workshops ranging from topics as specific as "Ad Sales Management Software" to as general as "Keeping the Faith and Your Job."

Vicki Thorn was honored with the CPA's 2000 Herald of Charity Award for her work as founder of Project Rachel, a Milwaukee-based national program to train priests and therapists to help heal post-abortion trauma. Since she founded the program in 1984 in the Milwaukee Archdiocese, 4,500 priests and therapists have been trained.

She also urged the journalists to tell the stories of men wounded by the abortions which their wives, girlfriends or daughters have had. They need healing, too, she said. "Fathers grieve a great deal," she said.

## KC Insurance Receives Highest Rating

New Haven, CT — Citing a "very strong market presence in the Catholic community," an "extensive distribution" network of agents and councils, and member loyalty, the A. M. Best Co. announced April 26 that the Knights of Columbus had received an A++ (Superior) rating. This is the highest financial strength rating accorded by A.M. Best. This marks the 25th consecutive year the Knights of Columbus has received the A++ (Superior) rating from the independent insurance ratings agency.



# Valuing the Media

by Msgr. Thomas J. McSweeney,  
Director of the Christophers

Recently I was asked to deliver a speech about "Media and Values" in my home diocese of Erie, Pennsylvania. A simple task for a doomsayer. One need only point to diminishing standards in movies, television and music. Inundate the audience with grim statistics about prime time violence, sex and vulgarity. Offer a pinch of truism, an ample dash of prophecy, and a passionate call for censorship. And there you have it – a speech on Media and Values.

A dark picture indeed. But I'm an old Christopher and a Christopher knows better than to give darkness that much credit. After all, darkness is so fragile. A single positive act, one benevolent person, even a kind word or gesture can do so much to disperse it.

Yes, the media could be better . . . but it could also be so much worse. Just imagine a world without any educational programming. A world in which *Mister Roger's Neighborhood* or *Sesame Street* had never existed and our children knew only a steady diet of violent and inane cartoons. This is not the case, thanks to people like Fred Rogers and Joan Ganz Cooney – who, in fact, credits the Christopher message with encouraging her down the road that led to creating *Sesame Street*.

Anyone embarking on a career in media today is faced with the same choice Cooney faced. Do I try to make a difference and use my talents to assert a moral vision? Or do I accept the status quo, resign my-

self to the prevalence of ever lower and more materialistic standards? If I can't, should I do something else or just attack the valueless work I see around me?

The answer is clear. To do nothing not only gives in to the trend, it actually encourages the trend. And to attack or to censor the bad is equally misguided. Censorship, like doing nothing, like sitting in the corner offering smug criticism about declining standards, is not creative. Censorship does not add one jot, one iota of positive work to what is already out there. It is also a sad and unfair concession to the perception that the public does not want something better. It underestimates all of us.

Think of a seesaw. Think of diminishing standards in the media as the big schoolyard bully planted firmly on one end. Each and every contribution at the other end, each and every work that reaffirms the values we cherish, each and every work that does not give in, will add just that much more weight. And slowly, perhaps only inch-by-inch, together we will succeed in lifting the standards higher.

Many say that the media is in a state of crisis. But crisis need not be bad. In Chinese, the word has another meaning – *opportunity*. Networks scrambling for viewers, the potential of the Internet and real time video, diverse cable programming, these are not threats, but opportunities, new vistas to explore. Indeed, these changes are actually making more room for those writers, pro-

see "MEDIA", page nine

# Research Shows Effectiveness of Family-Centered Chastity Program

by Family Honor, Inc.

COLUMBIA – According to an independent research project conducted recently on a parent-child chastity program based in Columbia, South Carolina ". . . the Family Honor program is making a significant difference with parents with respect to the kind and level of communication they engage in with their children . . . Furthermore, we see a significant program effect for the measures of responsibility, confidence and whether they (parents) feel overwhelmed with the task at hand."

In his final report to the Sisters of Charity Foundation, who funded the study, Stan Weed, Ph.D., Project Director and President of the Institute for Research and Evaluation in Salt Lake City, Utah, stated that the Family Honor approach involving parents is ". . . consistent with the latest research which identifies parent-child connectedness as a key deterrent to adolescent sexual involvement . . ."

