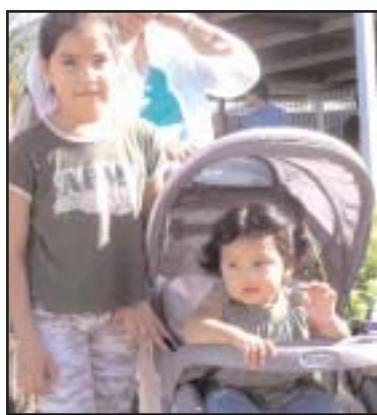


# West Texas ANGELUS

Serving the Diocese of San Angelo, Texas  
Volume XXVIII, No. 9 SEPTEMBER 2007



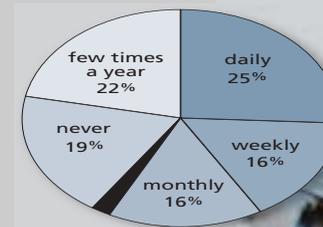
## Thank God for Kids

A young girl and her sister attend the Respect Life Mass at The Prayer Garden in Midland, Aug. 10. The Mass was attended by almost 400 people, including a bus load of 60 from the Diocese of Amarillo.

Story, photos Page 5

## Popular Devotion

Many U.S. Catholics say they frequently engage in devotions centered on Mary. Those who take part in Marian devotions...



Source: LeMoyné/Zogby Survey of Catholic Adults, Spring 2007 ©2007 CNS



# Big Spring begins countdown to single parish



Catholics from Big Spring and Coahoma came together Aug. 26 to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Church in the area. More photos from the Big Spring celebration, Pages 8-9. PHOTO BY KAREN PATTERSON.

► Mass marking 125 years of Church in area sets stage for 6 month countdown to Big Spring, Coahoma Catholics coming together in one parish.

By Jimmy Patterson  
Editor

**BIG SPRING** -- By February 2008, the face of the Catholic Church in Big Spring and Coahoma will have taken on a new look. Gone will be Fr. James Plagens and Fr. Richard Regan, replaced by Fr. Bernard Gully and an as yet unnamed bilingual parochial vicar, who will help lead this city's and Coahoma's Catholics into one unified parish. The move will mark a return to the way the Church began upon its formation here 125 years ago.

The quasiquintennial of the Catholic Church in the Big Spring area was attended by almost 900 faithful during a Mass at a packed Big Spring High School Auditorium August 26. The observance marked the precise date in historical records when a baby named Bridget Monahans was baptized

(Please See **BIG SPRING/9**)

## September 2007

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

## THIS MONTH In the Diocese

- 8 -- SAN ANGELO**, Sacred Heart Cathedral – Rite of Candidacy for Deacon Candidates, 1 p.m.
  - 9 -- MIDLAND**, St. Ann – Organ Dedication Concert, 7:30 p.m.
  - 16 --** Catechetical Sunday
  - 23 -- JUNCTION**, St. Theresa – Mass to Dedicate the New Church, 11:15 a.m.
  - 24 --** Family Day
  - 27 -- SAN ANGELO**, Christ King Retreat Center – Social Justice Workshop, 7-9 p.m.
  - Oct. 7 --** Respect Life Sunday
- DIOCESAN DATES/Pg. 4**  
**FESTIVAL CALENDAR/Pg. 5**

## INSIDE THIS MONTH'S ANGELUS...

### From the Bishop's Desk



The annual Respect Life Program for the entire U.S. Catholic Church begins on Sunday, October 7, 2007. As in the past, all parishes will be receiving much information and material designed to help all of us become better educated and involved in the critical pro-life issues that face us today.

Page 2



### Criticism good

Msgr. George Ratzinger, left, says criticism of his brother's pontificate is a sign of success.

Page 12

### Deacons prepare

Almost two years ago, men and women from all over the San Angelo Diocese gathered at Christ the King Retreat Center in San Angelo to begin the process of discerning a vocation. The men began an intensive examination of a possible call to the diaconate. The wives of the men were also examining the realities of possibly being married to clergymen in the Catholic Church. Together they studied, prayed, celebrated liturgies and completed a huge variety of classes, homework assignments, supervised ministry and spiritual direction experiences. / **Page 3**

### From the Editor

No, it's not your imagination: The copy of The West Texas Angelus you're holding in your hands is smaller. If you live in San Angelo and read the Standard-Times, or in Abilene and read the Reporter-News, or if you're a Midland reader of the Reporter-Telegram, you've already experienced the shrinking of the American newspaper, and that's a good thing if only because the shrinkage is helping prolong the survival of the print medium. / **Page 3**



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From the Bishop's Desk

# Respect Life Sunday: The Infant in My Womb Leaped for Joy

(Respect Life Sunday is October 7, 2007)

By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

The annual Respect Life Program for the entire U.S. Catholic Church begins on Sunday, October 7. As in the past, all parishes will be receiving much information and material designed to help all of us become better educated and involved in the critical pro-life issues that face us today.

The theme for this year's Respect Life Program is "The Infant in My Womb Leaped for Joy." These words of Elizabeth were spoken to Mary during the visit Mary

paid to her relative who was expecting a precious baby, John the Baptist. Only a few days before, Mary had received the unbelievable news that she had been chosen by God the Father to be the Mother of the God-man, Jesus Christ.

We know the story. The Archangel Gabriel had announced to the Virgin Mary God's invitation to become the mother of the Messiah. As further evidence that nothing is impossible for God, Mary's elderly cousin, Elizabeth, thought to be barren, was also expecting a child, John the Baptist.

Both Elizabeth's pregnancy and Mary's—despite their unusual circumstances—are cause for rejoicing. By the

power of the Holy Spirit, the unborn child Jesus announces his presence to John, his unborn cousin. John leaps for joy, proclaiming to his mother, in effect: "Behold! The Lamb of God!" Elizabeth, too, is then filled with the Holy Spirit, and recognizes Mary as the blessed tabernacle of our Lord and Savior. Through the evangelical witness and sacrificial love of Mary, Jesus, and John, the work of our salvation has begun.

To be sure, most parents love their children generously and even unconditionally. But today the inherent, priceless value of every child—as a unique individual

(Please See BISHOP/14)



Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

## DIOCESAN BRIEFS

### Catholic Charismatic Renewal

ABILENE -- Aggie Neck will be the featured presenter for the 40th Anniversary Diocesan Conference of Charismatic Renewal to be held at Abilene Holy Family on Sept. 21-22. A leader in Catholic Charismatic Renewal since 1972, Aggie serves as Chair of the National Service Committee for Catholic Charismatic Renewal and is Co-Director at Servant House, a Catholic Charismatic House of Prayer in Marksville, La.

Aggie is an exciting and dynamic speaker who operates strongly in the prophetic gifts. Her talks will be centered on the conference's theme "Thy Will Be Done." She will also speak on the insights of Pope Benedict XVI in his latest book "Jesus of Nazareth" and share her reflections of the Renewal Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow. All are invited

The conference schedule is:

**Friday, Sept. 21:** 7-9 p.m. Insights, sharing and celebrating the last 40 years of Renewal in our Diocese, Nationally and Internationally.

