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Catholic Education

A special report on the health of Catholic education in the Diocese of San Angelo/Pgs. 8-9

ANGELUS

Serving the Diocese of San Angelo, Texas

Volume XXVI, No. 8

AUGUST 2005

God amid the darkness

Deacons, wives overcome repeated tragedies to form strong bond

Editor's Note ...

As we work through the redesigned *Angelus* together, it is important to receive input from our readers, and you have not disappointed. The biggest concern expressed has been a type size that some have had difficulty reading. As a result, we are moving to 10-point Times, a cleaner body type on our stories.

Our type size on informational items such as Diocesan Briefs, picture captions and the Bishop's Schedule, for instance, will continue to be smaller than other stories, but given the type face we use on those features, it will be easier to read despite being smaller.

Additionally, we are also pleased to introduce:

▶ **More pages, more stories.** Effective with this issue, the *Angelus* will be a 16-page newspaper.

▶ **Just 4 Kids.** It's important that we include in our monthly publication a page for the kids in our diocese. The Catholic News Service provides a feature for the younger Catholics among us, and this month's **Just 4 Kids** stories can be found on page 11.

We hope you find these changes to your liking and we hope you will continue to let us know when you have a suggestion, a criticism or an idea for a feature story. And thank you for your input.

-- Jimmy Patterson, Editor
West Texas Angelus

By Jimmy Patterson

Editor
West Texas Angelus

It was on a trip to Rome last October, shared by a handful of parishioners in the Diocese of San Angelo, when Linda Reeh's husband, Mark, began to feel ill. He had suffered through physical discomfort for years, but not until the trip to Italy did Mark's physical illness go from bad to the unimaginable.

Reeh, a deacon from the tiny farming community of St. Lawrence, returned from the long-awaited trip, visited a doctor and learned his discomfort was bile duct cancer.

Five months later, he was dead.

Reeh died on February 20, just one day before the death of Fr. Tom Kelley, the parish priest from Midland's Our Lady of San Juan Catholic Church who had led the diaconate class for two years.



Kelley died following a long yet inspiring battle with chronic myelogenous cancer. He had taken full rein of the diaconate, immersing himself in the program after the death of Deacon Odie Saldivar, also of Our Lady of San Juan, who would have been the director of the deacon

ministry had it not been for his own fatal cancer several months earlier.

Tim Graham, deacon and pastoral associate at St. Theresa's Church in Junction, is now the Director of the

(See REEH/13)

Bishop calls for diaconate to start anew

By Deacon Tim Graham
Director
Office of Diaconal Ministry

SAN ANGELO. Pastors around the diocese were recently sent a letter from the bishop informing them of the plans to begin a new diaconal formation class, and asking them to help identify men who may be possible applicants.

The need for deacons in certain areas of the diocese is greater and, consequently, the bishop has asked that some emphasis be given to the development of vocations in those places. The southeast and southwest parts of our diocese are in the greatest need, yet parishes and missions anywhere in the diocese where we cur-

(See DIACONATE/15)



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From The Bishop's Desk

Mary should be our role model for Christian discipleship



Bishop Pfeifer

By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

Mary's greatest title is Mother of the God. In his dying moments, Jesus from the cross gave Mary his mother to be our mother also. Based on sacred Scripture we also call Mary a virgin. However, not often

enough do we reflect upon Mary as being the model of discipleship. Mary is Christ's first and most perfect disciple.

For Jesus himself, physical motherhood, important as it is, is not the basis of his own mother's greatness. For Jesus, discipleship has priority

En espanol/Pagina 3

over family ties. Pointing to his disciples, he said: "Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in Heaven is

See BISHOP/15

The West Texas Angelus

Official Newspaper of the
Diocese of San Angelo, Texas
POSTMASTER: Send all address
changes to:
WEST TEXAS ANGELUS
P.O. Box 1829
SAN ANGELO, TX 76902-1829

Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI
Publisher

Jimmy Patterson
Director of Communications
Editor

Kenneth Grimm
San Angelo Standard Times
Production Manager

Member
Catholic News Service
Catholic Press Association
Texas Catholic News

Published the first Monday following
the first Saturday of each month and
delivered to all registered parishioners
in the Diocese of San Angelo.

Subscription rate for all others:
\$10 per year

THIRD CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT
SAN ANGELO, TEXAS

Printed by the
San Angelo Standard Times
A Scripps-Howard Company

Submissions:

Story suggestions, calendar items,
parish briefs and all other
submissions should be emailed to
JimmyLPatterson@grandecom.net.

COPY, PHOTO DEADLINE:
Third Friday of every month.

Photos should be sent in jpeg format.

Letters to the editor are welcome, and
should be emailed to
JimmyLPatterson@grandecom.net.
Letters to the editor are printed at the
discretion of the editor and identities of
the writer are subject to
verification. Please include name,
address and phone number when sub-
mitting letters.



From the Editor

Angels hard to see ... but they're among us

When my family and I vacationed at Padre Island last month, it was the first time I had been back to the beach since Karen and I had honeymooned in Hawaii in 1984. That vacation was like no other, and not just because I was still basically a kid and newly married.

I had been to Hawaii twice before as a boy, and I remember having practically begged my mother to let me surf. Wise woman that she is, I never risked my well-being by waxing up the board and taking to the white caps as long as I was under her care.

But once I became a man, sort of, and

once I was on my honeymoon, I for some reason mistook myself as a capable athlete.

It was in the clear blue waters of the South Pacific that I had my first brush with death.

I paddled maybe 150 yards out and was in the process of turning my board around so I could brave the waves while riding in. My new bride, meanwhile, was immersed in a novel on shore and could have never heard me if I'd needed her. Which I did. Desperately. With the board at about a 45 degree angle to the waves, a big one hit me and knocked me practically silly. My glasses fell off and I felt them tumble to the ocean floor below. They hit my stomach, my thigh, my knee, my toes, and then they were gone. Forever. When my feet came to rest, I found the water was just over the top of my head. I had no life jacket, no surf board and scant little training in real swimming; the kind you

need when you're in trouble. I began flailing about as drowning people do, screaming for help and frankly, awfully darn close to resigning myself to having one of the shortest marriages ever recorded in Brazos County, our home at the time.

I quite literally saw no way out of this one, but I continued to scream for help anyway, just in case.

I didn't see him when it all began, but all of a sudden he popped up next to me just as I had started to go under, just like drowning people do when they begin to lose strength ... and hope.

"Need some help?" he asked and somehow pulled me onto my board. When he saw that the rip of the tide had taken my swim shorts down around my knees, he even helped me on with those, too.

And then he was gone. Just as in-

(See ANGELS/13)



Patterson

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

Board in-service

There will be a diocesan insertive for the Catholic school boards on Saturday, August 13. The meeting will be at St. Ann's School, Midland, from 9 a.m.-Noon. Guest speaker is Dr. Sarah Wannemuehler who will discuss board functions and the ethics of school boards. The role of governance in Catholic education has changed markedly in the past few decades. Changes in the Church and in our society have given rise to an increasingly important role for lay leaders in providing vision and stewardship for Catholic schools. The diocese has been and continues to be committed to on-going training for school board members.

Monstrance to arrive

SAN ANGELO. A monstrance blessed by Pope John Paul II will arrive in San Angelo in August and will hold the Body of Christ during a special Mass to encourage vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

The monstrance is scheduled to arrive in San Angelo on August 16, prior to an opening Mass at St. Margaret's at 6:30 p.m. Previous to its stop in San Angelo, the monstrance will have made stops in Harrisburg, Penn., and the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

The inaugural stop for the monstrance was at the Crypt Church, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, in Washington, D.C.

The monstrance will remain in

San Angelo through August 19.

St Stephen's Concert

Chris Muglia will be appearing in concert at St. Stephen's in Midland, at 7 p.m., August 29. Chris is a Catholic singer/songwriter and recording artist. Both as a recording artist and in concert, Chris possesses a powerful ability to connect with his audience and communicate God's message of love in a way that relates to everyone who listens. Chris travels with a four-piece band and his concerts are great for all ages! Learn more about Chris and his powerful ministry at www.chrismuglia.com. Concert is free (a free will offering will be accepted).

St. Stephen's RCIA

St. Stephen's in Midland begins RCIA classes this month. Coming off its most successful RCIA class ever, having five baptized and 29 confirmed, last year's group was the largest ever at St. Stephen's. Anyone interested in this program should call the church office at 432-520-7394. The 2005-2006 RCIA class schedule runs from August 31, 2004-March 1, 2005. The complete schedule and additional details can be viewed at the St. Stephen's RCIA web site: www.ststephensmidland.org.

Guidebook Available

The Official Catholic College and University Guidebook is now available through the U.S.

Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The guidebook is a source for those graduating high school seniors looking for Catholic higher education. You can learn more at www.catholiccollegesonline.org or call the National Catholic College Admission Association at 312.321.2726.

Legacy artwork

"*Saint Peter and the Vatican: The Legacy of the Popes*," the largest collection of Vatican art objects to ever visit North America., will be at the San Antonio Convention Center, Oct. 15, 2005-Jan. 8, 2006. The objects are presented in recreated environments chronicling our history from Peter the Fisherman to John Paul II. This exhibition is accompanied by religious education guides, educational videos, etc. and is an opportunity your parishioners should experience. Parishioners of the Diocese of San Angelo will be given discounted ticket prices of \$2 off per ticket and will be priced at \$14 for adults, \$7 for children. A limited number of tickets will be made available for the 12-week run. Call the diocese office for additional information or watch the September Angelus for more information.

Pro-Life Mass

Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer invites everyone to celebrate a special Pro-Life Mass at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, September 17, at the Prayer Garden near the Planned Parenthood Clinic in

Midland.

Healing Service

The Diocese of San Angelo and Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Odessa welcome everyone to a special Healing Mass, from 1-5 p.m., Saturday, October 8, at Chaparral Center on the campus of Midland College. The Mass will feature Fr. Ralph DiOrio, Apostolate of Divine Mercy and Healing. Fr. DiOrio is a Roman Catholic Priest, educator, philanthropist, author, artist and healer and his healing ministry was founded in 1977.

For more information on the Healing Mass, please contact Fr. Frank Chavez or the staff at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Odessa, at 432.580.4295.

Necrology-August

The Necrology consists of priests and deacons who have died in August since the diocese was formed. Please pray for them (year of death listed in parenthesis):

7--Rev. Andrew DeMuth (1969)
10--Rev. Michael Barbarossa, OFM, (1981)
14--Rev. Barnard Binversie ('92)
15--Rev. Sam Homsey, C.P.P.S. (2004)
19--Rev. Msgr. Arnold A. Boeding (1989)
21--Dcn. William Callan (1988)
23--Rev. Charles A. Knapp ('78)
23--Dcn. Efracio Hernandez (1998)
28--Dcn. Mario Calderon (1998).

Who's looking out for the children?

National, diocesan review boards work for protection of young people

By Mike Wyse

Victims' Assistance Coordinator

SAN ANGELO. It seems that almost every day we hear a new story of a child being abducted, sexually abused, or worse. The instances of child sexual abuse that we see in the news seem to be occurring at an alarming increase, and we can't help but wonder, "Who's looking out for our children?" With recent decisions by many judges, low bail amounts, minimal prison sentences, early releases and probation, children given over to the care of irresponsible and sometimes dangerous parents, many people place the state government low on the list of those looking out for our children. In the spirit of fairness, many state governments are currently working on laws to deal this national blight of child abuse, but they have a long way to go.

One organization is looking out for your children and has taken positive steps to protect children from sexual abuse. In June 2002 the

U.S. Catholic Bishops met and approved the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. They also developed *Essential Norms* for implementing the Charter. The U.S. bishops committed themselves to not only dealing with the problem of child sexual abuse by clergy, but to raising awareness of the scope of child sexual abuse in our society. Since that time the Church in the United States has dedicated an enormous amount of financial resources and effort to creating a safe church environment for children and young people. The Church in the U.S. has also been tireless in reaching out to previous victims of abuse, and dealing with those in the Church who are guilty of this horrendous crime.