Dr. Weed goes on to say that "Many parents have been led to believe that this responsibility is one that could better be fulfilled by schools or other agencies, in spite of evidence to the contrary. The Family Honor program is a rare exception to the prevailing currents, and offers parents a place, a method and practical tools designed to equip

and empower them to fulfill this particular role."

His final report also states that ". . . of the 13 different measures of short term program impact on parents, eleven showed significant pre-post change. It is clear that their experience as [Family Honor] program participants moves parents in the direction intended by the program . . . An intervention with a short time span such as this does not usually produce results of this magnitude or consistency."

Created 13 years ago, the mission of Family Honor, Inc. is to help strengthen family life by teaching effective parent-child communication, with a special focus on chastity and God's awesome gift of sexuality. The organization provides educational resources and four different multi-session programs designed to equip, encourage and empower parents to be the primary source their children come to for information on morality and sexuality-related issues.

According to Brenda Hucks, executive director of Family Honor, the organization does not do in-school classroom programs during the day. Instead, they only present evening and weekend multi-session programs, so that the parent(s) or adult guardian of the adolescent can be present and participate. She states "In fact, we require their presence

in order for a child to attend one of our programs, since the parent is really our primary target audience."

Although based in South Carolina, with most of their programs delivered at churches and organizations in that state, Family Honor staff will travel to other states to present Leadership Training Seminars which include topics such as *Pope John Paul's Theology of the Body, Chastity as a Courageous Virtue, Family-Centered Formation in Virtue* and more.

Last year, the organization presented a seminar sponsored by the Diocese of Knoxville in Tennessee. Currently, Family Honor is working with representatives from the Diocese of Savannah, Georgia and the Diocese of Charlotte, North Carolina to present seminars this coming fall.

Family Honor also conducts a college-credit course in South Carolina, *The Principles of Teaching Family Centered Chastity Education*, which is open to anyone across the country who wants to be able to examine, understand, defend and promote the family-centered approach.

For more information or a copy of Dr. Weed's report, contact the Family Honor office at 803-929-0858 or e-mail them at famhonor@aol.com.

# Protecting Students' Right to Free Speech

By John Cornyn, Attorney General

Q: I read in the paper that you argued before the Supreme Court about school prayer. Why are you involved in this issue?

A: I have received a number of letters on this issue, and they have made me aware of the potential for misunderstanding in the *Jane Doe vs. Santa Fe ISD* case. One letterwriter asked why the Attorney General of Texas was involved in a lawsuit from Santa Fe, New Mexico.

First, this case involves the Santa Fe Independent School District, just 40 miles southeast of Houston. Second, it does not concern prayer in the classroom.

*Doe vs. Santa Fe* addresses the question whether school districts must censor student-led, student-

initiated messages, which may include prayer, during pre-game ceremonies at football games. In other words, the case is about freedom of speech, including religious speech.

That is why I, together with Governor George W. Bush and seven other states, filed a "friend of the court" brief with the U. S. Supreme Court, supporting Santa Fe ISD's position that its student message policy is constitutional. Our brief also seeks to overturn a decision by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals that banned the policy.

That is also why I personally argued this case before the U. S. Supreme Court on March 29. The rights of students in Texas, and of all Americans, are at stake.

Certainly, we must ensure that public schools respect the separation

of church and state. At the same time, there are more than 1,000 public school districts in Texas that must deal with questions about what students can or can't do with regard to religious expression outside the classroom.

And school officials should not have to guess. The law must be clear enough for school officials to comply without fear of lawsuits. My purpose in representing Texas before the U. S. Supreme Court was to seek clarification.

I believe that the Santa Fe policy neither promotes nor inhibits religion, while protecting the rights of students. It doesn't require prayer, but it doesn't prohibit it, maintaining the neutrality mandated by the Supreme Court's decisions.

The Santa Fe policy on pre-game

ceremonies at football games reads:

*The (Santa Fe ISD) board has chosen to permit students to deliver a brief invocation and/or message during the pre-game ceremonies of home varsity football games to solemnize the event, to promote good sportsmanship and student safety, and to establish the appropriate environment for competition . . .*

*Upon the advice and direction of the high school principal, each spring, the high school student body shall conduct an election – by secret ballot – to determine whether such a statement or invocation will be part of the pre-game ceremonies . . . and if so, shall elect a student from a list of volunteers to deliver the statement or invocation.*

*The student volunteer who is selected by his or her classmates may*

*decide what message and/or invocation to deliver, consistent with the goals and purposes of this policy.*

Obviously, the Santa Fe ISD is not injecting itself into the process. This is not a government-sponsored message, but rather a message chosen by the student alone.