**Saturday, Sept. 22:** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Charismatic mass, Fr. Robert Bush Celebrant. Talks, Praise & Worship. Closing with Empowerment Session.

Registration begins Friday at 6:30 p.m. or Saturday 8:30 a.m. Cost is \$5 per person or \$10 for family. Pre-registration not required. Lunch provided. Love offering.

Abilene Holy Family Parish Center, 5410 Buffalo Gap Rd., Call 325-692-1820, 325-668-6828 for more information. Childcare will not be available.

### San Angelo Women's ACTS

SAN ANGELO -- San Angelo will be having its 2nd Women's ACTS retreat on **Sept. 27-30**. The theme of the ACTS (Adoration, Community, Theology and Service) retreat comes from Jn. 8:12 "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." Cost for the retreat is \$155. A \$50 deposit is

due at the time of registration. For more information, please call Muriel Emerson at 325-651-4633 or 325-450-6971, or Joan Braeutigan at 325-944-3344 or 325-374-6404. We are looking for businesses or individuals who would be able to support those individuals who would like to attend an ACTS retreat but are unable to afford it.

### Midland man honored

Jesse Sandoval, Deputy for District 177 of the Knights of Columbus received the Lone Star Award for 2006-07. His district had 100 percent membership and 100 percent insurance coverage for KC members. Besides his responsibilities as District Deputy for the Knights, he still finds time to coordinate and lead the Search program for the diocese, co-direct the Peer Ministry and Senior Youth Group for St. Stephen in Midland and serves on the Parish Council at St. Stephen's.



Sandoval

### Peters new Pro Life Director

Jerry Michael Peters of Mertzson has been named to succeed John Petrie as Pro-Life Director of the Diocese of San Angelo. Petrie resigned the position for family reasons.

### Criminal Justice Training

Date	Abilene Deanery Location	Time
Sept. 10	Holy Family/Abilene	7 pm
Sept. 22	St Mary/Brownwood	9 am
Sept 29	San Angelo Deanery Holy Angels/SAngeLO	9 am

### Ethics Workshops dates

Date	Midland/Odessa Deanery	Time
Sept 10	St. Ann/Midland	7-10 pm

### KC positions open

Looking for a practical Catholic man who has some sales experience, an outgoing personality, is trustworthy, competitive, aggressive, and is looking for a career serving

brother knights and their families. (Must have a good job history.) Position includes group life, medical insurance, disability insurance, award trips, plus a pension plan and 401K.

Contact: James Seideman.

Phone: 877.797.5632

e-mail: james.seideman@kofc.org

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Due to the growth of the Knights of Columbus in Texas we have openings in various places in the San Angelo Diocese. This is a unique opportunity to run your own business as a Knights of Columbus Field Agent.

Perfect for an outgoing self-starter, selling Fraternal Benefits to our members. If qualified you'll earn better than average income. Excellent benefits and training. You need to have some sales experience, a good work record, ambition to succeed and good people skills.

For more information or an interview, please contact James Seideman, General Agent, toll free, at 877.797.5632.

### Annual Diocesan Directory

For the last two years, the Angelus has published its Diocesan Directory, a 4-page pullout section, in the September issue. The directory is meant as a pull-and-save guide that West Texas Catholics can save and refer to throughout the year and lists parish addresses, phone numbers, Mass times and priests. We have decided this year to wait

until after the first of the year to publish this year's directory since the annual Official Directory released by the Pastoral Center comes out to coincide with the church year.

We hope to publish the next edition of the Diocesan Directory sometime shortly after the beginning of 2008.

### Marriage Encounter Weekend

Married Couples: Marriage Encounter offers a weekend experience designed to give couples the opportunity to learn a technique of loving communication that they can use for the rest of their lives. The next Marriage Encounter weekend will be in Midland on Oct. 26-28. For more information or to register for the weekend, call Valentin and Maria Gomez 325.835.7044 [vgomez@wcc.net](mailto:vgomez@wcc.net).

### Lake Ivie levels Increase

Bishop Pfeifer reports that Lake O.H. Ivie is at 69 percent capacity now. The night of the Bishop's Mass of Thanksgiving in mid-June, when prayers for additional rainfall and increased water levels was held, Okla Thorton, representative of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, reported that the lake was 47 percent full.

"Okla attributes this (increase) to our Mass and prayer. All the praise goes to our loving God," Pfeifer said.

**Loved One In Jail / Prison?**  
**"Let us help you"**

Criminal Justice Ministry  
 Diocesan Office  
**325-651-7500**

[www.san-angelo-diocese.org/cjm.html](http://www.san-angelo-diocese.org/cjm.html)



# Deacons set for Ordination candidacy

By Tim Graham  
Diocesan Diaconate Director

Almost two years ago, men and women from all over the San Angelo Diocese gathered at Christ the King Retreat Center in San Angelo to begin the process of discerning a vocation. The men began an intensive examination of a possible call to the diaconate. The wives of the men were also examining the realities of possibly being married to clergymen in the Catholic Church. Together they studied, prayed, celebrated liturgies and completed a huge variety of classes, homework assignments, supervised ministry and spiritual direction experiences. They are now beginning a new phase of that course of study and preparation. On Sept. 8, they will become Candidates for ordination in the summer of 2010. The celebration will take place at the Cathedral in San Angelo with Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI, presiding, and other clergy, religious women and lay people from all over the diocese assisting with an affirmation of the candidates' efforts to become servant leaders.

The vocation of a permanent deacon in the Catholic Church goes back to the very beginnings of

(Please See **DIACONATE/15**)



## Candidates for the Diaconate

Aguirre, Frank - Sacred Heart Cathedral, San Angelo  
Benavides, Carlos - Our Lady of Lourdes, Andrews

Camarillo, Alfred - St. Mary's, Odessa  
Delgado, Gilbert - St. Vincent, Abilene  
Gonzalez, Andy - St. Margaret, San Angelo  
Hammons, Walter - Holy Angels, San Angelo  
Hendon, Leonard Jr. - St. Stephen's, Midland  
Hennessey, Dwain - Sacred Heart, Abilene  
Holguin, Danny - St. Joseph's, Ft. Stockton  
Lange, Allen - St. Ambrose, Wall  
Lange, Stanley - St. Thomas, Miles  
Lopez, Michael - St. Mary's, San Angelo  
Main, Marc - St. Francis, Abilene  
Mata, Luis, Sr. - Our Lady of Guadalupe, Midland

Mata, Marcos - St. Mary's, San Angelo  
Medina, Freddy - Holy Angels, San Angelo  
Mendez, Hector - St. Mary's, Odessa

Moreno, Robert - Our Lady of Guadalupe, Midland  
Napolos, Jesus - Our Lady of Guadalupe, Midland

Nunez, Ray - Sacred Heart, Coleman  
Ramirez, Victor - St. Vincent, Abilene  
Rhodes, Gary - Holy Family, Abilene  
Sanchez, Claudio - St. Joseph's, San Angelo  
Selvera, Robert - St. Patrick's, Brady  
Shannahan, Dan - St. Ambrose, Wall  
Torres, Ricardo - Our Lady of Guadalupe, Midland

Vasquez, Jesse - Sacred Heart, Abilene  
Vaughan, Daniel - Holy Family, Abilene  
Villarreal, Luis - St. Joseph's, Ft. Stockton  
Workman, David - St. Mary's, Ballinger  
Zimmerman, Steve - Cathedral, San Angelo

From the Editor

# The incredible shrinking Angelus

By Jimmy Patterson

Your first question when holding this issue of *The West Texas Angelus* will no doubt be: *So, where's the rest of it?*

The good folks in the *San Angelo Standard Times* production department were informed earlier this year by their parent corporation, Scripps, in Washington, that they would be faced with a reduction in newsprint size effective in August. And so that reduction was, for obvious reasons, passed along to its commercial print jobs along the way; *The Angelus* is printed at the *Standard-Times*.