During the past two years we have done much to provide a safe environment for our children. The national Office for Child and Youth Protection was established. Our diocese conducts background checks for all clergy, religious, employees, and volunteers working with children. Safe environment programs

are in place to assist parents and children—and those who work with children—in preventing harm to young people. Review boards at both the national and diocesan level have been established to advise bishops in cases involving child sexual abuse. Annual audits are conducted to insure compliance with the requirements of the Charter and Norms. A descriptive study (John Jay Study) of the nature and scope of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy in the United States, commissioned by the National Review Board, has been completed.

In June of this year, the U.S. Bishops met again to review and revise the Charter and Norms. In the revised Charter the bishops "re-affirm our deep commitment to creating a safe environment within the Church for children and youth. We have listened to the profound pain and suffering of those victimized by sexual abuse and will continue to respond to their cries."

In the spirit of this commitment the Diocese of San Angelo is cur
(See **CHARTER/12**)

Del Escritorio del Obispo

Maria, modelo de discipulado

por el Obispo Miguel Pfeifer, OMI

El título más importante de María es Madre de Dios. En los últimos momentos antes de morir, Jesús desde la Cruz nos entregó a su madre, María, para ser nuestra madre también. Basado en la sagrada



Pfeifer

Escritura también llamamos a María una virgen. Sin embargo, no reflexionamos suficiente sobre María siendo el modelo de discipulado. El primer y más perfecto discípulo de Cristo fue María.

Para Jesús mismo, maternidad física, aunque muy importante, no es la base de la grandeza de su madre. Para Jesús, el discipulado tiene prioridad sobre la familia. Señalando a sus discípulos, dijo: "Estos son mi madre y mis her-

manos. Porque cualquiera que hace la voluntad de mi Padre que está en el cielo, éste es mi hermano, mi hermana, mi madre." (Mt. 12:49-50). Nadie fue más fiel y obediente a la voluntad de Dios que María. Entonces María es un modelo para todos los discípulos por su espíritu de fe y entrega a la voluntad de Dios.

Para demostrar que María es nuestro modelo de discipulado, implica que nosotros como ella estamos dispuestos a entregar nuestras vidas en un espíritu de fe y confianza a la voluntad de Dios—sea lo que sea. Si nuestras voluntades no son concentradas en la Señoría de Cristo, entonces nuestras emociones, sentimientos and expresiones de deseo no veinan de la voluntad de Cristo y nosotros no funcionamos en su Señoría.

Viviendo el ejemplo de María en el discipulado, significa que nosotros si responderemos a la Anunciación de la promesa de Dios con fe que el trabajo de Dios tomará efecto en nosotros y en nuestro mundo. Para que suceda esto

necesitamos recordar como el ángel le dijo a María en la Anunciación, que nada es imposible para Dios. El poder de Dios vence y domina las debilidades humanas.

Mientras hacemos lo posible para imitar el discipulado de María, como ella nosotros debemos, comprometernos a vivir bajo la dirección del Espíritu Santo en cada y toda circunstancia de la vida. Cada día se nos pide:

¿Verdaderamente vivimos lo que decimos que creemos y luego predicamos lo que vivimos? El testigo de la vida es más que nunca una condición esencial para la eficacia verdadera en predicar y creer.

Para que María pueda ser nuestro modelo de discipulado verdadero, entonces debemos ser dispuestos a creer en un milagro como lo hizo María. Si creemos y tenemos confianza como María, entonces Jesús es de nuevo encarnado en nosotros como el fue en María—y un milagro nuevo y maravilloso sucede.

BISHOP PFEIFER'S SCHEDULE SEPTEMBER 2005

September 1

San Angelo, Angelo Catholic School –Mass for Students and Faculty at 8:30 a.m.

Dinner hosted by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI at **Christ the King Retreat Center** for all Priests and Sisters of the Diocese and the Diocesan Pastoral Staff at 6 p.m.

September 2-4

Belleville, Illinois – Special Mass at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows at 11:30 a.m., September 3.

September 6

Odessa, St. Mary's School – Mass for Students and Faculty at 2 p.m.

Midland - Bless Life Center at 6 p.m.

September 7

Midland, St. Ann's School – Mass for Students and Faculty, 8:30 a.m.

September 8

San Angelo, Christ the King Retreat Center – 50th Anniversary Mass of Father Bill DuBuisson, OMI at 8:30 a.m. with lunch at 11 a.m.

Buffalo Gap – Camp Tonkawa – Presentation and dinner for Scouts, 5:45 p.m.

September 9

Abilene, Holy Family – Lunch with Priests of the Abilene Deanery at 11:30 am.

September 10

San Angelo, 9-11 Memorial Monument – Special Memorial Service, 9:30 a.m.

September 11

Big Spring, Sacred Heart – Mass at 10 a.m.

September 13

San Antonio – Meeting, MACC Executive Committee, 9 a.m.

September 14-16

Rest and Prayer

September 17

Midland – Pro Life Mass at the Prayer Garden at 9:30 a.m.

September 18

Lenorah, St. Isidore – Mass at 10 a.m.

September 19

San Angelo – Christ the King Retreat Center – Social Justice Workshop - 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

September 20

San Angelo, Mass for Staff at 8:30 a.m. and Staff Meeting at 11 a.m.

Holy Angels – Speak to RCIA at 6:30 p.m.

September 21

San Angelo, Newman Center – Mass at Noon

September 22-24

Rest and Prayer

September 25-27

Austin – Texas Catholic Conference –General Assembly and Texas Bishops' Meeting

September 29

Midland, Our Lady of San Juan- Lunch with Priests of the Midland/Odessa Deanery at 11:30 a.m.

Diocesan Calendar

September

4 – Fr. DuBuisson's 50th Anniversary -- Mass, followed by reception, at Sonora, 11 a.m.,

5 – Labor Day. Offices closed.

9-11 – Engaged Encounter, Christ the King Retreat Center

10 – Basic Formation, St. Francis, Abilene.

11 – Catholic University of America collection.

16-18 – Beginning Experience, CKRC.

17 – Advanced Formation, St. Mary's Odessa, 8:45 a.m.

18 – Catechetical Sunday

18-20 – Social Justice Workshops, Renew International, details TBA.

30 – Lubbock Deacons Annual Retreat (through October 2).

Commonly asked questions about what is proper, improper at Mass

By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

Recently our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, asked the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments in collaboration with the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, to prepare an instruction treating certain matters pertaining to the Discipline of the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Here I want to share with you some of the salient points extracted from the Holy See's recent Decree on the Holy Eucharist – *Redemptionis Sacramentum*.

1. [10] "The Church herself has no power over those things which were established by Christ himself and which constitute an unchangeable part of the Liturgy...so that the use of unapproved texts and rites necessarily leads either to the attenuation or to the disappearance of that necessary link between the *lex orandi* and the *lex credend.*," (That is, the law of prayer is the law of belief).

2. [11.] "The Mystery of the Eucharist 'is too great for anyone to permit himself to treat it according to his own whim'..."

3. [12.] "...the catholic people have the right that the Sacrifice of the Holy Mass should be celebrated for them in an integral manner, according to the entire doctrine of the Church's Magisterium."

4. [14.] "The regulation of the Sacred Liturgy depends solely on the authority of the Church, which rests specifically with the Apostolic See and, according to the norms of law, with the Bishop."

5. [22.] "The Bishop governs the particular Church entrusted to him, and it is his task to regulate, to direct, to encourage, and sometimes also to reprove; this is a sacred task that he has received through Episcopal Ordination..."

6. [31.] "They [i.e., priests] ought not to detract from the profound meaning of their own ministry by corrupting the liturgical celebration either through alteration or omission, or through arbitrary additions."

7. [38.] "The constant teaching of the Church on the nature of the Eucharist not only as a meal, but also and pre-eminently as a Sacrifice ... For when 'stripped of its sacrificial meaning, the mystery is understood as if its meaning and importance were simply that of a fraternal banquet'."

8. [41.] "For encouraging, promoting and nourishing this interior understanding of liturgical participation, the continuous and widespread celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours, the use of sacramentals and exercises of Christian popular piety are extremely helpful. These latter exercises—which 'while not belonging to the Liturgy in the strict sense, possess nonetheless, a particular importance and dignity'...as is the case especially of the Marian Rosary."

9. [42.] "The community that gathers for the celebration of the Eucharist absolutely requires an ordained Priest, who presides over it so that it may truly be a Eucharistic convocation."

10. [48.] "The bread used in the celebration of the Most Holy Eucharistic Sacrifice must be unleavened, purely of wheat, and recently made so that there is no danger of decomposition. It follows therefore that bread made from another substance, even if it is grain, or if it is mixed with another substance different from wheat to such an extent that it would not commonly be considered wheat bread, does not constitute valid matter for confecting the Sacrifice and the Eucharistic Sacrament."

11. [50.] "The wine that is used in the most sacred celebration of the Eucharistic Sacrifice must be natural, from the fruit of the grape, pure and incorrupt, not mixed with any other substances...Nor are other drinks of any kind to be admitted for any reason, as they do not constitute valid matter."

12. [51.] "It is not to be tolerated that some Priests take upon themselves the right to compose their own Eucharistic Prayers or to change the same texts approved by the Church, or to introduce others composed by private individuals."

13. [62.] "It is also illicit to omit or to substitute the prescribed biblical readings on one's own initiative, and especially 'to substitute other, non-biblical texts for the readings and responsorial Psalm, which contain the word of God'."

Five minutes with ... Fr. Fabian of Christoval

Fr. Fabian Maria Rosette was ordained on Aug. 15, 1980, for the Diocese of San Angelo, and in his first 10 years worked for the diocese in different parishes. He also spent seven years as the Director of Vocations. Since 1990, he has lived as a hermit at Mt. Carmel Hermitage in Christoval.



Fr. Fabian

On August 15, Fr. Fabian will celebrate 25 years in the priesthood with a special Mass with himself as celebrant and Bishop Michael Pfeifer as homilist. Mass is at 10:30 a.m. with dinner and afternoon visitation to follow. Fr. Fabian sat down recently with the Angelus for a few questions. The following are excerpts from that interview.

Angelus: What exactly is a Carmelite Hermit?

Fr. Fabian: A Carmelite Hermit is a person who seeks God in silence and solitude with the ultimate goal of attaining purity of heart. He offers prayers, work, and life as a sacrifice for the salvation of souls, the good of the church, specifically

for the Diocese in which he resides. Work is part of the asceticism of the hermitical life and also serves as a means for supporting the temporal needs of the community.

Angelus: Can you describe a typical day at the Christoval hermitage?

Fr. Fabian: A day at the Hermitage begins at 3:30 a.m. when the hermits rise for Vigils, a type of community prayer in which the psalms are chanted and readings are read. The rest of the morning consists of silent mental prayer, Morning Prayer, and Mass, which altogether last until about 7:15. After Breakfast, the Hermit spends quiet time in his hermitage for the reading of the Scriptures. The rest of the day consists of work in the morning and afternoon, rosary, formal classes of study, Evening Prayer, and Night Prayer. The time for prayer and work are roughly equal, thus contributing to the balance of the Hermit's daily life. The Hermit's day ends around 8:30.

Angelus: What type of interaction do the hermits have with the townspeople of Christoval?

Fr. Fabian: My vision for the

Hermitage has always been that it should be a family -- a household of the Lord. That in mind, we strive to behave as any good family household would towards the greater community of Christoval. While we don't have organized community benefits, we try to be good neighbors, helping with what we can, and we receive guests as if we were receiving Christ Himself. Our silent witness to the invisible reality of God's presence reminds the community of the great value of a life consecrated to God.

Angelus: How are Carmelite priests different than, say, parish priests? Is your training and formation the same?

Fr. Fabian: The priesthood in the context of a contemplative life exists almost exclusively for the sacramental benefit of the community of Hermits, in contrast to the Diocesan Priesthood which is geared to the service of the greater people of God. A priest in our community considers his highest call the call to offer his life, prayer, and heart to God as a sacrifice, in union with the Sacrifice of Christ on the Cross and the daily Sacrifice of the Mass.

THE TRADITIONS OF THE CHURCH

'Conceived of the Holy Spirit ... born of the Virgin Mary'

Part 3 of a 12 part series.

Affirming Christ's human form, the third article of the Apostle's Creed goes directly to the foundation of the Christian faith: that God became man in order to save us of our sins and ensure everlasting life.