The test for free speech is not whether a particular message makes everyone comfortable. Such is the price we all pay for living in a country that values free expression and the free flow of ideas.

The Santa Fe ISD students have a constitutionally protected right to free speech, including the right to offer a prayer before football games, as long as school officials are not involved in the activity.

I support that right, and I believe other Texans do, too.





# Steps Toward Healing After Abortion

By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

1. Recognize that *you are not alone*. Others have been through the same experience and the same trials. Their experiences and understanding can help you. They *want* to help you, just as you may want to help others after you have finished going through the healing process.

2. Recognize that the road to full recovery will take time and effort. God's forgiveness can be had instantly. The Father of mercies is ready of give you his forgiveness and his peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. But sorting out your feelings and overcoming the ever-present temptation to give in to despair and doubt – these take time.

3. Recognize that it is normal and good to mourn the loss of a loved one. Just as mourning the loss of a parent or spouse takes time, so does mourning the loss of an aborted child. In the case of abortion, the mourning process is often cut short and never completed because of denial or feelings of guilt.

Courageously allow the mourning process to get back on track. Accept your grief as normal rather than something which must be covered up or pushed away. Recognize that the pain of your loss will fade as your healing progresses.

4. Admit your personal responsibility but also recognize that others, too, were involved. Pray for the strength to forgive both yourself and everyone else who either encouraged you to have the abortion or failed to help you avoid it.

5. Give your child over to the care of God. Know that he or she is loved, happy, and well cared for in heaven. Do not try to hold onto your child by prolonging your grief. Hold onto him or her by remembering your child's happiness in heaven.

6. Forgive others. Recognize that they, too, acted out of ignorance, fear, or petty human selfishness. If possible, let them know that you forgive them.

7. Forgive yourself. Remember that because your child lives in the love and mercy of God, he or she is beyond earthly malice. Your son or daughter does not resent or condemn you. Instead, your child, like God, *wants* you to be healed and restored to the fullness of joy and happiness.

## CDA Holds Biennial State Convention in Corpus Christi

by Ester C. Tobin

A pontifical mass, celebrated by the Most Rev. Edmond Carmody, newly-appointed bishop of the Corpus Diocese opened the 42nd Biennial State Convention of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA), on April 27, at the Corpus Christi Cathedral with more than 1,000 in attendance.

"Mary, Lead Us to the Triune God" was the convention theme. In his homily, Bishop Carmody said to worship the living and risen God and to keep the Easter spirit alive especially during the Jubilee Year as Easter represents life. The Bishop thanked the Catholic Daughters and said they were a perfect example of how a Catholic organization could set examples of doing Christ's work through their charitable work.

The keynote speaker for Friday morning was Dr. Frank Lucido, secretary of Education to the Corpus Christi Diocese and assistant professor at Texas A and M University in Corpus Christi. His topic was "A Call To Catholic Women To Be Christian," with the Virgin Mary as a model. Dr. Lucido also reviewed the history of the Catholic Daughters since it was organized in Utica, New York in 1903, to the present time.

Marie Walsh, convention chairman, said this was the largest convention surpassing all previous ones. Actual registration was 1,093 and 853 attended the Saturday night banquet. Of the 185 local courts in Texas, 163 were represented. The six host districts included 25 South Texas cities and worked two years preparing the convention.

The 48th Biennial National Convention will be held in Bismark, North Dakota on July 16-21, 2000, announced State Regent Libby Ramirez.

## New Community Prayer Chapel to Open in Abilene

by Fr. Robert Bush, Pastor Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Abilene, TX – A new prayer chapel will open Thursday, June 29, 2000, in Abilene, after the celebration of the Mass on the Solemn Feast of Saints Peter and Paul at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. The Mass will begin at 6:30 P.M. with the Most Reverend Michael D. Pfeifer, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo, presiding. After the Mass a procession from the church to the new chapel will escort the Blessed Sacrament where it will be enthroned. Bishop Pfeifer will then bless the chapel as a place for the faith community to come in adora-

tion and prayer. It is located on the corner of South 8th and Peach Streets, Abilene, and will be open every day of the week, year round.