We learned a few weeks ago about the change. It is an industry-wide, cost-based measure and if you live in San Angelo or Abilene, chances are pretty decent that you've already noticed the reduction. The *Standard-Times* reduced the size of its daily product Aug. 26. For the *Angelus*, the cut was roughly 16-18 percent and that translates into the loss of approximately 2.5 pages.

Although future editions of *The Angelus* will continue to be the size of the one you are holding, it will be a temporary loss of total content. Effective with our October edition, we hope to increase our page count to 20 each month, which will more than compensate for the new smaller size and in fact will give us roughly one more page of "news hole" each month.

With the advent of new media, especially the Internet, newspaper corporations have seen a coming crisis in their daily print product for years. Circulation totals continue to fall nationwide. Papers are trying different ideas to stay alive and afloat.

Some have even forecast the total demise of the daily newspaper. On the other hand, 12 years ago I attended a newspaper conference in Florida where a technology expert, holding a tablet-size computer predicted that newspapers would one day be read on a device such as the one he was holding. It was transportable and convenient. And what's more, the expert insisted, newspapers would move to the new model within 10 years. Well, it's 12 years later, and we still hold newspapers and get ink smudges on our fingers everyday (if we are religious readers).

Yes this newspaper is smaller. But so are *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, and newspapers throughout the Scripps chain from San Angelo and Abilene to Cincinnati, Memphis and Denver. The Hearst Corporation cut its newspapers' size down in the late '90s from San Francisco to San Antonio to Midland and all points in between.

We may be smaller. But we, and others, are still here, thank goodness. We just have to make adjustments for the sake of the future of this long-held tradition of print news.

*Jimmy Patterson is editor of the West Texas Angelus.*



Patterson

Del Escritorio del Obispo

## El niño salto de alegría en mis entrañas

*Domingo de Respetar la Vida -  
7 de octubre, 2007*

por el Obispo Miguel Pfeifer

El Programa de Respetar la Vida anual para la entera Iglesia Católica de los Estados Unidos comienza el domingo, 7 de octubre del 2007. Como en el pasado, todas las parroquias recibirán mucha información y material diseñados para ayudar a todos nosotros a llegar a estar mejor educado e implicado en los temas críticos de pro-vida que nos afrentan hoy.

El tema para el Programa de Respetar la Vida este año es "El Niño Saltó de Alegría en mis Entrañas." Estas palabras de Elizabeth fueron habladas a María

durante la visita que María hizo a su pariente quien esperaba un bebé precioso, Juan el Bautista. Solo unos cuantos días antes, María había recibido noticias increíbles que había sido escogida por Dios nuestro Padre para que fuera la madre del Hombre Dios, Cristo Jesús.

Conocemos la historia. El Arcángel Gabriel anuncia a la Virgen María la invitación de Dios para convertirse en la madre del Mesías. Para mostrar que nada es imposible para Dios, la prima anciana de María, Isabel, a quien se creía estéril, también está esperando un niño: San Juan Bautista.

Los embarazos de Isabel y María—a pesar de sus extrañas circunstancias—son causa de regocijo.

Por el poder del Espíritu Santo, el niño Jesús, antes de nacer, anuncia su presencia a su primo Juan, también aún por nacer, quien salta de alegría, proclamando a su madre: "¡Mira! ¡El Cordero de Dios!" Isabel, a su vez, se llena del Espíritu Santo y reconoce a María como el tabernáculo sagrado de nuestro Señor y Salvador. Por el testimonio evangélico y el amor sacrificado de María, Jesús y Juan, comienza la obra de nuestra salvación.

La mayoría de los padres ama a sus hijos generosamente y sin condiciones. Hoy en día el valor inherente, que no tiene precio, de cada niño—como individuo único, creado y amado por Dios—ya no es creado

(Please See **OBISPO/14**)



Pfeifer

**DIOCESAN DATES****Bishop's Calendar****SEPTEMBER**

**6 -- MIDLAND**, St. Ann – Mass for Students at 8:30 a.m.  
**8 -- SAN ANGELO**, Sacred Heart Cathedral – Rite of Candidacy for Deacon Candidates at 1:00 p.m.  
**9 -- MIDLAND**, St. Ann – Organ Dedication Concert at 7:30 p.m.  
**11 -- SAN ANGELO**, Christ the King Retreat Center – Co-Workers in the Vineyard Workshop -10:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
**11- SAN ANGELO**, 11 a.m. Memorial Service at 911 Memorial  
**SAN ANGELO**, Holy Angels – Presentation to RCIA at 6:30 pm.  
**12-14 -- Rest and Prayer**  
**16-17 -- SAN ANTONIO** – Meeting of Texas Bishops  
**18 -- SAN ANGELO**, Diocesan Pastoral Center – Staff Mass at 8:30 a.m. and Staff Meeting at 11:00 a.m.  
**19 -- SAN ANGELO** Diocesan Pastoral Center – Meeting of International Priests 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon  
**22 -- SAN ANGELO** – Blessing of Motorcycle Rally in Memory of Cheyenne Fiveash at 8:00 a.m.  
**23 -- JUNCTION**, St. Theresa – Mass to Dedicate the New Church at 11:15 a.m.  
**24 -- SAN ANGELO**, Diocesan Pastoral Center – Liturgy Commission meeting at 10:00 a.m.  
**25 -- SAN ANGELO**, Diocesan Pastoral Center – Presbyteral Council Mtng, 11 a.m.  
**26 -- SAN ANGELO**, Newman Center – Mass at Noon  
**27 -- SAN ANGELO**, Christ King Retreat Center – Social Justice Workshop -7-9 p.m.  
**SEPT 29-OCT. 1 -- PHILADELPHIA**, 100th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the USA

**OCTOBER**

**2 -- ODESSA**, St. Elizabeth – Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.  
**3 -- MIDLAND**, Meeting on Drugs at 10:30 a.m.  
**4 -- ODESSA**, St. Elizabeth – Red Mass at 7:00 p.m.  
**5 -- SAN ANGELO**, Newman Center–Talk on Social Justice at 12:00 noon  
**6 -- ODESSA**, St. Mary – Confirmation at 4:00 p.m.  
**7 -- SAN ANGELO**, St. Joseph – Mass at 11:15 a.m.

Sunset Mall- Lifechain at 2:00 p.m.  
**9 -- SAN ANGELO**, Diocesan Pastoral Center – Legal Team at 11:00 a.m.