"This article of the Creed is jam packed with meaning," said Bishop Michael Pfeifer. "There's much history and theology with the creed we pray; it goes back to the 4th century to the Council of Nicea, and that creed in a brief way gives us the essential points of what it means to be a Catholic Christian.

"That phrase, '...by the power of the Holy Spirit ...' takes us back to the Annunciation, back to Mary, and Luke. It takes a lot of verses to describe that this unique conception would take place and that it had never before taken place and would never again take place.

"The phrase, 'Conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,' is beyond natural means. An angel was sent to Mary, and asked Mary's consent to be the human instrument for this wonderful gift of the

Rose of Lima

1586-1617

feast - August 23

Born in Lima, Peru, the infant Isabel de Flores got her more familiar name from an Indian maid who said she was "like a rose." As a child Rose was given to fasting and mortification. After her parents refused to let her enter the convent and she refused to marry, she lived at home in seclusion. At 20 she joined the Third Order of St. Dominic, using a backyard hut for prayer and caring for poor children and the elderly sick in a one-room infirmary in her parents' home. She died at 31, and was declared the first saint from the Americas in 1671.



Saints for Today

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Incarnation. That phrase tells us that what follows is that the one conceived is divine because there is a divine agent and Mary is the human agent so the one that will be born of her would be divine."

Fr. William DuBuisson, OMI, celebrates 50 years in priesthood

Editor's Note: Fr. William DuBuisson invites all to help him celebrate his 50th anniversary in the priesthood, at 11 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 4, at the Civic Center in Sonora. The anniversary will begin with a celebration of the mass followed by a reception.



Fr. DuBuisson

Sister Mary Kay Bailey, of Carlsbad, celebrated her 50th anniversary in the church August 6.

Fr. William Robert DuBuisson, O.M.I., born Dec. 25, 1929 in San

Antonio, pronounced his first vows as an Oblate of Mary Immaculate on May 31, 1949. He studied at De Mazenod Scholasticate (now Oblate School of Theology), San Antonio, TX, for his philosophy and theology. He pronounced his perpetual vows as an Oblate on May 31, 1952. He attended Notre Dame University during the summers for science and mathematics. He was ordained to the priesthood in St. Mary's Church, San Antonio on September 8, 1955.

In Sept. 1956, Father became part of the faculty of St. Anthony High School Seminary. In 1964, he was invited to teach science and math courses at Notre Dame Seminary and a religion course at Notre Dame University in the Philippines.

Fr. DuBuisson entered the parish ministry at Immaculate Heart of Mary parish in Harlingen, TX. After a year, he transferred to Our Lady of Sorrows parish in Houston. Here Fr. suffered paralysis of his right diaphragm. This resulted in a transfer to a drier West Texas climate. In 1970, he became priest-in-change, and later, Pastor of Sacred Heart of Mary parish in Rocksprings, TX with the missions of St. Mary Magdalen, Camp Wood, TX and St. Raymond of Pennafort, Leakey, TX. At the end of 1976, he became Administrator and later Pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Del Rio, Texas.

In Sept. 1981, he took a sabbatical to study Canon Law at St. Paul University,

Ottawa, ONT. Canada. In 1983, he received the ecclesiastical degree of License of Canon Law and the civil degree of Master of Canon Law. He returned to Texas, where he became part of the Tribunal of the Diocese of San Angelo. He was appointed pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes parish, Andrews, TX. In 1984. In 1987 he became Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish, Ozona, TX. with the mission of Good Shepherd, Sheffield. In 1990, he also was given charge of St. Ann parish, Sonora, TX. In 1993, he relinquished the pastorate in Ozona. He retired as pastor of St. Ann on Jan. 3, 2005. He is currently working in the Tribunal of the Diocese of San Angelo.

Catholic Extension Society celebrates 100th Anniversary; diocese to honor CES Sept. 21

The Catholic Extension Society, celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, has assisted the Diocese of San Angelo to the tune of \$5 million and has helped as much as 85 percent of diocesan communities, according to the Rev. Michael Pfeifer, Bishop of the Diocese.

Pfeifer has designated Sunday, August 21, as Extension Appreciation Sunday in honor of the centennial.

"I am asking that we take up a special collection on this Sunday for the Catholic Extension Society," said Bishop Michael Pfeifer. "The funds will be sent to Extension to enable this great Society to continue to provide funding for mission dioceses throughout the United States.

Pfeifer also added that the collection "is a splendid way of saying thank you to the Extension for the many, many grants and donations that we have received from them.

"This centennial year, is a time for all of us, especially the communities within our diocese that have benefited from Extension grants, to say thank you to this generous Society, to offer prayers for the benefactors who provide funds for mission dioceses and to all those who serve with great dedication to the Extension."

Purpose and design in living things

(The following is a letter sent to newspaper editors in Texas, written by Bishop Michael Pfeifer regarding the issue of evolution.

By Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer
Diocese of San Angelo

In recent weeks there has been much discussion about the question of design and purpose in the natural world. In an unfortunate new twist on this old controversy, neo-Darwinists recently thought to portray Pope Benedict XVI as a satisfied evolutionist. They have quoted a sentence about common ancestry from a document published in 2004 by Benedict when he was head of a special theological commission and concluded that the Catholic Church has no problem with the notion of "evolution" as used by many biologists: that is, synonymous with neo-Darwinism. What is not mentioned is that the same document reaffirms the perennial teaching of the Catholic Church about the reality of design in nature. Cardinal Christoph Schonborn of Vienna, whose thoughts I share here,

in a recent essay has clarified the Church's position.

Linked to this recent discussion is a statement by Pope John Paul II in 1996 in which he said that evolution was "more than just a hypothesis."

Defenders of the neo-Darwinism dogma have often invoked this statement as a supposed acceptance of the Roman Catholic Church when they define their theory as somehow compatible with Christian faith.

The Catholic Church, while leaving to science many details about the history of life on earth, proclaims that by the light of reason, the human intellect can readily and clearly discern purpose and design in the natural world, including the world of all living things.

Evolution in the sense of common ancestry might be true, but evolution in the neo-Darwinian sense -- an unguided, unplanned process of random variation and natural selection -- is not. Any system of thought that denies or seeks to explain away the overwhelming evidence for design in

(See LETTER/14)

Emotional, eye-opening trip to Honduras changes lives of West Texans

By Rachel Tvarez

One year ago, I was agonized to learn that our beloved priest and my dear friend Father David Herrera would be leaving us. In efforts to build a stronger relationship with its sister parish in Honduras, our diocese was assigning Father David to the small community of Cofradia located in the outskirts of San Pedro, Sula. Little did we know how his journey would change our lives forever.

Shortly after his first visit, Father presented a very informative and descriptive slide show of what he had witnessed. The countless pictures depicted a country devastated with poverty again and again, Father told us stories of the incredible faith of the people he had met. Though the pictures spoke of unimaginable living conditions, it was obvious that Father David had been more greatly affected by what he had witnessed in people's attitudes. Their awesome display of faith, he said, was nothing like he had ever seen. To most of us, it was just

the images of the tiny, wooden sheds with apparently no running water or electricity, which remained in our heads for several days after his presentation.

In July, one month before Father left, my brother, Rudy Ramos, and a group of others traveled to Honduras. Rudy could hardly even talk about his first visit without shedding tears. The trip had been extremely powerful for him and he struggled with strong emotions over the many things he had experienced there.

One month later, Father David left for Honduras. He quickly began to email us about his experiences there. Father has always been able to laugh at himself and a few times he certainly made us laugh. He somehow found humor in the fact that he became gravely ill not long after his arrival. In another story, Father had to deal with a blackout in the middle of mass. That was the first time he had ever seen people station themselves at each corner of the altar and whose sole purpose was to swat any bugs attracted by the light of the lanterns; Father said he

flinched the first couple of times he got swatted. Father's pride also took a serious beating when he realized that maybe the Honduran people were probably better at soccer than he. Even funnier was when he hit a tree while swinging on a rope trying to outdo his Honduran friends.

Many times, however, he made us cry. He told us stories of people with very little food and clothing -- people who struggled everyday to survive. He told us about children that were abused and abandoned. Father shared with us the sad conditions of people sleeping on cardboard and people who cooked with firewood from a hole in the ground. He told us about people that rummaged through dumpsites in hopes of finding anything from food to clothing. Father told us of the treacherous mountain roads that would wash out when it rained ... and it rained a lot. And although he shared many stories of heartbreak, he always spoke in awe of the many people with incredible faith ... people who would walk up

(See HONDURAS/12)

PARISH FESTIVALS

St. Margarets-Big Lake

St. Margaret's in Big Lake will host its 5th Annual Brisket Cookoff **August 12-14** at North Park in Big Lake. Friday's Bingo at the RC Activities Center from 6-9 p.m. Saturday features booths, crafts, and kids games. A softball tournament will held Friday thru Sunday and an outdoor dance will be held Saturday at 9 p.m. Live music by Cumbre & Los Tremendos (\$10 presale, \$12 at the gate. Cook-off 1st Prize: \$200. For info, call Robert, 325-884-3030 or Eddie at 325-884-3444.

St. Margaret's-San Angelo

St. Margarets in San Angelo will host its BBQ Brisket Dinner **August 14** at the Knights of Columbus Hall. The festival will also feature bingo, games, arts and crafts, an auction and a 4-wheeler raffled as grand prize.

St. Joseph's-Odessa

St. Joseph's "2005 Jamaica" Annual Festival in Odessa (on St. Anthony grounds - 1321 Monahans) will be **Sat.-Sun., Aug. 27-28**, Noon-Midnight. Featuring Mexican and American Food, a Back-to-School Youth Dance

Fri., Aug. 26, 8pm til Midnight. \$5 admission. Family Oriented, featuring games, live music, DJ, Kiddie Tractor Pull - Sunday afternoon. Volleyball Tournament - Saturday and Sunday.

Our Lady of San Juan-Midland

Our Lady of San Juan Church annual festival "Jaimaica" will be **September 3-4**, on church grounds. Hours are 1 p.m.-midnight Sat., and 1-10 p.m., Sun. Sep. 4. Drawing of Prizes will be on Sunday at 10 p.m. Grand prize will be: \$10,000.00 in gold; 2nd prize: Lap Top Computer; 3rd: 32-inch TV; 4th: BBQ Pit, 5th: Lawnmower, 6th: Girls Bike, 7th: Boys Bike. Lots of Food! Games & Music.

St. Mary's San Angelo

St. Mary's in San Angelo will have its Fall Festival from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., **Sunday September 4**, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 3636 N. Bryant. The festival will feature a sausage and brisket dinner, game booths, arts and crafts, an auction, train ride, cake walk and hamburger stand. Adult tickets are \$6; children admission is \$3. All families and friends invited; entertainment will be featured throughout the day.

St. Mary's Star of the Sea-Ballinger

St. Mary's Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Ballinger will have its Fall Festival beginning at 11 a.m., **Sunday, September 11**. A traditional Mexican Fajita Dinner will be served beginning at 11 a.m.; plates are \$6 for adults, \$3 for children; drive-thru plates are \$6. A live auction will begin at 1 p.m. Also featured: children's games, bingo, a jumping castle, handmade quilt raffle and a motorcycle raffle. You can also buy a chance to win a gourmet gas grill, patio furniture and a DVD Mobile Theater. For additional info, call St. Mary, Star of the Sea, at 325.365.2687.

St. Therese-Carlsbad

St. Therese Catholic Church in Carlsbad, Texas, and its mission, St. Paschal Catholic Church in Sterling City, will hold their annual festival on **Sunday, September 18**. The event will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 3636 N. Bryant in San Angelo, Texas. A barbecue brisket/home-made German sausage dinner with all the trimmings will be served from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. inside the hall. Dinners may also be purchased from a drive-thru at the same location. An auction

consisting of donations from various merchants and parishioners will begin at 1:15 p.m. A Silent Auction, Country Store, Bingo and other various games for all to enjoy will also be available during the afternoon.

Immaculate Conception-Knickerbocker

Immaculate Conception's Fall Festival is scheduled for **Sunday, September 25** and will feature mesquite-cooked Brisket & Sausage Barbeque Plates with all the trimmings (\$6/plate, \$4 for children 12 & under). Plates will be served from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Music is by the band "Old Dog ... New Licks." Also featuring Raffle/Bingo/ Games/Auction/ Washer Pitching.