Called the Chapel of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, it is available for the people of all the parishes in the Abilene community – and indeed for all Christians who want to spend time adoring Jesus and offering prayer to Him. Two or more parishioners of Abilene's Catholic parishes (Holy Family, Sacred Heart, Saint Francis, Saint Vincent) are committed to be present for all the times the chapel will be open to pray and renew their commitments to the Lord Jesus Christ in these times in

need of repentance and renewal. This chapel is being opened during the Great Jubilee of the year 2000 when the Church is celebrating the 2000th birthday of Jesus Christ and is preparing to enter the third millennium beginning January 2001.

The Church welcomes to this prayer chapel all who want a quiet time with the Lord Jesus Christ. Though one does not need to sign up for a specific hour to pray in the chapel, it is encouraged as a means to become more constant in one's prayer life. To commit to a specific hour each week, please call Sacred Heart Church Office (915-677-7951).

## Peter's Pence Collection For Holy Father On July 2

by Most Rev. Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

My dear Sisters and Brothers: The Holy Father challenges us during this Jubilee Year to *live faith, impart hope, and bestow love* with profound depth and greater intensity. This phrase is the theme for the Year 2000 Peter's Pence Collection to support the charitable works of the Holy Father which will be taken up in our diocese in a few more weeks.

We have become increasingly aware of the fact that our world has grown more interdependent. What happens in one part of the globe has a ripple effect on all of us. The failure of early medical intervention in Africa contributes to the spread of the AIDS virus to other nations; ethnic warfare in Kosovo triggers the migration of countless peoples into neighboring countries ill-equipped to accommodate them; oil spills denude oceans of life that sustain the economies of surrounding communities. Television has brought the human dimensions of these tragedies into our living rooms. In response to this suffering, people from all parts of the world frequently rally to form a dynamic core willing to lend assistance.

It is in this context of human interdependence that the Peter's Pence Collection emerges as an opportunity for all Catholics in the United States to join in partnership with the Holy Father to help relieve this suffering of the world's most vulner-

able – those who suffer the devastating impact of war, oppression, disease and natural disasters. Such assistance is rapid, bypassing as it does the bureaucratic time lapse often encountered as governments attempt to mobilize their own, sometimes meager, resources.

I ask you to give generously to this special collection which will be taken up on July 2, 2000 in our diocese for the charitable works of our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II and to pray for his intentions. I thank you for your past generosity and ask God to bless you.

## MEDIA

from page eight

ducers and directors who have plenty of virtue and talent to make a positive difference in our culture.

It has been my happy experience to meet hundreds of individuals who are determined to bring their permanent light to this temporary cultural darkness. They have chosen the media not for the purpose of having a career, but for having a career with a purpose. And if you should know someone who desires to do the same, encourage them. After all, the more people with talent and ideals in the media, the higher we shall all be lifted.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, *How To Really Communicate*, write to The Christophers, 12 East 48th St., New York, NY 10017.

## EUCARISTÍA

from page two

al divino. Lo que el pueblo hace en Misa, lo hacen con una realización profunda que el Señor Resucitado está presente entre ellos.

La presencia de Jesús en la liturgia en la Eucaristía no es estática. Jesús no está satisfecho con estar allí. El está allí a actuar dinámicamente para cambiar nuestras vidas. Durante la Eucaristía encontramos a Cristo y somos desafiados por Él en la asamblea del pueblo. El esta allí a traer armonía y paz en nuestras vidas, nuestras familias, nuestro país, nuestro mundo. El viene para hacernos experimentar nosotros mismos como Su cuerpo en el mundo.

Nuestra reunión para celebrar la Eucaristía no es una intervención separada de gracia en nuestras vidas. Nuestros actos de adoración en la Eucaristía son expresiones simbólicas de lo que el teólogo Karl Rahner llamó "la liturgia del mundo." La experiencia de Dios principalmente se encuentra escondida en el medio de nuestra vida ordinaria, observó Rahner, en nuestras experiencias de esperanza y duda, responsabilidad, amor y muerte. Nos reunimos en la Eucaristía no solamente para "repostar" vidas desprovistas de gracia, pero porque necesitamos celebrar todos los momentos llenos de gracia en nuestras vidas, que son fácilmente olvidados o ignorados. Nos reunimos en la Eucaristía a ser desafiados a una conciencia mas profunda de lo que Dios está haciendo en nuestras vidas, en el mundo, toda la semana.