**SAN ANGELO**, St. Joseph –The Living Rosary at 6:30 p.m.

**10 -- SAN ANGELO**, Diocesan Pastoral Center – Staff Mass 8:30 –Meeting at 11:00 a.m.

**11-12 -- SAN ANTONIO**, Board Meeting of MACC

**13-15 -- OKLAHOMA CITY**, Meeting of the Holy Sepulchre

**16 -- ABILENE**, Holy Family – Talk to RCIA Groups at 6:30 p.m.

**17 -- CRANE**, Good Shepherd – Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

**18 -- SAN ANGELO**, Sacred Heart Cathedral – White Mass at 6:30 p.m.

**20-21 -- BEAUMONT**, St. Anthony Cathedral – Centenary Mass

**25 -- ABILENE**, Sacred Heart – Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

**26 -- SAN ANGELO**, Diocesan Pastoral Center – Diocesan Liturgy Comm.

**26-28 -- SAN ANTONIO**, Youth Retreat at the Grotto

**30 -- MIDLAND**, St. Stephen – Speak to RCIA Groups at 6:30 p.m.

**Christ The King  
Retreat Center****SEPTEMBER**

**7-9 --** Diaconate Training Program Beginning Experience  
**10 --** Heart of Mercy Prayer Group  
**11 --** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 5-6:00 p.m.  
 Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord.  
**14-16 --** Engaged Encounter  
**16 --** Natural Family Planning Class 4-6 p.m.  
**17 --** Heart of Mercy Prayer Group  
**18 --** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 5-6:00 p.m.  
**20-23 --** Women's Walk to Emmaus  
**24 --** Heart of Mercy Prayer Group  
**25 --** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 5-6:00 p.m.  
**27-30 --** CKRC Women's ACTS Retreat.

**NECROLOGY-OCTOBER**

**4 --** Deacon Thomas Lambdin (1982)  
**5 --** Rev. William Meagher, OMI (1970)  
**7 --** Rev. Francis Schouttetten, OMI (2002)  
**15 --** Rev. James Norman, OMI (1987)  
**21 --** Deacon Richard Blake (1989)

# 8 young missionaries evangelize in the diocese

**By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI**

Eight young people, college-age and older, spent seven weeks of their summer dedicated to the Lord in the work of evangelization. They worked with youth who finished the 7, 8, and 9 grades. This event, called the Summer Catholic Missionary Experience for Youth, began with two and one-half weeks of training at St. Joseph Church in San Angelo by Father Bob Bush and lay leaders. This youth team, composed of three men and five women worked in parishes in Abilene, San Angelo, Ozona and Big Lake. They stayed mostly in parish halls or homes, and each week visited homes, put on two youth rallies, and conducted a weekend retreat. These missionaries called themselves "Love and Message Bearers," using the acronym "L.A.M.B." for short. The participants Cristina Aguirre, Abraham Franco, Ryan Rojo and Melisa Tercero from Odessa; Nancy Agúndiz from Fort Stockton; Karina Mendoza from San

Antonio (formerly from Odessa); Karina Ríos from Big Lake; and Brandon Young from Abilene came to a pre-training Discernment Weekend in which they first determined their readiness and willingness to serve in this capacity this summer. The discernment started with one simple statement, "The best way to change the world is to start at home." Prayers were requested many months in advance for God's guidance in forming these evangelizers. Some began praying for the Team's formation as early as September 2006. God answered their prayers so the eight on the team could share one of the most life-changing experiences of their lives. During the discernment process at Sacred Heart Church in Abilene, a team of older adults familiar with the Missionary Experience helped the young people to see if this was really what God wanted them to do.

The training prepared them for the fruitful ministry that followed. They visited

(Please See **MISSION/15**)

# Encountering the living Christ

**By Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI**

The annual celebration of Catechetical Sunday will take place this year on Sept. 16, focusing on the theme, CATECHESIS: ENCOUNTERING THE LIVING CHRIST.

Catechetical ministry is, as you know, an especially effective opportunity to teach what it means to live like Christ in our actions and our words. Catechists provide a powerful example of people who have made Christ the foundation of their lives and are willing to share their witness with others. The annual celebration of Catechetical Sunday is a way for parishes throughout our diocese and across the country to recognize and thank all those who give generously of their time and gifts in the work of catechesis.

I take this opportunity to thank all the catechists and teachers of religious education of our diocese who participate in this basic ministry which is vitally important for all, but especially for young people. Catechesis is the "backbone" ministry of every community. More and more I encourage our pastors select qualified people from our parishes to be trained as cate-

► **Catechetical Sunday:**  
September 16, 2007

chists by our Office of Education and Formation. I am deeply grateful to Sister Hilda Marotta, OSF Director and also Sister Adelina Garcia, OSF Associate Director and Youth Director, and those who serve with them for the fine leadership they provide for this diocesan ministry. We have excellent material and we have fine programs of training and formation, and I strongly encourage more and more people to take part in these programs.

As we celebrate this Sunday, I encourage our pastors to recognize the catechists and those who teach religion, and to offer them a special blessing on Catechetical Sunday. May Jesus the Good Shepherd and the Teacher of all of us guide us as we teach others about him so that we can lead all people to have an encounter with the living Christ. Thank you for your prayers and cooperation. May Christ continue to bless you and may Mary our Mother watch over you.

## PARISH FESTIVALS

**Sept. 8--Sacred Heart, Menard**

**Sacred Heart** will host its Fall Festival **Sept. 8, at Club Victoria** in Menard beginning at 11 a.m. with games; fajita dinner at 11:30 a.m.; a dance from 9 p.m.-1 a.m. features Ozona's Estilo Band, with vocals by Hope Cardenas.

**Sept. 9 -- St. Mary, Ballinger**

**St. Mary, Star of the Sea in Ballinger** will hold its annual Fall Festival on **Sun., Sept. 9th.** A meal of beef fajitas begins at 11 a.m. with refried beans, Spanish rice, salad. Bingo, kid's games and a country store will also be featured before the auction begins at 1 p.m. Antiques, handcrafted quilts and many other items are included. All are invited to attend.

**Sep. 15-16--St. Margaret, Big Lake**

7th Annual Family Festival featuring men's softball tournament, Paul Romero Washer Tournament, King & Queen Contest, kids booths, food booths, games, a free street dance. Saturday from 4-6 p.m. Call church office, 325-884-3221 for more information.

**Sept. 16--St. Therese,**

**Carlsbad/St. Paschal, Sterling City**  
The **St. Therese-Carlsbad/St. Paschal-Sterling City** Annual Fall Festival will be held **Sun., Sept. 16,** at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 3636 N. Bryant, San Angelo. A BBQ brisket/homemade German sausage dinner will be served from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. The meal may also be purchased from a drive-thru at the same location. An auction featuring donations from various merchants and parishioners will begin at 1:15 p.m. A Country Store, Silent Auction, Bingo and games will be available. The public is invited to attend.