St. Mary's-Brownwood

St. Mary's in Brownwood will have its Fall Festival on **Saturday, October 8**, 11 a.m. - 7p.m., at 1105 Main Street, in Brownwood. Silent and Live auctions will be featured. Entertainment includes a bounce house, games, crafts, food booths, a petting zoo and washer tournament.

A New Beginning

Starting over after the divorce or death of a spouse

By Kathy Keaton

Many of you who are reading this are divorced, about to get a divorce or separated, or have experienced the death of your spouse. You may have a friend or family member who is experiencing such a loss and be anxious to offer help to others. Those experiencing these situations may be feeling devastated, lost, angry, scared, guilty or any number of other feelings that accompany a failed marriage, separation or death of a spouse. Those experiencing the loss of a spouse know there is often unfinished business, many unanswered questions and sometimes stumbling blocks before one can accept the loss and begin moving forward. There are daily problems as well as long-term concerns. The Catholic Diocese of San Angelo offers help and support to those who are struggling with these situations and offers help and hope for a new beginning.

Three times a year Christ The King Retreat Center in San Angelo, opens its doors for a spiritual weekend retreat to offer help and support for those who are divorced, separated or widowed. For hundreds these retreats have proven to be the springboard for a fresh start and a truly new beginning. According to Father Tom Barley, pastor of St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Wall, "the weekend ministry offers a forum of healing where individuals together can face the issues they are dealing with after the loss of a marriage or spouse for whatever reason." Father Tom has served as spiritual adviser for "The Beginning Experience" peer ministry team for several years. Fr. Tom continues, "the weekend is supportive and safe and confidential." It helps people move from brokenness to a feeling of not being alone. Feelings come and feelings go and healing comes in stages. The weekend helps participants connect with something deeper. It offers new strength and self confidence. After attending a weekend participants find not only have they connected with others facing the same fears and emotions but they find they

are often stronger than they realized."

William Rosser, pastor and Public Relations Director for Hospice of San Angelo, has also attended several weekends as a spiritual advisor. Rosser reminds participants that "they must take ownership for their part in the divorce. Sometimes that is very hard to understand when you feel you are the victim. Even if you are the person that has been wronged you will never heal if you cannot take responsibility for your part and only your part. You can forgive and be forgiven but often there are still consequences to be faced. God is the God of the past, present and future. By first dealing with our past we can then begin to make a difference in our future." The weekend offers that guidance and strength to begin anew.

Janice (who requested her real name not be used), one of the original participants of "The Beginning Experience," says, "I went into the weekend feeling very guilty after my divorce. Between my religious beliefs and my ethnic heritage there was much stigma attached to the failure of my marriage. I didn't know what to expect and was very apprehensive. It was life changing to learn that even after a divorce that God still loved me and that I was OK right where I was. After the weekend I resolved my anger, reconciled with the church and renewed my self worth and self esteem."

The next "Beginning Experience" will be held Sept. 16-18 at Christ the King Retreat Center. The weekend is sponsored by the San Angelo Catholic Diocese but open to men and women of all churches throughout the West Texas area. Applications are currently being accepted and the cost for the weekend is \$105 to pay for room and overnight accommodations. Participants must be separated, divorced or widowed to attend. For more information or for an application contact the retreat center at (325) 651-5352.

Kathy Keaton is a widow and Peer minister for the San Angelo "Beginning Experience Team."



Fr. William DuBuisson, left, and Fr. Tom Barley address workshop participants in June.

Workshop for Advocates

On June 24-25, Father William DuBuisson, OMI (Judicial Vicar) and Father Tom Barley (Adjutant Judicial Vicar) offered a workshop for parish advocates, R.C.I.A. directors and leaders in marriage preparation of the Midland/Odessa Deanery. The workshop was held at St. Stephen's Church (Midland). Forty-five people attended, coming from parishes located in Midland, Odessa, Big Spring, Stanton and Andrews.

Father Bill and Father Tom were able to impart valuable insights into the important role that an advocate assumes when working with those who seek spiritual healing through the "annulment" process as well as other ministries. Throughout a tightly packed agenda, they were able to share their many years of Tribunal experience. Several of the participants commented that they had come away with a better sense of how his/her ministry interacts with the Tribunal Office in San Angelo.

Another workshop is scheduled in Abilene, August 12-13 at Holy Family Parish. More workshops will be held in the Spring of 2006.

-- submitted by Tom Burke

NATIONAL

Fort Worth faithful mourn Delaney's death, welcome new bishop

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Catholic News Service

FORT WORTH. Catholics in the Diocese of Fort Worth welcomed a new shepherd July 13 and mourned the loss of another.

Bishop Kevin W. Vann became the third bishop to lead the 28-county diocese during ordination ceremonies at Texas Christian University's Daniel-Meyer Coliseum.

The long-anticipated event, attended by more than 5,000 parishioners, 25 bishops and 125 priests, took place just one day after the unexpected death of Fort Worth Bishop Joseph P. Delaney.

The late bishop, who suffered from pancreatic cancer in recent years, had planned to concelebrate the liturgical rite making the bishop-designate his coadjutor bishop. Instead, Bishop Vann, former vicar for clergy and pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church in Springfield, Ill., was

installed as Fort Worth's presiding bishop during a three-hour ceremony rich in sacred ritual, pageantry and prayer.

The evening's spirit of inclusiveness was reflected in the music ministry and choice of lectors, with prayers and readings in American Sign Language, Vietnamese and Spanish, as well as English. The Tongan community choir of St. Michael Parish in Bedford and the choir from Vietnamese Martyrs Church in Arlington performed hymns reflecting their ethnic traditions prior to the Mass.

Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of San Antonio was principal consecrator for the ordination rite, with Bishop George J. Lucas of Springfield and Archbishop



The late Bishop Joseph P. Delaney, left, and his successor, Bishop Kevin Vann, of the Diocese of Fort Worth.



Raymond L. Burke of St. Louis as co-consecrators.

"This evening is marked both by a profound sadness and, at the same time, authentic joy," said Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, papal nuncio to the United States, who read the apostolic

mandate naming Bishop Vann to his new post. "After 24 years of dedicated service to the church of Fort Worth, Texas, and after much physical suffering, Bishop Delaney, your beloved shepherd, was called home suddenly to his heavenly Father."

But, despite the sadness, the ordination of a new bishop was cause for joy, the archbishop said, adding, "It was something the late Bishop Delaney desired and wished for."

The reading of the papal decree officially announcing the appointment was followed by a standing ovation and enthusiastic applause from the congregation, which included Bishop Vann's parents, William and Theresa Vann; three of his four brothers; his sister; two sisters-in-law; and other relatives.

In his homily, delivered in both English and Spanish, Archbishop Gomez said, "God gave (Bishop Delaney) the grace to be with us until the day before his successor was to be ordained."

Then, turning his attention to Bishop Vann, Archbishop Gomez welcomed the 54-year-old Illinois native to Texas, assuring him that he would be greeted not only with the state's trademark hospitality but also the faith and prayers of its people.

"Welcome to this vibrant Catholic community of Fort Worth," he said. "This is a moment of joy and thanksgiving but also a time of faith as we witness God's call to service."

Nun on front lines battling AIDS in Kenya

By Steve Euvino
Catholic News Service

LAPORTE, Ind. — Sabina, a 60-year-old Kenyan woman who traditionally would be cared for by her children or grandchildren, is currently caring for her grandchildren, as HIV/AIDS has claimed the children's parents.

Sabina's plight is not unique in her native land, where 10 percent of the 33 million people — about 3 million Kenyans — are HIV-positive and only 25,000 Kenyans have access to medication.

Some hope for these people can be found in the services offered by Upendo Village, whose founder and president, Sister Florence Muia, spoke July 9-10 at St. Peter Church in LaPorte. Opened in May 2003, the village has provided shelter, health care, counseling and advocacy for more than 5,000 people.

Sister Florence, 48, an Assumption Sister of Nairobi, addressed the continuing struggle with AIDS in her native Kenya, a country with 1.5 million orphans.

Adding to the problem, she said, are drought and poverty, which lead to malnutrition. Also, a lack of understanding has led to an AIDS



Sr. Sabina, 60, has shunned her own care because she's too busy caring for others.

stigma, which in turn leads to isolation, hopelessness and fear.

Located in Naivasha, 50 miles west of Nairobi, Upendo Village serves men, women and children affected by AIDS. Upendo is the Swahili word for love. Calling the place a village, Sister Florence said, reflects the fact that "we are all members of the global village linked by a common humanity."

With a staff of six and a group of 20 trained volunteers, Upendo Village provides temporary shelter, basic health care, home-based care, community education, voluntary testing, and counseling and support. Upendo has also partnered with the

Naivasha Rotary Club and local police to provide a haven for abused women and children.

A major part of the village's work, Sister Florence said, is nutritional supplementation. Without a proper diet, she said, people have a more difficult time dealing with AIDS and other diseases, including tuberculosis, malaria and pneumonia.

She told the story of Sabina, the woman who cares for her two orphaned grandchildren. Sabina herself is now living with AIDS.

"Usually the kids take care of their parents," Sister Florence said. "Now the older generation is taking care of orphans. It's a sad situation."



O Blessed Trinity,

We thank you for having graced the church with Pope John Paul II and for allowing the tenderness of your fatherly care, the glory of the cross of Christ, and the splendor of the Holy Spirit to shine through him.

Trusting fully in your infinite mercy and in the maternal intercession of Mary, he has given us a living image of Jesus the Good Shepherd, and has shown us that holiness is the necessary measure of ordinary Christian life and is the way of achieving eternal communion with you.

Grant us, by his intercession, and according to your will, the graces we implore, hoping that he will soon be numbered among your saints.

Amen

The Cause for Sainthood

This is the prayer for the sainthood cause of Pope John Paul II, above. It appears in several languages on the official Web site: www.JohnPaulIIBeatification.org.

The Health of Catholic Schools in the Diocese



Angelo Catholic School, San Angelo



St. Mary's Central Catholic, Odessa

From the "Statement of Commitment to Catholic Schools," by U.S. Bishops:

Since 2000 ... there has been a net loss of over 170,000 students at Catholic schools in the U.S. Yet there are more than 2,500 Catholic schools with waiting lists.

"We must respond to challenging times with faith, vision and the will to succeed, because the Catholic school's mission is vital to the future of our young people, our country and most especially, our church."

Bishops say accessibility, enrollment No. 1 challenges

By Jimmy Patterson
Editor
West Texas Angelus

At their annual spring meeting in June, United States bishops expressed two main concerns for the future of Catholic education in the country: declining enrollments and inaccessibility to students of all socioeconomic backgrounds.

In the Diocese of San Angelo, principals report healthy enrollments where reductions are not a serious concern and programs in place that open up the Catholic education option for more than just upper income level families.

Memorials have been put in place in Midland where parishioners can donate to help families with tuitions.

"Accessibility is so important," said Joan Wilmes, principal at St. Ann's Catholic School in Midland. "We do want children of all walks

of life. And that's something that we as school administrators have to fight constantly. Some parents can afford it, some can't. We have been fortunate."

Two programs are in place in Midland to help Catholic education be more accessible to those who might not otherwise afford it: The Msgr. Murphy Memorial Scholarship Fund, and a similar fund put in place after the death of the southside's Rev. Thomas Kelley, of Our Lady of San Juan.

In Odessa, principal Mary Jaramillo, of St. Mary's Central Catholic School, said her good fortune is having a school board that is "diligent at trying to keep tuition at a reasonable rate so people can afford to come to St. Mary's."

"We're also fortunate to receive the last two year's good scholarship money to help these families, and enrollment has increased."

Beyond the accessibility issue, bishops also expressed their concern that Catholic educa-

tors continue to provide the spiritual formation parents come to expect from private educators such as Catholic Schools. Again, such a concern does not seem to be a concern at all at campuses within the diocese.

"Spiritually and religiously we're very strong," said Bishop Michael Pfeifer. "As far as our programs, they are excellent. The formation and the discipline we provide goes to the total formation of the students."

"Where we need to work even harder is getting more people to put their students into Catholic schools."

Pfeifer said the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops also talked of CCD and religious formation as well as education in the schools and agreed that both should be looked at equally.

"We want to work on both, and at the same time promote the Catholic identity of our schools and make sure we have the soundest and latest teaching in Catholic schools and in teaching."