(Estas reflexiones vienen de Catholic Update – enero 1999)



# Encuentro To Explore 'New Vision' For Multicultural Church

By Maria L. Torres  
Catholic News Service

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Los Angeles Auxiliary Bishop Gabino Zavala, national chairman of Encuentro 2000, said part of the focus of the upcoming national jubilee event is to "create a new vision" for the future of the Catholic Church.

Encuentro 2000 is set for July 6-9 at the Los Angeles Convention Center. The theme will be "Many Faces in God's House."

"How do we, as a church, acknowledge the diversity and gifts offered by an increasingly diverse church?" Bishop Zavala said in an interview with *The Tidings*, Los Angeles archdiocesan newspaper. "One goal of Encuentro 2000 is to have different ethnic groups dialogue with one another and share stories, so each can get to know who the other is, otherwise we can never come together."

Though previous Encuentro gatherings in 1972, 1977 and 1985 targeted Hispanic Catholics, the bishops' Committee on Hispanic Affairs broadened the scope of this year's Encuentro by inviting representatives of all racial and ethnic groups.

The program for the four-day conference will include daily opening prayers, eucharistic celebrations, a film festival and general session speakers addressing topics related to five main themes: encounter with the living Jesus Christ as well as conversion, communion, solidarity and

mission.

According to Humberto Ramos, associate director of the Los Angeles archdiocesan Office of Hispanic Ministry, a unique element of Encuentro 2000 will be group sharing via "break out" sessions, giving participants the opportunity to express their viewpoints, concerns and questions in relation to select topics.

"Every person is an expert of their own experiences," said Ramos.

Louis Velasquez, director of Hispanic ministry, added that "every culture has a different way of looking at God and at their own community."

Bishop Zavala said that while a growing number of parishes across the country now have more ethnically diverse congregations, particularly those within the Los Angeles Archdiocese, individual ethnic groups often splinter off on their own, creating separate "churches" within one parish community.

"Encuentro 2000 will help us explore how we can become one church, instead of parallel churches, to learn how two different ethnic communities at the same parish can come together as one, without (either losing their uniqueness) and becoming one in the same," said Bishop Zavala.

"We don't see this event as a culmination," he added. "We see Encuentro 2000 as opening the door to a future of new possibilities for the church."

## BISHOP

from page four

Michigan Republican Party, she said.

Monaghan also founded Legatus, an organization for Catholic business leaders, and Archbishop Martino praised him for helping to unite Catholic leaders and strengthen their witness in the world.

That is "one of the most critical needs" today, the nuncio said. "I witness that need every day."

The awards were presented at the annual fund-raising dinner held by the National Right to Life Committee to benefit its Educational Trust Fund.

David N. O'Steen, a Protestant

who is executive director of the committee, with offices in Washington, said afterward that the event drew 500 people at \$500 a plate.

Attendance was only half what it had been in prior years but O'Steen called the dinner a success nonetheless. He also said membership and support of the National Right to Life Committee was continuing to grow.

In responding to his award, Bishop McHugh commented on the current political situation, particularly the "eight years of chaos Bill Clinton thrust upon us," and the "double threat" posed for pro-life supporters in New York state, an allusion to the upcoming senatorial as well as presidential election.

But the bishop said pro-life sup-

# U.S. Delegation Named For Rome Celebration Of Jubilee For Seniors

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Four experts on senior citizen issues will represent the U.S. bishops at celebrations in Rome marking the Jubilee for Older Persons in September.

Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, named the four in mid-May to participate in events sponsored by the Pontifical Council for the Laity.

The delegation includes K. LaVeme Redden, president of the National Council of Catholic Women; Mercy Sister M. Karen McNally, chief administrator of Stella Maris, a multiservice facility for older persons in the Baltimore Archdiocese; Virginia Knight-Simon, coordinator of the diocesan program for senior citizens in Owensboro, Ky.; and Msgr. Charles J. Fahey, director of the Third Age Center at Fordham University in New York.

They will participate with other national delegations in a Sept. 16 international congress at the Vatican on "The Gift of Long Life: Responsibility and Hope." The next day, Pope John Paul II will celebrate a Mass in St. Peter's Square for the congress delegates.