**Sept. 29 -- St. Ann's, Midland**

**St. Ann's of Midland** will host the 59th annual Family Fair and carnival on the church grounds (Illinois @ Avenue M) on **Sat., Sept. 29, from 10 am-10 pm.** Additional carnival hours are 6-10 pm on Sept. 27-28 and 1-6 pm on Sept. 30. The raffle's 1st prize is a 2007 Ford Mustang (MSRP \$21,335), 2nd Prize - \$1,000 HEB Shopping Spree, and 3rd prize - \$500 Chevron gas card. There will be non-smoking bingo, arts and crafts, a country store, and the famous odds and ends booths. Great food available including burgers, tacos, fajitas, nachos, quesadillas, turkey legs, funnel cakes and more. There is something for everyone to enjoy including loads of children's games!!! For more information, please call 432-682-6303. The Family Fair benefits St. Ann's Catholic School.

**Sept. 29--St. Theresa-Junction**

The St. Theresa Catholic Church Festival is **Sept. 29,** starting at 10:00 A.M., Activities include bingo, auction, food, raffle, games, and a street dance.

**Sept. 30 -- Immaculate Conception, Knickerbocker**

Immaculate Conception Church, Knickerbocker, **Sun., Sept. 30,** will host its annual Fall Festival, **Sun., Sept. 30,** featuring mesquite brisket/sausage plates, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Also featuring raffle-bingo-auction-games.

**Oct. 6 -- Holy Family, Abilene**

**Sat., Oct. 6th Noon-10 PM**  
**"Catch the Spirit" FallFest 2007**  
5410 Buffalo Gap Rd  
Family Fun from Start to Finish  
Winner's Choice Raffle Great Food  
Games & BINGO Live Entertainment  
5K Run (8:30 AM) Silent Auction  
Dodgeball Tourney  
Family Dance (8-10 PM)  
For more information: 325.692.1820

**Oct. 7--St. Joseph's, San Angelo**

**St. Joseph's** in San Angelo will host its annual festival **Sunday, Oct. 7.** A turkey and dressing dinner with all the trimmings will be served. Also featuring a country store, silent auction, game booth, music and fun for the entire family. Festival will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall on N. Bryant in San Angelo.

**Oct. 7 -- St. Lawrence**

The **ST. LAWRENCE FALL FESTIVAL** will be held on **Sun., Oct. 7** on the church grounds. There will be a BBQ brisket/German Sausage lunch from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Uncooked sausage will be sold by the pound beginning at 10:30 a.m. There will be bingo, children's booths, silent auction and live auction beginning at 2. Lots of fun and entertainment for entire family.

**Oct. 13 -- St. Mary Queen of Peace, Brownwood**

**St. Mary Queen of Peace** will hold its annual Fall Festival **Sat., Oct. 13th, 10 am-5 pm,** featuring a live and silent auction, Country Store, Mystery Gifts, Loteria, children's petting zoo and activities, games and inflatables for youth, and delicious food including Gorditas.

**Oct. 14 -- St. Boniface, Olfen Saint Boniface Fall Festival Sun., Oct. 14**

Featuring Homemade Sausage made in Olfen by parishioners.  
11 am. Dining Room Lunch Meal (\$7 Plates-to-go & Drive-thru)  
Noon-Games & Entertainment; 1 pm. Auction Festivities; 3 pm. Candy Drop Turkey, Dressing & Sausage Meal Adults \$7, Children 10 & Under \$4

**Oct. 21 -- St. Ambrose, Wall**

**St. Ambrose Fall Festival, 11 am- 2 pm**  
Turkey, Dressing, Sausage Dinner  
Adults \$7.00, Child \$3.00

**Oct. 21--Sacred Heart, Coleman**

The 27th annual **Texas Fiesta at Sacred Heart** is scheduled for **11 a.m.-5 p.m., Oct. 21** on San Saba Street in Coleman. An authentic Mexican Dinner will be served from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and will feature enchiladas, tacos, beans, rice, salad, drinks and a dessert. Plates \$6 adults, \$3 children. Children's games, horseshoe tournament, cow patty bingo, concessions, silent auction, country store, cake walk and more. Team signups begin Oct. 1 ... bids on cow patty bingo open Oct. 1. Dinner and raffle tickets on sale now from parishioners.

**Nov. 11 -- St. Joseph, Rowena**

The 85th Annual **St. Joseph Fall Festival** in Rowena will be held **Sun., Nov. 11.**

# Diocese in full compliance after fourth annual Safe Environment Audit, report

During the week of July 16-20, auditors from the Gavin Group of Boston, an independent firm commissioned by the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB), visited the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo to evaluate its Safe Environment Programs to insure compliance with the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

"I am happy to report that the Gavin Group has informed the Diocese that 'Based on the analysis of the results of the 2007 Full Audit of the Diocese of San Angelo, you have been found to be in compliance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People,'" according to Most Rev.

Michael D. Pfeifer, Bishop of San Angelo.

The Charter, originally adopted by the USCCB in November 2002, sets forth specific requirements which enable dioceses across the country to establish safe environment programs to protect children and youth from sexual abuse. During this audit, Diocesan Safe Environment Policies; Safe Environment Programs for church personnel, parents, and children; as well as procedures for assisting victims of abuse were examined.

"Since implementation of the Charter, the Diocese has undergone three previous annual audits in which we were found to be in full compliance with all articles of the Charter,"

Pfeifer said. "I am pleased with the results of this audit which represent the hard work of so many people throughout our diocese to provide a safe environment for all of our children and youth in the many programs through which we minister to them. The audit has given us a great opportunity to step back and see what we have accomplished and explore areas where we can make adjustments or improvements. We will continue to move forward, continuing our efforts not only to provide a safe environment for our children and youth in our church programs, but to raise the awareness of child sexual abuse and steps that everyone can take to help protect their children."

## Diocesan Policy Manual: Guidelines for Sunday celebrations in Absence of a Priest

**Background**

In 1988, the Holy See released the Directory for Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of A Priest. "The fundamental point of the entire Directory is to ensure, in the best way possible and in every situation, the Christian celebration of Sunday. This means remembering that the Mass remains the proper way of celebrating Sunday, but also means recognizing the presence of important elements even when Mass cannot be celebrated." The Directory recognizes the need for previously unforeseen pastoral arrangements to be made in order to sustain the community that typically assembles on Sunday.

The Rite Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest was approved for use in the Dioceses of the United States of America by the United States Conference of Bishops March 2007. Effective August 1, 2007 this edition of the Rite is to be used by the parishes of the Diocese of San Angelo.

**Conditions for Use of the Rite**

It is of paramount importance that the parish or mission community still come together to celebrate the resurrection of the Lord when a priest is absent. If, in the judgment of the diocesan bishop, it is not practical or possible for the community to participate in the celebration of Mass in another parish, they should assemble for Sunday worship in their own community under the leadership of a person whom the bishop and pastor have designated and trained to lead them in this Rite.

These services are to be held occasionally and it is the bishop who is to decide the number of celebrations that a community will offer on such Sundays when a priest is absent. It is the bishop who is to grant approval for implementing when and where such services may be held. Moreover, these services are to occur "under the pastoral ministry of a priest who has the responsibility for the particular community." Each pastor shall instruct and educate the community on the Rite.

Parish use of the Rite, Sunday Celebration in the Absence of a Priest, shall be limited to emergency situations and to those infrequent situations where prior planning has indicated its pastoral necessity with the approval of the bishop. For example:

1. In emergencies which arise (e.g., sudden sickness; or the unplanned absence of the priest when no other priest is available), the use of Sunday Celebration in the Absence of a Priest is permitted when a properly trained and commissioned leader of prayer is available.