Principals in diocese say enrollments remain virtually steady

By Jimmy Patterson
Editor
West Texas Angelus

As U.S. Bishops stress the need to make Catholic education accessible to all while studying ways to reverse downward enrollment trends, principals at the three Catholic schools in the Diocese of San Angelo say the health of our Catholic schools here is good. Only St. Ann's in Midland reports enrollment numbers are down, a fact that can be directly attributed to major oil companies that have left Midland or been absorbed by other companies, creating the departure of jobs in the Permian Basin city over the last 4-5 years.

"When the oil companies left, that just hurt us," said Joann Wilmes, principal at St. Ann's, which has an enrollment of about 285. "This year, we've noticed a leveling off, though, and

I have to credit our school board, which has been so proactive. They have the strong belief that if we're going to have an increase in enrollment it has to be by word of mouth."

There are 30 faculty members at St. Ann's.

Jesse Martinez, principal at the Angelo Catholic School in San Angelo, cites what he called an "aggressive recruitment campaign" responsible for maintaining his school's enrollment.

"We're not necessarily losing students," Martinez said, "but those that we do lose are because of relocation of parents due in part to jobs. It's not at all because of dissatisfaction. We have an aggressive recruitment campaign and the priests here have been wonderful in terms of support from the pulpit."

Like Wilmes, though, Martinez said a majority of growth is directly attributed to word of mouth: "Parents telling other parents," he said.

Angelo Catholic School has two campuses: Holy Angels, which is home to pre-kindergarten and first-rate students; the Sacred Heart campus is for 2nd-6th graders. The schools are adjacent to one another.

Mary Jaramillo, principal at St. Mary's Central Catholic School in Odessa said the quality of education provided by the parochial school system is what attracts parents and keeps them coming back year in and year out.

"What my parents are saying," Jaramillo said, "is that with the world changing, they are looking for a place that their children can get the background and the formation they need to help carry them through. Families are trying to find that little something that will help their children and they are willing to make the (financial) sacrifice they need to make."

St. Mary's has 210 students and 11 faculty members.

Pfeifer said Catholic education is more than an education of the mind, it is also an education of the heart.

"We want to help form the character and the heart of our young people," he said, "and bring together their education and their formation. We can do that, and we can talk about God and we can have prayer and help to form the character and the total person."

"I can say the same thing about CCD: we want to impart good knowledge and more than ever people need that. But we also want to form their hearts and bring them into closer relationships with the source of all knowledge, which is Christ."

For more information about Catholic Schools:
Angelo Catholic School
325.655.3325 or 325.949.1747
St. Ann's School
432.684.4563.
St. Mary's Central Catholic, Odessa
432.337.6052.

New Catechetical Directory Introduced

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The publishing office of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops published the new National Directory for Catechesis May 1.

The 314-page directory will replace "Sharing the Light of Faith," the national catechetical directory adopted by the bishops in 1977 and published, following Vatican approval, in 1979.

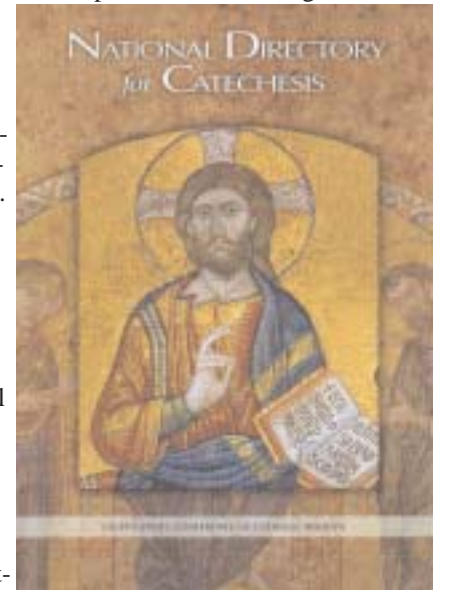
"The new directory goes with our day today," said Sr. Hilda Marotta, OSF, Director of the Office of Education and Formation for the Diocese of San Angelo. "The new directory has a whole section on the vision and challenges facing catechetical ministry in the U.S. today."

The directory was formally received and introduced in the diocese in May. Sr. Marotta said her office is "continuing to explore and understand what the directory is saying and the implications that it has for us."

Like its predecessor, the new directory will serve as a guide for all those who have catechetical responsibilities in U.S. dioceses and parishes, especially those responsible for organizing and supervising catechetical programs. It will serve as a fundamental reference for authors, editors and publishers of catechetical texts and other catechetical resources.

The general structure of the new directory is similar to that of "Sharing the Light of Faith," but it treats many areas in greater detail and reflects significant catechetical developments in the church since 1977.

These included Pope John Paul II's 1979 apostolic exhortation "On Catechesis in Our Time," the publication of the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" in 1992, and the Vatican's issuance of a new General Directory for Catechesis in 1997, updating and expanding on its 1971 General Catechetical Directory.



St. Ann's School in Midland.

"Spiritually and religiously we're very strong. As far as our programs, they are excellent. The formation and the discipline we provide goes to the total formation of the students."

-- Bishop Michael Pfeifer

FAMILY

From the Easy Chair

Preparing for Scout camp, college could be the same

By Jimmy Patterson

By the time you are reading this, assuming of course that you are reading this, our 19-year-old daughter Jennifer will be feverishly packing and preparing for the next phase of her life as a freshman at Texas Tech. Lubbock is filled with bright, young West Texans, which is probably both a blessing and a curse.

Simultaneous to our oldest's packing efforts, our 11-year-old son, James, who we call The Boy, will just about be done unpacking from a week-long Boy Scout trip he took in June. It takes 11 year olds a little while to get things done and settle back into routine as surely many of you know.

So, being a practical man, it seemed to me that a lot of things James was unpacking could be put to good use by our college-age daughter. I thought maybe just transferring some items from one suit-



Patterson

case to another would be a good thing. Not surprisingly, others in the family did not share in this reasoning.

I tried to tell our daughter that her little brother was able to return from Scout camp with all of his belongings. Nothing had been lost, stolen or taken home by another kid. Why? He used a magic marker and put his name on everything. So, I suggested Jennifer do the same. And I was met with eyes that rolled so severely I thought they were lotto balls.

But think about it ... many scout camp items could easily double as college freshman items.

1 fork, 1 spoon, 1 knife, 1 plate, 1 cup. No abundance of dishes to wash. No fuss. No muss.

A compass. Many 19-year-olds can probably find their classes, their bathroom and the bed in their dorm room. Beyond that, if it can help our daughter find the laundromat, a compass will be an incredibly useful thing to have.

Headlamp. With lights out at midnight and a community bathroom down a strange dorm hall she's unfamiliar with, this is an essential navigational tool.

Pocket knife. Nothing eases the stress like a lit-

tle whittlin' break while studying for finals.

Insect repellent. If they made a bug spray that wards off attacks from unwanted members of the male species, dads would buy them by the truckload and find a way to spray their daughters every night.

Hiking boots. OK, so they're not in style *now*, but maybe in a few years? Unfortunately, college girls aren't much for setting trends, only following them.

Complete Class A Scout Uniform. OK, this may be where we need to draw the line.

Personal Journal. Maybe one thing the girls will certainly have that the Scouts won't. Entries would be noticeably different. *Girls:* "I met this cool, new guy today." *Boy Scouts:* Got poison ivy today and a tic in a really weird place.

Bible. The one book on which they can both agree -- it's a great read to have along, especially when you're battling homesick blues the first few weeks away.

Jimmy Patterson is Director of Communications for the Diocese of San Angelo and father of three.

Family Day set for September 26

By Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

FAMILY DAY is held on the fourth Monday in September every year, and this year, it falls on September 26, 2005. On FAMILY DAY, parents are encouraged to have dinner with their children as a symbol to energize parents and to make family dinners a routine part of their lives. Dining together routinely is one way to facilitate parental engagement.

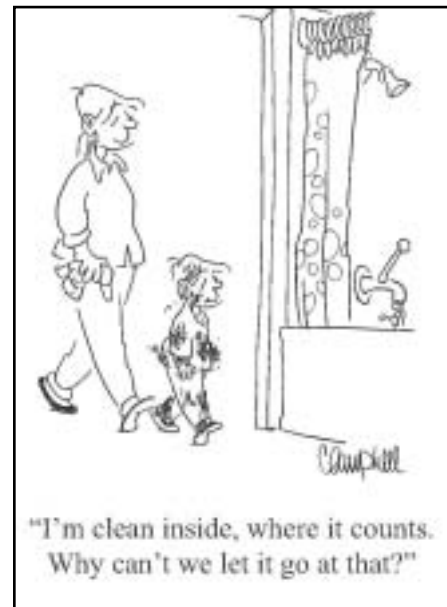
The survey done by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University points out that the more often children eat dinner with their families, the less likely they are to smoke, drink, or use illegal drugs. Further, research shows that frequent family dinners reduce stress among teens, decrease boredom and increase school performance. This pattern holds true regardless of a teen's sex, family structure, and family socioeconomic level.

While one day a year is designated as FAMILY DAY,

parents and children should make a better effort to try to come together as often as possible during the week for family sharing, praying, and to enjoy a meal together. The family that prays together stays together. With so many demanding schedules for parents and activities for children, fewer families are making time to eat together. Every day in some way should be a FAMILY DAY.

Hopefully FAMILY DAY will inspire our families to make more time to share a meal together, and while at the table, to share and discuss items of the greatest importance for all family members. FAMILY DAY embodies the values and teachings of our beautiful Catholic Church. Starting a Sunday ritual of attending Mass and sharing a meal as a family is a beautiful tradition that will increase parental engagement and communication with children.

I encourage our parishes to promote FAMILY DAY, and to often stress the importance for the family to come together for sharing and to enjoy meals together. God's peace.



Just 4 Kids Puzzle Answers (from Pg. 11)

1. Ur
2. Job
3. Mark
4. cross
5. angels
6. Sabbath

YOUR FAMILY

Who's on your family's prayer list?

By Bill and Monica Dodds
Catholic News Service

"I don't know how I got through it." How many times have we heard a friend or family member say that, looking back on a difficult -- even tragic -- situation? How many times have



Bill and Monica Dodds

we said the same?

And then there is that pause, that flash of insight, that obvious explanation and need to give credit where credit is due: prayer. Prayer got us through it.

We don't mean we are tremendous at praying; it was the prayers of others -- sometimes countless, nameless others -- who helped open our hearts, minds and souls to better receive God's loving grace and strength.

That is why our children need to know that -- as is so often the case in family life -- when it comes to praying we are a list-making people. We welcome others to our list. We ask to be placed on theirs.

Why? Because, as followers of Christ we try to imitate him. Not only did he pray for others, he told his disciples we are all in this together.

(See DODDS/14)

What kind of Christian Am I?

A Christian is a follower of Christ. How am I living out my Christianity? How am I living out my commitment to Christ? Below is a poem from an unknown author that might serve as a standard for judging my call to be a Christian.

A lot of Christians are like wheelbarrows - not good unless pushed. Some are like canoes - they need to be paddled. Some are like kites - if you don't keep a string on them they fly away. Some are like footballs - you can't tell which way they will bounce next.

Some are like balloons - full of air and ready to blow up.

Some are like trailers - they have to be pulled.

Some are like neon lights - they keep going on and off.

And we would like to add - some are like a good watch; open face, pure gold, quietly busy and full of good works. (author unknown)

-- Bishop Michael P. Pfeifer

JUST 4 KIDS



Jesus' miracle feeds crowd of 5,000

By Joe Sarnicola

When Jesus learned about the death of his friend and cousin John the Baptist, he borrowed a boat and sailed to a place where he could be alone. But, as always, crowds of people followed him. They watched him from the shore and walked to the place where they thought he would be landing. When Jesus went ashore, he saw many people waiting for him. He put aside his own grief and healed the sick who had come to him to be cured. He knew there were many people who needed his help.

As the day started to turn into night, the disciples came to Jesus and said, "This is a deserted place and it is already late; dismiss the crowds so that they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves."

But Jesus shook his head. "There is no need for them to go away," he said. "Give them some food yourselves."

The disciples looked at the food they had brought for themselves. They did not want to disagree with Jesus, but they had to tell them what

they found. One of them, speaking for them all, said, "Five loaves and two fish are all we have here."