Cardinal J. Francis Stafford, president of the laity council, said the congress will provide an opportunity for its participants — "elderly and leaders of the pastoral ministry of the elderly — (to) share their experience and wisdom with the whole church."

porters "have to lift ourselves above that" and build "a new environment that supports life." The battle "may go on for another 30 years," but "we will go in confidence because the Lord is with us," he said.

Benjamin J. Stein, an author and television personality who served as master of ceremonies, suggested that election of Texas Gov. George W. Bush as U. S. president was necessary to give the nation an administration that believed in the rule of law. "It doesn't matter if Mr. Bush is not a perfect vessel," Stein said.

He said a principal way pro-lifers could help Bush was by persuading Pat Buchanan to drop out of the presidential race so that there would not be a split vote such as, he said, brought Clinton victory in 1992.

The U.S. observance of the Jubilee for Older Persons will take place the following weekend, Sept. 23-24.

In a resource packet developed for the celebration, the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Family, Laity, Women and Youth offers ideas for individual, family, parish or diocesan observances; prayers and prayer services honoring senior citizens; and information about the Jubilee for Older Persons and the jubilee year proclaimed by Pope John Paul.

Among the suggestions:

— Individuals could write a letter to their grandchildren or young people in their parish or neighborhood, "sharing with them your advice about what matters most in life."

— Families could invite older members of their family or neighborhood to their house for a meal, opening it with an intergenerational prayer called "Let's Weave Our Lives Together."

— Parishes could plan a prayer service "that recognizes seniors and their gifts and contributions to society and to the church." Such a service should be planned in collabo-

ration with parish groups that include seniors and should be "sensitive to the multicultural nature of your parish."

— Dioceses could help keep seniors "aware of educational and service opportunities" available locally and involve older persons in planning activities for the jubilee year.

The prayers included in the resource materials focus on the gifts of the elderly and on their specific needs.

One prayer for the jubilee day developed by the Diocese of Harrisburg, Pa., reads in part, "We thank you, Lord Jesus, for the beauty of years, the freshness of dreams, and the encouragement of happy memories. Let our lives, at this time, be second springs, bursting with the joyous colors of hope, the warm breezes of love, and the delicate showers of grace which nurture our continuous growth."

Other prayers in the resource packet ask God's help for the particular problems facing seniors who use a cane or a hearing aid or are in a wheelchair.

## BISHOPS

from page seven

where graduated in 1971. He earned a master's degree in divinity from Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans in 1975 and was ordained as a priest of the New Orleans Archdiocese the same year.

From 1973 to 1981, he was a professor, business administrator and then rector of St. John Vianney Preparatory Seminary in New Orleans. From 1981 to 1986, he was professor of pastoral theology and homiletics and director of education at Notre Dame Seminary.

The bishop served as president-rector of Notre Dame Seminary from 1986 until the end of this academic year, longer than any rector in the seminary's 76-year history.

He was also a member of the seminary faculty for 18 years. During his tenure, Notre Dame Seminary grew to become the third largest seminary in the country.

Bishop Aymond also served as the executive director of the archdiocesan Department of Christian Formation, with responsibility for Catholic schools and religious education, and as the archdiocesan director of the Society for the Propa-

gation of the Faith.

In 1994, he began a medical mission program in Nicaragua called "Christ the Healer," taking volunteer teams of health care professionals to the town of Granada to offer medical help at San Juan de Dios Hospital.

In a statement issued in New Orleans, Bishop Aymond said he was "deeply honored" to be assigned to the Austin Diocese, but that the appointment was "a great surprise." He said he thought he would be sent to another diocese only after Archbishop Francis B. Schulte of New Orleans retired.

"I am mindful of my motto as bishop: 'God is faithful,'" he said.

Bishop Aymond described the Austin Diocese as a place undergoing rapid growth and offering "many fruitful opportunities to evangelize and foster the mission of the church."

The Austin Diocese, in south central Texas, covers about two dozen counties and has a Catholic population of 350,000 out of a total population of 1.9 million.

Pray Today



# National Abortion Federation Targets Christian Teens and Rock For Life

Washington, DC – The National Abortion Federation recently sent out a fax to police departments all over the country warning them of upcoming Christian youth events. The list of events includes Rock For Life's concert schedule and other events. The fax sent to the police was preceeded with articles about violence and FBI's most wanted list.

"The fax was obviously intended to make the police think that these events were violent in nature," said Rock For Life founder Bryan Kemper. "The Rock For Life concerts on this list are run by Christian teenagers and are performed to raise money for crisis pregnancy centers and other pro-life organizations.