2. Deaneries are to develop schedules and plans to provide priestly coverage for Mass and to make a contact list (with appropriate telephone numbers) to provide extra consecrated hosts when needed.

3. In situations where the absence of a priest is anticipated, a pastor is to create procedures regarding how to meet the pastoral needs of those whom

(Please See **GUIDELINES/6**)



Images of children and families taken during the Respect Life Mass in Midland in August.

Photos by Jimmy Patterson

## Respect Life Mass draws almost 400 to Midland Prayer Garden

It would turn out to be one of the hottest days of the summer, but also one of the most beautiful. And not coincidentally, almost 400 people assembled the morning of August 10 at The Prayer Garden in downtown Midland for the diocese's annual Respect Life Mass.

The Mass was celebrated in memory of the millions of babies who have been aborted since the Roe v. Wade decision and as an appeal to those who work at Planned Parenthood and other abortion clinics to stop.

The crowd swelled somewhat for the Mass as a bus load of 60 parishioners from the Diocese of Amarillo attended in anticipation of their bishop, the Most Rev. John Yanta, also attending. Yanta, though, was prevented from attending due to health reasons and the heat in Midland that day.

"We pray that God will use people to bring closure to the Planned Parenthood death centers," said San Angelo Bishop Michael Pfeifer, who presided over the Mass. "Every pro-Life organization must take a stand against these centers."

Pfeifer noted that several abortion clinics in Amarillo have already closed down because of the proactive efforts of Pro-Life people in the Panhandle.



## Bishops turn focus on Sacrament of marriage; parenting also stressed

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has unveiled a multi-year campaign to call attention to the meaning and value of married life for the church and society. The NATIONAL PASTORAL INITIATIVE FOR MARRIAGE will seek to bring Catholic belief into dialogue with contemporary needs as the bishops urge the Catholic Church to become a community of hope and help for marriages and to join others in building a culture of marriage.

The initiative weaves together the Catholic faith tradition and its pastoral practice, the data of social science, and the experience of married couples to offer guidance and resources, including a pastoral letter, in order to promote, strengthen, sustain and restore marriages.

The campaign will include public service announcements on TV, radio and in newspapers, as well as the forming of focus groups with married couples across the country, a pastoral letter from bishops and a colloquium on the sacramentality of marriage in October.

The bishops' pastoral letter is expected to be written and released by 2008 and program implementation should occur in 2008 and beyond in the form of parish resource development, implementation and evaluation.

The *West Texas Angelus* will feature stories on the Sacrament of Marriage throughout the campaign as well.

"This is an ongoing effort the bishops are trying to put together in efforts to clarify how we see marriage," said San Angelo Bishop Michael Pfeifer. "We are planning to state how we have seen marriage going all the way back to Christ's time and how we see it today, as well as to help people live out their marriages. We plan also to state how we see homosexual marriage, or same sex marriage, and we will point out our thoughts on that subject as well."

Pfeifer said the bishops will also stress parenting in their statement on unions and how individuals go from marriage to the family.

## GUIDELINES

(From 6)

he shepherds whenever this Rite is employed. Such planning would involve pastor/pastoral administrator and parish staff.

4. Such services are to be held whenever pastoral necessity e.g., sudden sickness; or the unplanned absence of the priest when no other priest is available) demands this extra-ordinary Rite.

### Selection and Formation of Sunday Leaders of Prayer

The Diocesan Liturgy Commission is appointed by the bishop to ensure that the lay ministers who will lead the liturgical assembly are properly instructed and that those celebrations are conducted within liturgical norms.

The pastor/pastoral administrator in consultation with the parish staff will select lay leaders of prayer. These should not just be "volunteers" but people who exhibit:

- a living appreciation for Scripture and a deep reverence for

(Please See **GUIDELINES/16**)

*Family Day 2007***A day to eat dinner with your children, to become involved and show interest****By Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI**

Family Day is celebrated nationwide on the fourth Monday in September (Sept. 24). Family Day is a national movement that encourages parents to frequently eat dinner with their kids and to be involved in their children's lives. This one day set aside for Family Day should be an inspiration for families to take much more time to be together for sharing.

The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University launched Family Day in 2001 after more than a decade's worth of its research consistently found that the more often kids eat dinner with their families, the less likely they are to smoke, drink or use drugs. The report also found that frequent family dinners also associated with higher academic performance.

"America's drug problem is not going to be solved in courtrooms or legislative hearing rooms by judges and politicians. It will be solved in living rooms, dining rooms and across kitchen tables – by parents and families," said Joseph A. Califano, Jr, CASA's chairman and president and the former U.S. Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare.

Family Day is also a time for families to take time to pray together before a meal, and to share some reflections from the Bible which feeds us spiritually every day of our lives. "The family that prays together, stays together."

**Making Sense of Bioethics: Ethical blind spots****By Fr. Thad Pacholczyk**

When I traveled to Auschwitz a few years ago, one question played over and over in my mind: Did they know? Did the German people know what was happening in this camp near their own border, in their own occupied territories? With the trains coming and going year after year, with the long lines of prisoners and the billowing smokestacks, did they just turn a blind eye to the atrocities? Had they become desensitized to the point that they could no longer see the carefully choreographed death operations nearby?

**Fr. Pacholczyk**

Some concentration camps, like the one in Dachau, were set in comfortable suburbs right inside Germany itself, and the townsfolk could stroll past them during their daily routine. The grass in those suburbs continued to grow as green as anywhere else, young people got married, babies were born,

men went to work, and life went on.

Walking through a place like Dachau or Auschwitz, one wonders: could it ever happen again? Could a similar scenario play out today in middle-class America? Most would instinctively say "no" — after all, we live in a more enlightened time and culture. A more perceptive eye, however, can discern troubling parallels. Nowhere are these parallels more evident than in the bioethical issues of our day. Our society, in fact, faces virtually the same temptation that Germany did: the temptation to normalize certain well-scripted death operations in the midst of polite society.

If we look within our own culture and within our own time, we will see that suction machines have replaced smokestacks, and that Fertility Clinics and Women's Health Centers have replaced the barbed wire. Unborn humans and embryonic children are now dispatched with the same desensitized ease as camp inhabitants once were, and ne'er a word is mentioned in respectable society. Our great universities, which need to serve as a moral voice, remain mute or even foster such evil, as

does the press, and few dare mention the pall of death that quietly permeates the air.

We need look no further than the Planned Parenthood clinics which are dotted across our country. Future generations are likely to be appalled by the statistics: nearly 2 million deaths per year. They are sure to wonder about a people that ended the lives of their own children at the rate of 1 every 23 seconds through elective abortion. They are sure to ask, "How could they?" and, "Did they know?"

We need look no further than the fertility clinics present in every major American city. Future generations are sure to be scandalized by the numbers: in vitro fertilization making hundreds of thousands of embryonic humans, to be chilled in liquid nitrogen and turned into, in the words of one commentator, "kicksicles." They are sure to deplore the many other human embryos treated as objects, discarded as medical waste, poured down the sink or experimented upon and strip-mined for their embryonic stem cells.