Jesus ignored the frustration he knew his friends were feeling. "Bring them here to me," he said. The disciples gathered their fish and bread together and brought them to Jesus. When Jesus had the food in front of him, he told everyone to sit down on the grass.

He stood up, holding the baskets that contained the fish and the bread. He looked toward heaven and asked that his Father bless the food that he had provided for their meal. After he prayed, Jesus began to break the fish and bread into small pieces. He gave these to his disciples, and they distributed the food to all of the people.

At times the disciples had to step around or between the people in order to bring food to them. They did not question what Jesus told them to do. As a result, everyone who was there, the 5,000 men plus many women and children, had enough to eat. After the food that was left over had been collected, there was still enough to fill 12 baskets.

READ MORE ABOUT IT

Matthew 14 -- Q&A

1. Why was Jesus sad?
2. What did Jesus do with the bread and fish?

BIBLE ACCENT

Jesus was not born into the family of a mighty king, but into the family of a carpenter who was in Bethlehem for the census. When he was 12, Jesus spoke with great wisdom in the temple. Before he started his ministry, when he was approximately 30 years old, he was baptized by John. After that, he preached about the Gospel, healed people who were sick and performed many other miracles.

Because he offended some of the powerful religious leaders of the day, they tried to stop him. Eventually they put him to death on the cross. But even that did not stop Jesus. He rose from the dead three days later. After he went to heaven he sent us the Holy Spirit to carry on his Father's work. The Spirit is still helping us today.

SPOTLIGHT ON SAINTS

St. Samson

Samson (485-565) was not the strong man of the Old Testament, but the son of a Welsh mother and father who had prayed for a long time that God would bless their marriage with children. When Samson was 5, his parents turned him over to the care of the monks in Glamorgan.

Samson was very smart and had a strong sense of service to the Lord. He became a deacon and then a priest. After spending some time as a missionary to a remote island, Samson was appointed abbot of a monastery there. He did not always want to be in the monastery, so he traveled throughout the British Isles ministering and founding churches.

Several miracles have been attributed to him, and he earned the respect of both peasants and kings. We remember him on July 28.

PUZZLE:

Build a tower to heaven by correctly answering the questions below. Some Bible references have been provided as hints (Answers on Pg.10):

1. Abram's (Abraham's) homeland. Genesis 11:27
2. The book that comes before Psalms.
3. The second Gospel.
4. Jesus died on this. Matthew 27
5. Heavenly messengers.
6. Keep this day holy. Exodus 2

1. _ _
2. _ _ _
3. _ _ _ _
4. _ _ _ _ _
5. _ _ _ _ _
6. _ _ _ _ _

CHARTER: Help throughout diocese leads to positive changes

(From 3)

rently reviewing and revising its own policy on *Ethics and Integrity in Ministry*, as well as in the process of conducting its third Annual Compliance Audit. Following the audits in 2003 and 2004 the diocese received commendations for its efforts in filling the requirements of the Charter and Norms. This year, because of the high marks on the previous two audits, the diocese is being permitted to submit its audit electronically. The same audit instrument used the previous two years will again be completed, but rather than an on-site visit from the auditors, the diocese will be permitted to send in the completed audit instrument to the Office of Child and Youth Protection. Upon reviewing the audit the auditors will then decide whether or not they need to visit the diocese for unanswered questions

or areas needing better compliance. Due to the great efforts our diocese has put forth the past three years, we do not anticipate the need to make an on-site visit.

As you can see, we have done much, and we could not have done it without the help of so many good people throughout the diocese. We thank you for your efforts and support. Now, in the spirit of the revised Charter, we need to continue efforts to insure a safe environment for the children in our Catholic Schools and Parish Religion Programs. As we march forward, we keep in mind the love that Christ has for little children. We are further reminded of this by the bishops in the their revised Charter: "Let there now be no doubt or confusion on anyone's part: For us, your bishops, our obligation to protect children and young people and to prevent sexual abuse flows from the mission and example given to us by Jesus Christ himself, in whose name we serve."

Diocesan Review Board Appointments

Bishop Michael Pfeifer has announced the following appointments to the Diocesan Review Board:

Dr. Robert Patyrak, a pediatrician in San Angelo. Well known in the San Angelo community with an excellent reputation, his perspective on child sexual abuse will be a most valuable asset to the board.

Dr. Roberta Case, an ear, nose and throat specialist in Midland, and is already working in the area of the DRB's concern: Ethics and Integrity. Dr. Case serves as chair of the Ethics Committee at Midland Memorial Hospital -- a committee established earlier by Dr. Joseph Rhode, a former DRB appointee recently named to the National Review Board by the U.S. Conference on Catholic Bishops.

Patyrak and Case will replace Dr. Rhode and San Angelo attorney Randy Stout.

Pope says body, soul benefit from vacation, especially outdoors

Catholic News Service

LES COMBES, Italy — Both body and soul can benefit from a relaxing, getaway vacation, especially one spent in the outdoors, Pope Benedict XVI said from an Alpine mountain retreat in northern Italy.

Vacation time with family and loved ones offers the opportunity to spend "more time dedicated to prayer, reading and meditation on the deep meaning of life," he said July 17 before praying the Sunday Angelus in Les Combes, in Italy's Valle d'Aosta region.

Because today's lifestyles, especially in hectic cities, "leave little room for silence, reflection and being in touch with nature," it has become "almost a necessity to be able to refortify one's body and spirit" with a relaxing vacation, said the pope.

Some 6,000 pilgrims gathered at the small mountain village to hear Pope Benedict pray the midday Angelus during his first extended vacation since he was elected pontiff April 19.

"After the first months of the demanding pastoral service that (God) has entrusted to me, this summer pause is a truly providential gift of God," he told the crowd.

HONDURAS: Trip leads to humble thanks to God

(From 5)

to 2 hours ... sometimes in rain, darkness and barefooted...to get to church. In every email, Father David shared his experiences; whether his words incited tears or laughter, there was always a great deal of emotion and depth in the message. His stories were real ... and they hit you directly at the heart.

Rudy and his friend, Amaro Villarreal, returned to Honduras in November. Father David's mother, Grace Herrera, along with 2 other friends, made their first trip the following month. Later in February, Junior Chavira made his first trip, also returning with the same sentiments Rudy and the others had felt after their trips. I could not understand how they could see so much devastation and suffering and yet want to go and go again. It was harder to understand their invitation to others into what I thought was a God-forsaken country. After much contemplating and procrastinating, it was prayer that finally convinced me to go.

I could try to explain what I saw but my words would be as futile as the pictures I could present. Before I went to Honduras, I thought I had a strong relationship with my Heavenly Father. However, I never thought I would see Him in what I could easily describe as hell. The heat is treacherous. The sad,

sad eyes of innocent children pierce your soul. Seeing the very poor and elderly people, who will go without food more often than they will have it, tears into the depths of your heart and permanently leaves an image in your mind.

Two other Texans that made the trip, Raquel Villarreal and Monica Castrejon took their nursing skills to minister to the countless children living in unimaginable conditions. One heartbreaking experience was the care of three children with the boils of chicken pox, running around barefooted covered with dirt and no parents around to care for them. It is here, in the faces of poverty, abuse, neglect, disease, alcoholism, disfigurements and AIDS that I saw the very God that I had only scheduled my appointments with here in the comfort of the good ol' USA. Whether it has been in bedside prayer, in church, a Christian concert, a song over the radio or CCE, all my strongest encounters with God had been on my time but seldom in the eyes of another human being and never in one living in such miserable conditions. There are no words that can describe the most powerful presence of Christ that I have ever experienced in these extraordinary people. I am now starting to realize the worth AND the worthlessness of material things. I am beginning to realize that the very things that my awesome Lord has blessed me

with are sometimes the things that I focus on rather than the hands that gave them to me. I have also realized that God, in his most awesome and perfect plan, is found in the most unlikely of places.

In an incredible story of inexplicable fate a little 10-year-old boy literally fell in the arms of Junior Chavira while he was visiting Honduras. Junior quickly learned that the boy named Darwin had lost his hearing at the age of two. Thanks to Junior's hard work and perseverance, the boy was recently fitted with hearing aides and can now hear again. On the very day Darwin was fitted with the hearing aids, Junior broke down and cried as he heard the little boy say "mama" and "papa" for the first time. This is only one of many stories of people whose lives have been changed, mine included.

I shamefully admit I thought we would go to Honduras and awe the people with our American generosity. Rather, it is with humility and a great deal of gratitude that I thank God for having received this awesome privilege. I have to admit, I took much more from the people of Honduras than I gave to them. In addition to the priceless gift of now having a better understanding of what is the Truth, my husband and I will also be bringing home a lively 8-year-old Honduran boy which we will call our son.

Fr. John Corr, former St. Joseph's priest, dies in Houston

Father John Raymond Corr, O.P. a member of the Southern Dominican Province, died in Houston on June 7, 2005, after a short battle with cancer. Fr. Corr was born in Philadelphia on December 12, 1924. Prior to him joining the Eastern Dominican Province in 1949, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree at Villanova University in Pennsylvania. He also served in the U.S. Navy from 1943 to 1946.

In preparation for his ordination to the priesthood in Washington, D.C. on June 8, 1956, Fr. Corr completed philosophy and theology studies in Springfield, Kentucky and

Somerset, Ohio as well as at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C. Additional post-graduate studies were done at the Center for Intercultural Formation in Cuernavaca, Mexico in 1964 and at the District of Columbia Consortium in 1976-77.

Fr. Corr came to Texas in 1980 where he worked with a Dominican Missionary Preaching Team stationed in McAllen. In 1986 he became the highly esteemed pastor of St. Joseph Parish in San Angelo (1986-1997). This ministry was followed by five years as the Director of Southern Dominican Global Missions. In 2002, Fr. Corr began his final assignment as Chaplain to the cloister Dominican Nuns in Lufkin, Texas.

DIOCE-SCENES



Miles Tri-Church VBS

St. Thomas Church in Miles hosted the annual Tri-Church Vacation Bible School from July 18-22. The Tri-Church VBS has been held yearly since the early '80's. The three churches that work together are Trinity Lutheran, United Methodist and St. Thomas Catholic, all in Miles. Each church takes turns hosting the VBS, but all three faiths work well together to offer music, skits, crafts and bible stories. This year 90 children from 3 years-5th grade attended. Over 60 adults volunteered. There was a display of crafts made by the kids along with songs and coordinating hand motions which the children learned during the week.



Rowena Vacation Bible School

Totus Tuus -- Rowena, July 10-15



Kids dance to the morning gathering activity at Rowena's Totus Tuus program.

Youths participate in Rowena Bible school

Students in Rowena were treated to Totus Tuus, Latin for Totally Yours, a type of Vacation Bible School started in Wichita, Kan. Four college students help in the teaching, which included the glorious mysteries of the Rosary, the Church, the Trinity, the Eucharist and an emphasis on the Scripture. The program was inspiring for both

adults and students alike. For more information on the program, visit the web site: www.denvertotustuus.com.



Even Rowena parish priest Fr. Bhaskar got in on the fun, participating in a water balloon toss with the kids. Before it was over, Fr. Bhaskar was totally soaked.

Amanda, below, a Totus Tuus team member was selected to be "Sundaed" at the end of the week's activities.



St. Mary's Brownwood VBS

St. Mary's in Brownwood held Vacation Bible School June 6-10 with great success. The curriculum chosen was KINGDOM OF THE SON. St. Mary's had over 100 children and 25 volunteers who participated in the week-long event. Much support was given by parishioners who donated supplies and snacks for the kids. Many junior high and high school youth volunteered as leaders and were looked up to by the young age children. This was the first time in at least 5 years that St. Mary's has had VBS.



Rowena Vacation Bible School

REEH: St. Lawrence woman hopes to fill role

(From 1)

Office of Diaconal Ministry for the Diocese of San Angelo. Graham said the shared tragedy experienced by everyone associated with the diaconal class is not a phenomenon, nor is it mysterious that such a series of crises would bring these people even closer than had they only participated in deacon formation classes together.