"The average RFL concert draws about 200 local church kids who want to support a cause they believe in," said Kemper, "To compare the efforts of these kids to anthrax threats or bombings is ludicrous. It is absolutely shameful that the NAF would waste the police departments' time and money with scare tactics like this."

Rock For Life has been contacted by the Alabama and Maryland state police departments. Both departments inquired about the concerts, wondering if there is need to put extra men on duty for these events.

"After finding out the truth, the police were actually more concerned with protecting the Rock For Life kids from the pro-abortion side," said Kemper. "After he found out what was really going on, one officer told me that the kids in his area needed something like our concerts," said Kemper.

One of the concerts that was investigated will take place in Elkton, Maryland, to raise money for the Cecil County crisis pregnancy centers.

"I can't believe an organization that cries 'choice' and 'freedom' would try to hinder a kid who is willing to stand up for something he or she believes in, and raise money for a crisis pregnancy center," said Kemper.

# Diocese Supports Aid to the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe

Your Excellency:

I wish to express my profound thanks to you and the Diocese of San Angelo for the recent gift of \$23,444.42 to help rebuild the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe.

As you well know, the fall of totalitarianism in Central and Eastern Europe left a vacuum in society there, a vacuum in which even the Church has sometimes been forced to compete with materialism and consumerism for the hearts and souls of the people. The Church has relied on her faithful, who have been most generous, for help. Important progress has indeed been made, especially in the areas of priestly and religious formation, religious communication and evangelization, catechesis and social ministry.

Much has been done already, but there is so much more yet to do. We are most grateful for the support both you and the Diocese of San Angelo to these efforts. Your prayers and your generous participation in the annual collection for Central and Eastern Europe are deeply appreciated; they renew our confidence that the power of the Holy Spirit will bring the light of faith into the hearts of all God's people.

Thank you again for your generosity and good will.

Msgr. R. George Sarauskas, Ph.D.

Executive Director

Office to Aid the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe

## AUDIENCE

from page five

transforming grace.

My pilgrimage to Fatima was also an opportunity to thank the Blessed Virgin for the protection she has given me throughout my pontificate. In the Chapel of the Apparitions, I gave thanks for all that God's mercy wrought during the 20th century, for the courageous witness of the martyrs and confessors of the faith, and for the prayers and sacrifices offered by the faithful. Mary continues to invite us to pray for peace in the world and to do penance, in order to bring about the conversion of many hearts. May her Immaculate Heart always be our refuge and the path that leads us to the Most Blessed Trinity.

I greet the members of the NATO Defense College and encourage you always to see your professional commitment as a service of peace in the world. Upon all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors, especially those from England, Ireland, Sweden, Malta, Uganda, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Japan, Canada and the United States, I invoke the joy and peace of the risen Savior.

## MEDAL

from page five

about its downfall elsewhere in the world. It used to be said in Poland while he was the Archbishop of Cracow, that the country's Communist leaders considered him their greatest threat. Likewise in Moscow, once he became Pope. It is no accident that China's leaders have so far refused to allow him to conduct a pilgrimage in their country.

In traveling the world, John Paul II has reached out to the other great religions. Last month, he sought to bridge the historic divide between Christians and Jews. In a gesture of breathtaking eloquence in its simplicity, he placed a sheet of paper in a crack in Jerusalem's Western Wall: "God of our fathers," he wrote, "...we are deeply saddened by the behavior of those who in the course of history have caused these children of yours to suffer, and asking your forgiveness, we wish to commit ourselves to genuine brotherhood with the people of the Covenant."

To exemplify his personal compassion, an elderly Israeli woman came forth during his historic pilgrimage. She recalled how she was one of the lucky ones who survived Hitler's concentration camps. Upon her release in 1945, she was placed on a train to return to her home in Cracow. When she arrived, barely able to stand, with hardly any flesh

on her bones, she stumbled onto the station platform, and there a strong young man in priestly garb picked her up in his arms and carried her two miles to a place where she could be nurtured back to health. The priest was Karol Wojtyla.

In times singularly bereft of leaders of high moral stature, John Paul II stands out, a Pontiff whose presence fills the great basilica of Saint Peter and radiates out beyond. In voting for this Congressional Gold Medal, we are honoring an historic figure, an individual whose conviction and morality have infused mankind with renewed self-confidence.