(Please See **BIOETHICS/15**)**Concho Valley CARES sets goals, vision statement****(Editor's Note: Originally printed in the San Angelo Standard Times, Thurs., Aug.30)****By Bishop Michael Pfeifer**

Concho Valley Community Action and Resources for Empowerment and Success (C.A.R.E.S.) is now an active coalition in the Concho Valley. CV CARES started out as Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer's 'Community Committee of San Angelo and Tom Green County to Combat Drugs' and is now well on its way to making a significant impact on the substance abuse and alcoholism problem in San Angelo and the Concho Valley.

On March 28, Pfeifer called numerous community representatives to meet and discuss how to address the substance abuse

problem in our community. From this initial gathering, a core committee and sub-committee were established and began meeting to create a vision and outline goals and specific tasks for the group.

**The proposed vision statements:**

A. Our dream is that through God's guidance, we will unite our community and create an environment that encourages the elimination of substance abuse, so our children and families will thrive in a spiritual, moral, healthy and drug-free environment.

B. Our dream is that through God's guidance, we will unite our community, and create an environment that empowers its members, so our children and families will thrive in a spiritual, moral, healthy, drug-

free environment.

**The Coalition's goals are:**

**Goal 1:** To influence and promote positive community norms that strengthen family, spiritual and moral values.

**Goal 2:** To increase awareness and educate the public about substance abuse issues in the community.

**Goal 3:** To identify individual, family, school, peer, community and environmental risk and protective factors within our community.

**Goal 4:** To identify and include crucial community elements and compo-

(Please See **CARES/13**)**Pilgrim Journeys – Regina Tours**

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# CELEBRATIONS OF FAITH

## Church in Rowena, Odessa, Big Spring-area marks significant anniversaries of faith

### St. Joseph's, Rowena



St. Joseph's in Rowena, top left; a sunrise Mass at the Rowena cemetery, below; above right, veterans from St. Josephs were honored and a memorial in trIBUTE and memory to those who served was blessed by Bishop Pfeifer (near right).



Top right, Fr. Bhaskar Morugudi, pastor at St. Stephen's delivers the homily on the church's 100th birthday; middle right, Bishop Pfeifer blesses a parade watcher and at right organizers and Fr. Bhaskar join together with former St. Joseph's priests and Bishop Pfeifer during the Saturday portion of the two-day celebration.

PHOTOS BY RHONDA LEGG AND JIMMY PATTERSON



### St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Odessa



Above, San Angelo Bishop Michael Pfeifer; Fr. James Bridges, founding priest of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton; Galveston-Houston Archbishop Joseph Fiorenza, who was Bishop of San Angelo when St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was founded, and current pastor, Rev. Mark Miller. At right, the church's anniversary was attended by numerous clergy.

PHOTOS BY ALAN TORRE



### Big Spring-area Catholics



PHOTOS BY KAREN PATTERSON

Both Big Spring pastors, Rev. James Plagens, left, and Rev. Richard Regan, right, will be re-assigned within the diocese when the parishes in Big Spring come together in February 2008. A man and wife, center, pray during the 125th anniversary of the faith in the Big Spring area, a mass during which both Fr. Regan and Fr. Plagens provided homilies. Bishop Michael Pfeifer was the celebrant of the Mass.

## BIG SPRING: Parishioners to welcome Rev. Bernard Gully in February 2008

(From 1)

by a Carmelite priest who had travelled to Big Spring from Stanton, which was then known as Marienfeld, in 1882..

Bishop Michael Pfeifer, speaking at the 125th anniversary Mass, stressed the importance of coming together again. Once the transformation and unification begins, all four current parish church buildings -- three in Big Spring and one in Coahoma -- will continue to be utilized for now, with a central campus that will house a rectory and office facilities. A reduced schedule of Masses will begin and slowly, Big Spring area Catholics will ultimately end up attending Masses in one location, though that is years down the road.

"We have long been working on this effort to bring about one church community for Big Spring-area Catholics," said Fr. Plagens. "This gathering today is the result of much planning over the years and today and yesterday we have had almost 1,200 attend Mass. It is obvious to us that we can be much stronger and we could be much better as one church instead of four churches. We can accomplish so much more as one."

Fr. Regan said we always hear the term "the body of Christ" not "the bodies of Christ." Returning to one church would be coming full circle and returning to the way the church began in Big Spring and Coahoma, he said.

## Family

# Letting go as your kids grow up isn't easy

By Bill and Monica Dodds  
Catholic News Service

It should get easier, shouldn't it, letting our children move on to the next step -- the next stage -- in their lives?

It never does, does it? Dropping the little one at day care for the first time. Walking out of the kindergarten classroom. Seeing a child enter middle school, high school, college. Standing by as they enter the job market or the military. An overseas deployment. A move to another part of the country or the world.

It isn't that you don't want that child to grow in wisdom and age and grace. It's just that ...

Just that what?

Sometimes we're so busy parenting, we fail to notice that our child is changing, is, in so many ways, becoming a different person. Day to day, we aren't as likely to see it. It's at those

dramatic moments, those milestones, that the transformation is startling. It suddenly becomes clear we no longer have a preschooler.

Yes, those early years had their challenges and, yes, we looked forward to that little one heading off to school for a half day -- then a full day! -- but when that first school year actually begins -- it's then we realize the preschooler is gone.

And we loved that preschooler. Just as we loved that infant. Then that toddler. Just as, a few years down the road, we'll love that middle-schooler. That high-schooler. That college student. That young adult. (And, as some older seniors will tell you, eventually that middle-ager who has become eligible for AARP, senior discounts and social security. Don't say you weren't warned!)

Loving and letting go is at the heart of par-

enting. We love who they were. We love who they are. We love who they will be. We treasure all three.

### It Can Happen in Any Family

A friend of ours who is a parish director of religious education says one of her favorite stories in the Gospels is Mary and Joseph losing Jesus after a visit to Jerusalem. After three days (three days!), they find him in the Temple (Lk 2:41-52).

Mom: "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety."

Child: "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

"There you have proof," our friend maintains, "even in the very best of families, things get mixed up. And messed up. If it happens in

the Holy Family, you can be sure it's going to happen in yours."

Sometimes it's our children who remind us they're growing up. They really are old enough to do this or that. But other times, it's a mom or dad who has to point out to that child -- or teen -- that he or she isn't quite that old yet.

The opposite can happen, too. A parent may need to do a little prodding to get a son or daughter to take the next step. That could be one very loose interpretation of the story of the wedding feast at Cana (Jn 2:1-12). The sandal was on the other foot there! It was Mary who nudged Jesus to perform his first public miracle.

On the Web: Erma Bombeck's Perspective

Dr. James Dobson quotes humorist Erma Bombeck on letting children go at [www.focusonyourchild.com/relation/art1/A0000574.html](http://www.focusonyourchild.com/relation/art1/A0000574.html).

Bill & Monica Dodds

## Back to school: Back to homework

Admit it. Teaching sounds like a wonderful profession in mid-June but not as great come late-August. (Unless, of course, you're a true teacher and that's your God-given vocation. If that's the case, thank you for answering that call!) One of the drawbacks is: Teachers have homework. A lot of homework.