"Among any group that spends a great deal of time together facing adverse circumstances there is a likelihood that they will grow closer," Graham said. "In the case of this class it was dramatic because the entire group was held together by acts of faith...meaning that there was a knowledge they shared which is beyond classrooms, books, lectures and supervised ministry. It is a knowledge that stems from expecting what the final results will be in any situation based on the belief that in all things we can find grace, even in the most painful of circumstances."

In October of last year, Gloria Trevino, wife of Deacon Jerry Trevino, of San Angelo, died in a traffic accident and tragedy dealt another cruel blow to the deacons and their wives.

"While she was not directly involved with the formation of the class of '04," Graham said, "she was an important instrument in God's hands for the diocese and the diaconal family. She took care to see that a newsletter was published keeping the dispersed group of deacons linked and up to date. She did that with her own money, her own time. That really marked what diaconal service is all about."

Linda Reeh hopes to step up and exemplify what Gloria Trevino hoped to live. Reeh has assumed publishing the newsletter that goes to all members of the deacon program and their families.

"The first (newsletter) I just wanted to dedicate

(See TRAGEDY/14)

ANGELS: You bet they're out there, helping when it's not time to go home

(From 2)

explicitly as he had arrived.

Several minutes later, my excessive fatigue had prevented me from making any headway back to shore. I had essentially paddled nowhere for what seemed like hours.

And then there he was again.

This man whose face I never saw but whose voice I will always remember, dragged me several yards until I could get off the board and safely stumble back to shore, where my bride looked up from her book and knew all of a sudden that all wasn't right with the new groom.

I don't know where he went. But I do remember looking back out to sea to see if I could spot the guy. But there was no one there. No one close to where I had been. Which is what I remember thinking when I first went adrift: *Hope I have no problems, because if I do, I'm a dead man, and that likely won't sit really well with Karen.*

But as alone as I was, or thought I was, there was someone with me. I can't tell you what he looked like. Or his name. Or where he came from or where he went. But he was there. And that I am here is proof of that. And proof that angels do dwell among us.

Jimmy Patterson is editor of the West Texas Angelus.

'With the help of the Holy Spirit ... we can do anything'

In preparation for the celebration of Confirmation in each parish, I write a letter to all the candidates, sharing with them my reflections on the beautiful Sacrament of Confirmation and the new coming of the Holy Spirit into their lives. I then invite the class to send me a letter in which they share with me their understanding of the Sacrament of Confirmation and how the Holy Spirit will be present with them in a new way in their lives. I share here the reflections that were sent to me in a letter from the Confirmation Class of St. Isidore Mission in Lenorah. The reflections here from the two letters represent the many inspiring and challenging thoughts that the Confirmation candidates have expressed in their letters written to me during this past Confirmation season.)

-- Bishop Michael Pfeifer
Diocese of San Angelo

Dear Bishop Pfeifer:

We the confirmation class of the Mission of St. Isidore in Lenorah would like to be confirmed in the Catholic Church. We have completed all our community service and have been studying diligently for the past two years. As teenagers we can not wait to be adults and to be on our own, not really understanding the responsibilities that come with being an "Adult."

When we finally get to that level we feel sometimes that life gets thrown in our faces and all we want is to give life back. Becoming an adult in the Church is totally different. We feel that we might not be fully ready for the adult life as the world demands; however, we feel we are ready to become adults in our Catholic Faith. Our Faith has grown so much throughout the years and will continue to grow as we experience life as adults. God will be with us through all the bumps in our life and as long as we do not let go He will provide us with all the guidance and wisdom we need.

We thought that we did not really have the Faith necessary to

make decisions on our own. We came to realize that Faith is not a feeling but it is an experience. We have experienced Faith in the shoulder you cry on, the one that will always have the answers to all our questions and can help solve our problems, and it's that miracle in disguise that will always be there when we need it.

In the years we have learned to rely more and more on God and to try and be role models for our younger brothers and sisters.

We feel that as Catholic Christians we are ready to be confirmed and are ready to take the responsibilities that are expected of us. We realize that this journey is only the beginning and hope to learn much more as we go forth in life. We are ready to teach and be taught and to spread the Word of God everywhere we go. We are asking for your prayers and the prayers of the Church as we embark on our journey.

Thank you for your support. Confirmation Candidates,
St. Isidore, Lenorah

Next month: A letter from confirmands in Stanton

TRAGEDY: Group told to stay in touch for support

(From 13)

it to Gloria in thanksgiving for all of the time she gave," Reeh said.

Reeh's life has been difficult since her husband's death earlier this year. Part of what has made it easier is the friendships she has built with others in the diaconate class.

"Bishop Mike has always stressed so much that we all keep in touch," Reeh said, "and that we sound things out. He said we would have no burn out as long as we can visit with people, discuss problems and get it off our chest. He felt real strongly about even deacons' wives having outings together. Hopefully this newsletter will help with that."

Tragedy has been a steady companion to the diaconate class that has most recently been ordained in the diocese. Just as present, though, and an even more powerful partner: the faith and companionship of

those who have been through these tragedies together.

"Being in the diaconate and experiencing all this has helped me to better understand why things happen," said Deacon Trevino. "It was difficult for me at first, but I realize God is the one that calls the shots regardless who you are. But he also gives you the understanding and ability to accept the things that happen. I have learned not to question but to accept and God will give me an answer and some peace of mind.

Added Reeh: "One of the things that really impressed me about the effect this program has had on all of the men, is when my son commented to me by saying, 'Mom when I talk to you guys now it's like you're different people; you're so much more peaceful about things. I want that some day, too.'" Reeh said.

The diaconate in the Diocese of San Angelo teaches formation. And with that formation comes much more, including the strength, faith and companionship required in the midst of adversity and tragedies.

LETTER: Pope John Paul II made position clear

(From 5)

biology is ideology, not science.)

To fully understand the teaching of the Catholic Church as given by Pope John Paul II and reaffirmed by Pope Benedict XVI, one should go back to a more lengthy discussion about the matter from a 1985 General Audience in Rome of Pope John Paul II which clarifies the true teaching of the Catholic Church on nature:

"All the observations concerning the development of life lead to a similar conclusion. The evolution of living beings, of which science seeks to determine the stages and to discern the mechanism, presents an internal finality which arouses admiration. This finality which directs beings in a direction for which they are not responsible or in charge, obliges one to sup-

pose a Mind which is its inventor, its creator."

John Paul II went on to say, "To all these indications of the existence of God the Creator, some oppose the power of chance or of the proper mechanisms of matter. To speak of chance of a universe which presents such a complex organization in its elements and such marvelous finality in its life would be equivalent to giving up the search for an explanation of the world as it appears to us. In fact this would be equivalent to admitting effects without a cause. It would be to abdicate human intelligence, which would thus refuse to think and to seek a solution for its problems."

Later, John Paul II went on to say, "It is clear that the truth of faith about creation is radically opposed to the theories of materi-

alistic philosophy. These view the cosmos as the result of an evolution of matter reducible to pure chance and necessity."

The problem is not evolution per se, if by that one means only the descriptive idea of common ancestry among living things. The problem is that neo-Darwinian evolution denies purpose and design in living things, attributing all development to the effects of random mutations and competitive selection. Yet it is neo-Darwinian evolution that is often simply called "evolution," thus causing widespread confusion in the public debate. A Christian understanding of the origin of life and purpose and design in living things radiates not only the light of reason but also with the light of faith.

DODDS: Praying for others helps us move past ourselves

(From 10)

When it comes to prayer, he said, begin by saying, "Our Father ..."

With that in mind, some points to consider are:

- ✓ Some families take list-making literally. It is up there on the fridge. All members are encouraged to add to it. Others keep a running tally in their heads and have learned to add "and all those I promised to pray for" to cover anyone they might accidentally have overlooked. Either way, a promise to pray for another person is a pledge that is taken seriously.

- ✓ Praying for others helps us move beyond our own needs, our own little world. We can better realize how good we have it in so many ways when our prayers remind us how difficult it is right now for others. A prayer for a soldier in Afghanistan whose family is in our parish, for a traffic accident victim who is a friend's cousin, for a family down the block whose major bread-winner has been laid off: Our children can learn to pray for that individual and then add prayers for all those facing similar hardships and heartaches.

- ✓ Praying is how we learn that although our faith tells us that all prayers are heard by God, not all are answered as we would choose. (Again, it was Jesus who taught us to say, "Thy will be done.")

- ✓ Everyone in the family can pray, from tots to seniors, from the most energetic to the homebound. Each person's prayer has value. Each is a blessing not only for the person on that list but for our own family and for the person doing the praying.

- ✓ The cross tells us there is a relationship between suffering and prayer. That suffering, offered up as a prayer, has a value even if we don't understand how or why it is so. Our list is always changing as some needs become more pressing, new requests are added and prayers of petition are transformed into prayers of thanksgiving.

On the Web:

Worth mentioning again: We have listed this site before but it is a good one. St. Charles Borromeo parish in Picayune, Miss., has lots of traditional prayers at: www.scborromeo.org/prayers.htm

Bill and Monica Dodds are the editors of "My Daily Visitor" magazine. Monica's latest book is "Praying in the Presence of Our Lord With St. Therese of Lisieux" (Our Sunday Visitor) and her Web site for Catholic caregivers is: www.YourAgingParent.com.

Los medios de comunicacion social y el evangelio

por el Obispo Miguel Pfeifer, OMI

Los medios modernos de comunicación social—la radio, el cine, la televisión y demás medios de comunicación pueden ser también instrumentos para llevar a otros el mensaje de Cristo. Me da gusto comunicarles que la Diócesis de San Angelo tiene otra estación de radio y la nueva se encuentra en Odessa, Texas, para comunicarnos a los fieles el Evangelio de Cristo y las enseñanzas de nuestra Iglesia Católica. Esta nueva estación se llama Radio Guadalupeana y las letras de la radio son KJBC.

En el no. 72 de la Exhortación Apostólica, *La Iglesia en América*, de Su Santidad, el Papa Juan Pablo II, recalca la importancia de los medios de comunicación para proclamar el Evangelio. “Es fundamental para la eficacia de la nueva evange-

lización un profundo conocimiento de la cultura actual, en la cual los medios de comunicación social tienen gran influencia. Es, por lo tanto, indispensable conocer y usar estos medios, tanto en sus formas tradicionales como en las más recientes introducidas por el progreso tecnológico. Esta realidad requiere que se domine el lenguaje, naturaleza y características de dichos medios. Con el uso correcto y competente de los mismos se puede llevar a cabo una verdadera enculturación del Evangelio... A este respecto, los padres sinodales indicaron numerosas iniciativas concretas para una presencia eficaz del Evangelio en el mundo de los medios de comunicación social: la formación de agentes de pastorales en este campo; el fomento de centros de producción cualificada; el uso prudente y acertado de satélites y de nuevas tecnologías; la forma-

ción de los fieles para que sean destinatarios críticos; la unión de esfuerzos en la adquisición y consiguiente gestión en común de nuevas emisoras y redes de radio y televisión, y la coordinación de las que ya existen.”

Radio Guadalupeana es un medio especial para llevar a los feligreses al oeste de la diócesis programación y enseñanzas Católicas usando la transmisión de EWTN en Español. Ojalá que todos tomen tiempo para escuchar esta nueva programación Católica.

Estoy muy agradecido a muchas personas que han cooperados para lanzar este nuevo medio de comunicación en nuestra diócesis—especialmente al Padre Gilberto Rodríguez quien me entrevista cada Sábado a las 8:45 a.m. en la radio KJBC en Odessa.

BISHOP: Living as Mary's example brings God's promise

(From 1)

my brother and sister and mother” (Mt. 12:49-50). No one was more faithful and obedient to God's will than Mary. Mary then is a model for all disciples through her spirit of faith and surrender to God's will.

To show that Mary is our model of discipleship, implies that we like her are willing to surrender lives in a spirit of faith and trust to God's will—whatever that might be. If our wills are not centered in the Lordship of Christ, then our emotions, sentiments and expressions of

desire are not flowing from Christ's will and we do not function in his Lordship.

Living the example of Mary in discipleship means that we will respond to the announcement of God's promise with faith that God's work will take effect in us and in our world. For this to happen, we need to remember as God told Mary, that nothing is impossible. For this to happen we need to remember as the angel told Mary at the Annunciation, that nothing is impossible for God. God's power overcomes and overpowers human weakness.