In closing, I would like to quote these words by John Paul II that I think express his soaring nobility:

"At the end of the second millennium, we need, perhaps more than ever, the words of the Risen Christ: "Be not afraid!" Man who, after Communism, has not stopped being afraid and who truly has many reasons for feeling this way, needs to hear these words. Nations need to hear them, especially those nations that have been reborn after the fall of the Communist empire, as well as those that witnessed the event from outside. Peoples and nations of the entire world need to hear these words. Their conscience needs to grow in the certainty that Someone exists who holds in His hands the keys to death and the netherworld; Someone who is the Alpha and the Omega of human history – be it the individual or collective history. And this Someone is Love – Love then became man, Love crucified and risen, Love unceasingly present among men. It is Eucharistic Love. It is the infinite source of communion. He alone can give the ultimate assurance when He says "Be not afraid!"

Mr. Speaker, John Paul II has sundered despotism and ennobled faith by displaying to fellow mortals the courage of conviction.

## BASIC

from page one

Rodriguez, Vicki Rodriguez, Juanita Valdez; **St. Albert, Roscoe** - Matilda Saavedra; **Angelo Catholic School, San Angelo** - Judy Lucas, Cathy Allison, Carol Halfmann, Janet Thompson, Caryl Wilde, Steve Zimmerman; **Holy Family, Sweetwater** - Esther Duran; **Immaculate Heart of Mary, Sweetwater** - Angelina Villa.

**Midland/Odessa Deanery**

**Our Lady of Lourdes, Andrews** - Diana Ortiz; **Immaculate Heart of Mary, Big Spring** - Delia Graves, Alonzo Landin, Isabel Villarreal; **St. Joseph, Coahoma** - Gloria Martinez; **Good Shepherd, Crane** - Deacon Julio Carrasco; **Our Lady of San Juan, Midland** - Concepcion Molina, Carla

Repman, Dennis Robson, Margaret Robson, Rose Mary Sanchez; **St. Ann, Midland** - Tim Roberts, Joe Valles, Lucie Valles; **St. Ann School, Midland** - Linda Dieringer, Tonya Erwin, Cathy Gravelle, Suzanne Marx, Linda Schraeder, Sara Welch; **Holy Redeemer, Odessa** - Paula Acosta, Lydia Hernandez; **Our Lady of San Juan, Odessa** - Jose Banuelos, Maria Isela Carrasco, Mary Hernandez; **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Odessa** - Nancy Cardona, Lindee Greer, Joseph Hanagan, Kelly Kennedy, Susan Kennedy, Adela Marquez, Jeri McCall, Barbara Nay, Deacon Alan Neff, Dorothy Pepper, Steve Pepper, Doris Russell, Anne Saavedra, Johnny Subia, Robert Vasquez, Carrie Vasquez; **St. Joseph, Odessa** - Terry Gutierrez, Tonie Martinez, Margie Rangel, Agustina Vejlil; **St. Mary, Odessa** - Vickie Gomez; **St. Joseph, Stanton** - Lana Straub

The Basic Formation process will begin at St. Mary's Parish, San Angelo in the fall of 2000. For information, contact your parish leaders or call the Office of Education and Formation at 915-651-7500.

## EUCHARIST

from page two

Lord is present in their midst.

The presence of Jesus in the liturgy in the Eucharist is not static. Jesus is not satisfied just to be there. He is there to act dynamically in order to change our lives. During the Eucharist we meet Christ and are challenged by Him in the assembly of the people. He is there to make us whole people. He is there to bring harmony and peace in our lives, our families, our country, our world. He comes to make us experience ourselves as His body in the world.

Our gathering to celebrate the Eucharist is not an isolated intervention of grace in our lives. Our acts of worship in the Eucharist are symbolic expressions of what the theologian Karl Rahner called "the liturgy of the world." The experience of God is primarily to be found hidden in the midst of ordinary life, observed Rahner, in our experiences of hope and doubt, responsibility, love and death. We gather together in the Eucharist not just to "refuel" lives devoid of grace, but because we need to celebrate all the grace-filled moments of our lives, which are so easily overlooked or ignored. We gather at Eucharist to be challenged to a deeper awareness of what God is doing in our lives, in this world, all week long.

(Information taken from Catholic Update, January 1999)