As we strive to imitate Mary's disciple-

ship, we must, like her, pledge ourselves to live under the guidance of the Holy Spirit in each and every circumstance of life. We are being asked each day: Do we really live what we say we believe and do we preach what we live? The witness of life is more than ever an essential condition for real effectiveness in preaching and believing.

In order for Mary to be our true model of discipleship, then we must be willing to believe in a miracle the way Mary did. If we believe and trust like Mary, then Jesus is once again incarnated in us like he was in Mary—and a new wonderful miracle happens.

DIACONATE: Program melds together aspects of discipleship

(From 1)

rently have no deacon assigned will also receive some priority efforts on the part of the pastors and the diocesan Office of Diaconal Ministry.

The Diocese of San Angelo has 65 active deacons serving in parishes, prisons, hospitals and, perhaps most important of all, in their workplaces, neighborhoods and families. They are Catholic clergy living and working among the faithful...a sanctifying presence of word, sacrament and service.

We read in Acts 6:2-3: “So the 12 called together the community of disciples and said...Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and Wisdom, whom we shall appoint...” So began the traditionally accepted institution of the diaconate. From that moment the Church has been blessed with an order of ministers dedicated to the body of Christ as servant-leaders. The restoration of the permanent diaconate subsequent to the Second Vatican Council ushered in a new kind of clerical reality for Catholics. For the first time in well over 1,000 years we have married clergy becoming normative in the person of the deacon. We also have

clergy in places where priests are rarely found – in the workplace. Most deacons are married and have secular jobs to support themselves and their families. Consequently, the “official” Church is now being found in secular society in ways that were not possible before permanent deacons came back on the scene.

The vocation of the deacon is one that melds together several aspects of Christian discipleship. It calls for men (with the support of their wives) to be willing and able to be of service at the discretion of the bishop for the good of the diocese. While most deacons serve in parish settings, some are asked to take on additional duties as with the newly appointed Director of Criminal Justice Ministry, Deacon Bob Leibrecht, who has responsibility for this ministry across the diocese.

More important than the formal assignment a deacon receives, in many respects, is his duty to be, as St. Ignatius put it, the “eyes and ears of the bishop.” In other words, the deacon should be one who is sensitive to the needs of the people because he is in a position to know who is in need, or where a social structure is wrong, or when to call to action the people around him to help serve the Body of Christ in a particular place and time.

The challenges of this vocation are tremendous, and the need for men formed in the charism of the deacon is great. So many opportunities to heal the broken-hearted, to make life's journey a little more joyful are waiting for the next class of 25 men to address. (Twenty-five is the maximum number of applicants that will be accepted into the next formation class.) And the need exists not because we have a shortage of priests – the need exists because we have a shortage of deacons. Despite the number of men who have stepped forward to become deacons of the Church in our diocese and across the country, we have yet to find an end to the ministry that is waiting for those who God calls.

If you or someone you know is interested in the possibility of studying for the diaconate, see your pastor. He is the first person charged with examining the qualifications of potential applicants and has been provided a summary of qualifications applicants must meet. A review by the pastoral council at the parish level is also required. After that, an interview with the Director of Diaconal Ministry will determine those who are invited to some preliminary inquiry sessions at Christ the King Retreat Center in San Angelo.

EDICTAL SUMMONSES

EDICTAL SUMMONS: Belcher-Crockett July 20, 2005
Case: Belcher-Crockett
No.: SO 05/18

The Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo to Stacy Lynn Crockett, whereabouts unknown.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo, 804 Ford St., San Angelo, Texas, 76905, on or before the 31st day of August 2005, to answer the Petition of Briley Lynn Belcher, now introduced before the Diocesan Tribunal in an action styled, "BRILEY LYNN BELCHER VS. STACY LYNN CROCKETT, Petition for Declaration of Invalidity of Marriage," said Petition being identified as (BELCHER-CROCKETT) Protocol No.: SO 5/18, on the Tribunal Docket of the Diocese of San Angelo.

You may communicate with the Tribunal in person or in writing. Failure to communicate within the prescribed period of time will be considered your consent for the Tribunal to continue its proceedings in the above-named case.

Given at the Tribunal of the Diocese of San Angelo on the 1st day of August, 2005.

Rev. Tom Barley, J.C.L.
 Adjutant Judicial Vicar

EDICTAL SUMMONS: Bollinger-Lopez July 20, 2005
Case: Bollinger-Lopez
No.: SO 04/52

The Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo to Iris Lopez (Bollinger), whereabouts unknown.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo, 804 Ford St., San Angelo, Texas, 76905, on or before the 31st day of August 2005, to answer to the petition of Robert Javier Bollinger, now introduced before the Diocesan Tribunal in an action styled, "ROBERT JAVIER BOLLINGER vs. IRIS LOPEZ (BOLLINGER), Petition for Declaration of Invalidity of Marriage," said Petition being identified as (BOLLINGER-LOPEZ) Protocol No. S) 0452, on the Tribunal Docket of the Diocese of San Angelo.

You may communicate with the tribunal in person or in writing. Failure to communicate within the prescribed period of time will be considered your consent for the Tribunal to continue its proceedings in the above-named case.

Given at the Tribunal of the Diocese of San Angelo on the 1st Day of August, 2005.

Rev. William R. DuBuisson, OMI, MCI,
 JCL Judicial Vicar

THE BACK PAGE

Hazardous to our sensibilities: This is not 'Dukes' of Yore

By David DiCerto
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK -- The producers of the "Honeymooners" and "Bewitched" movies can rest easier knowing that theirs is not the worst comedy based on an old television show to hit theaters this summer.

That dubious honor goes to the "The Dukes of Hazzard" (Warner Bros.).

Set in fictitious Hazzard County, the utterly unnecessary film version plays like a sleazier episode of the original TV series.

Fun-loving redneck cousins Luke and Bo Duke (Johnny Knoxville and Seann William Scott in the Tom Wopat and John Schneider roles, respectively) are still

just two "good ol' boys never meanin' no harm," raising Cain behind the wheel of their hot-rod orange Dodge Charger, the "General Lee," while running moonshine for their Uncle Jesse (played by country music legend Willie Nelson).

When not seducing barely legal farmers' daughters or causing havoc in The Boar's Nest -- a local watering hole where their curvaceous cousin, Daisy (Jessica Simpson), waits tables -- the Duke boys spend most of their time avoiding capture by Sheriff Roscoe P. Coltrane (M.C. Gainey) and his bumbling deputy Enos Strate (Michael Weston).

Filling the white duds of Sorrell Booke is Burt Reynolds, as Jefferson Davis "Boss" Hogg, a corrupt local politician as "crooked as a hillbilly's smile."

The perfunctory plot has something to do with the

Dukes trying to foil one of Hogg's shady land-dealing schemes.

Scott and Knoxville work well together and genuinely seem to be having a good time. As for Simpson's cinema debut -- which amounts to little more than her strutting around in increasingly racier get-ups -- it suffices to say that it is among the more embarrassing failures to take place in Dixieland since Pickett's charge at Gettysburg.

Directed by Jay Chandrasekhar, the film contains all the elements of the TV show: the wild car chases -- usually punctuated with the Confederate flag-emblazoned General Lee flying through the air -- bar brawls, folksy narration and, yes, Daisy's trademark short shorts. But while the movie captures the rip-roaring spirit of the series, it lacks the latter's more wholesome charm.

Hallmark Channel presents 'A Man Who Became Pope'

By Harry Forbes
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK — With memories of a frail and infirm Pope John Paul II still vivid, it takes some adjustment to accept a young Karol Wojtyla, here vigorously embodied by Polish actor Piotr Adamczyk.

But the moving "A Man Who Became Pope," airing on cable's Hallmark Channel Monday, Aug. 15, 7 p.m.-11 p.m. CDT, is, in fact, an account of the early days of the young playwright-actor who turned priest in Poland, first under the brutal heel of the Nazis, and after the war the communists. (It will be rerun Sunday, Aug. 21, 8 a.m.-Noon. CDT.)

The story begins in 1939, with a reluctant Karol going off to war to protect his elderly father who is stubbornly determined to join the army over the family's objections. One of Karol's closest friends is the devoted and serious-minded Hania (former Avedon model Malgosia Bela). Her presence cannily provides the film with a leading lady, if not an actual romance. ("She's like a sister to me," Karol says.)

During the occupation, Hania helps hide a Jewish family, Anne Frank-style.

Karol and his father eventually return home, driven back by the deadly aerial bombardment of the Germans and a warning that the Russians are blocking the way.

The Nazis are personified by Governor-General Hans Frank (Matt Craven). Among many heinous acts, Frank closes the university, and interns the professors in camps. An outspoken professor (Kenneth Welsh) is summarily shot.

Stalwart Father Thomasz Zaleski (Raoul Bova), Karol's childhood friend, bravely faces up to the occupiers, most dramatically when Frank orders Father Zaleski to dine with the Nazi brass who proceed to viciously denigrate the Polish people, until the priest, who can take it no longer, makes an impassioned defense, and defiantly walks out. Later, he'll give absolution to a repen-



Piotr Adamczyk portrays Karol Wojtyla in "A Man Who Became Pope," airing on the Hallmark Channel Aug. 15, 7 p.m.-11 p.m. CDT. (CNS photo from Hallmark Channel)

tant Nazi, much to Karol's initial dismay.

The atrocities that Karol witnesses seem to touch his very soul. "What is it that makes eyes, hearts and minds so incapable of feeling pity and respect?" he cries at one point.

The Nazis try to eradicate Polish culture, insisting that they had no heritage to begin with, and Karol's theatrical troupe must perform underground.

When their close friends, resistance fighters Wiktor and Krystyna, are shot by the Nazis, Karol almost despairs until a mystic tailor tells him the importance of winning with love, not guns. This will be Karol's mantra ever after.

As time passes, the world of the theater begins to seem "empty" to Karol, and he declares his vocation to the priesthood.

After the war, the Russian liberators are hailed by the Polish people as their salvation. But, in fact, they are as opposed to the

church as the Nazis.

The villain of the second half is Comrade Kordek (Hristo Shopov, who played Pontius Pilate in "The Passion of the Christ"), the secret service agent who becomes Karol's bete noire. Kordek resents Karol's serene assurance and hires a spy, Adam Zielinski (Ken Duken), to wiretap Karol's confessions in hopes of catching him criticizing the regime. He doesn't want Karol teaching young people to have no fear: "If these people aren't afraid of us, it's all over."

Adam enrolls at the university where Karol is now an ethics professor. One of Karol's female students becomes smitten with Adam, but the dogged fellow continues his traitorous mission, yet fails to catch Karol speaking disloyally.

The film charts Karol's rise in the church hierarchy, with his becoming auxiliary bishop, then bishop of Krakow, and finally, to his own humble amazement, pope. Seen in

the context of what has come before, his election seems a fitting validation of a steadfast faith and noble life. (The events of the conclave are dispatched -- rather hurriedly -- in the movie's last few minutes.)

This theatrical-quality production -- Italian-made but filmed on location in Poland with a largely Polish cast -- was based on Gian Franco Svidercoschi's book "Stories of Karol: The Unknown Life of John Paul II."

Pope Benedict XVI commended in June the film's focus on Karol's early heroism for "reviving in every right-minded person the duty to do what he or she can so that such inhuman barbarism never happens again." He also discerned a "divine plan" in the ironic fact that a "Polish pope ... (has been) succeeded by a citizen of that country, Germany, where the Nazi regime was the most vicious, attacking the nearby nations, Poland among them."

"A Man Who Became Pope" was screened for Pope John Paul II shortly before his death and the pontiff was said by Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls to have been "very impressed" with the project.

The acting is indeed uniformly fine, and though the dubbing is better than average, the voices have that slightly disembodied quality. The dynamic Adamczyk gives a luminous performance, portraying Karol with vigor and grace, and is immensely sympathetic. And his faith and moral rectitude are most convincingly portrayed.

While not shortchanging the spiritual side of Karol's life, Battiato and Carmelo Pennisi have cleverly crafted their script with enough elements of wartime thriller and cloak-and-dagger espionage to capture the attention of even those who simply enjoy a gripping survival story.

The film contains wartime violence, including firing-squad executions, and scenes of dead and wounded, partial prison nudity, some unsavory verbal imagery, some crude language and brutal beatings, and as such is best for older adolescents and up.