For most of us moms and dads, there was a golden time between A.D. and B.C. That is, After Diploma but Before Children. Graduating meant no more homework ... until those youngsters reached school age. Then, suddenly, worksheets, book reports, dioramas and more all returned with a vengeance.

Only now it isn't you having to complete an assignment (with your mom or dad harping in the background), it's your son or daughter -- foolishly -- putting off a project which would have been so much easier if only he or she had started it a little earlier and ...

And, no, you don't harp. You remind. Keep on task. Point out. Encourage. Remind. (Did we already mention "remind"? Well, remind again.)

On the other hand, when it comes to teachers, students and homework, some things really have changed. Or are slightly altered, anyway.

► Then it was "the dog ate my homework." Now it's "my hard drive crashed."

► In your time plagiarizing meant stealing material word-for-word from Funk & Wagnalls Encyclopedia. (Most likely something from Volume 1, A-Ameri, because that was the only one your parents bought. At the grocery store it had the introductory price of 19 cents. The other 30 or so volumes were more than a buck each.) Now it means copying and pasting from the Web site for the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institution or MySpace.

► Back in the day, a teacher's instruction included, "No referring to the times table printed on the inside flap of your Pee Chee." Now your child may be told, "Don't use your calculator."

► Way back when, your very elaborate science project required an empty oatmeal box and the cardboard from a roll of toilet paper. These days your child

may -- seriously -- request a computer chip and solar panel.

### On the Web: Homework Tips for Parents

The U.S. Department of Education has homework tips for parents at [www.ed.gov/parents/academic/involve/homework/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/parents/academic/involve/homework/index.html).

### Nine basics include:

1. Make sure your child has a quiet, well-lit place to do homework.
2. Make sure the materials your child needs, such as paper, pencils and a dictionary, are available.
3. Help your child with time management.
4. Be positive about homework.
5. When your child asks for help, provide guidance, not answers.
6. When the teacher asks that you play a role in homework, do it.
7. If homework is meant to be done by your child alone, stay away.
8. Stay informed; talk with your child's teacher.
9. Help your child figure out what is hard homework and what is easy homework, and have your child do the hard work first.

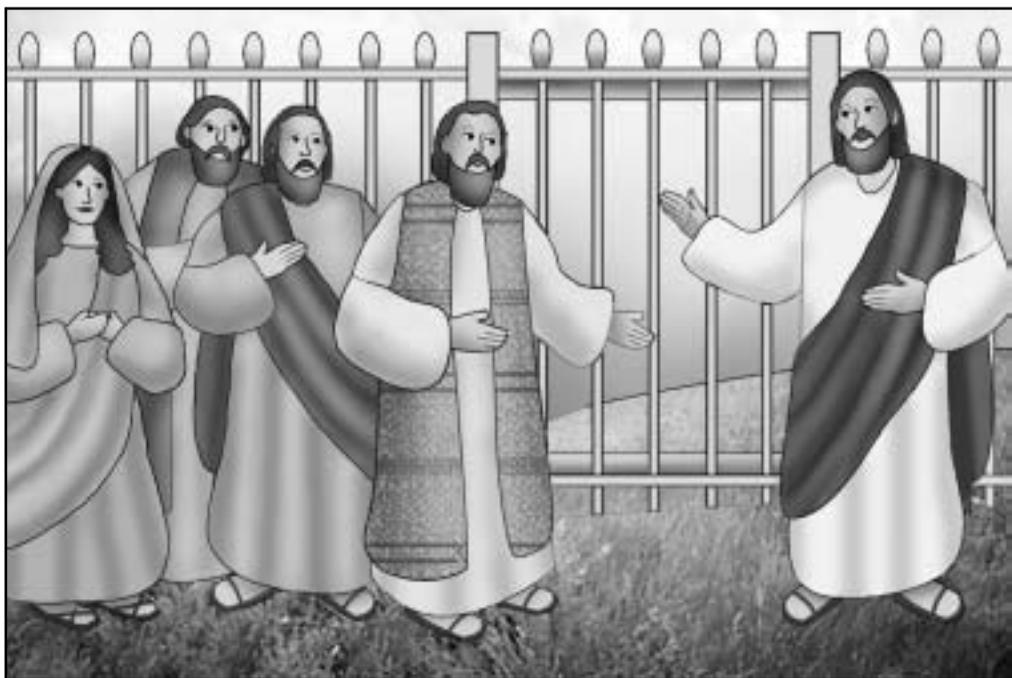


Bill & Monica Dodds



### Answers:

1. Theophilus
2. Herod
3. Zechariah
4. Elizabeth
5. Gabriel
6. Mary
7. John



**READ MORE ABOUT IT:**  
**Luke 13**  
**Q&A**

1. What did the man in the crowd ask Jesus?
2. What did the Pharisees tell Jesus?

**BIBLE ACCENT**

Pope Benedict XVI recently made a change that will lead to more frequent celebration of the Tridentine Mass, which is the name for the form of Latin Mass used prior to the Second Vatican Council.

The pope said he wanted the Tridentine Mass to be more available for today's Catholics, including those who have missed the old Latin Mass since the 1960s, when it was replaced by texts for Mass in English and other modern languages.

Pope Benedict said he hoped making the Tridentine Mass more available would help to heal divisions between the Roman Catholic Church and the followers of the late Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre. The liturgical changes of Vatican II were among a number of issues that led the French archbishop to leave the church in 1988.

**SPOTLIGHT ON SAINTS**  
**St. Ouen**

Ouen (600-684) was the son of a man named Authaire, who also was declared to be a saint and who often was visited by St. Columban. When Ouen served in the court of France's King Clotaire II, he was in the company of three other young men who became saints: Eligius, Wandrille and Didier.

Ouen built a monastery on some land he

received from the king's successor, Dagobert I. He appointed Ailea, a disciple of St. Columban, as its first abbot.

In 641, Ouen became the bishop of Rouen. From that time on, he frequently fasted and prayed. He built other monasteries, established programs to help people in need and sent missionaries around the world. He also still helped the French royalty and became an adviser to King Thierry III. We honor him on Aug. 24.

**BIBLE TRIVIA**

Luke wrote one of the Gospels and one other New Testament book. What was it?

Answer.: Acts of the Apostles.

**PUZZLE**

Fill in the blanks with the names or words that complete the following statements. The answers can be found in Luke 1:

Mary  
 Zechariah  
 Theophilus  
 John  
 Elizabeth  
 Herod  
 Gabriel

1. Luke addresses his book to this man.
2. This man was king of Judah.
3. This man was a priest.
4. This woman had no children.
5. This angel went to Nazareth.
6. This woman was declared very blessed.
7. This boy grew up to be a baptizer.

(Answers, Page 10)

# JUST 4 KIDS

## Jesus talks about who will be saved

Jesus had been traveling for many days with his disciples. As they passed through towns and villages along the way, Jesus would stop to teach the crowds of people that gathered around him wherever he went. One of those stops was at an open field near Jerusalem. One of the men who came to hear Jesus asked him a question. "Lord, will only a few people be saved?"

Jesus answered so that everyone would hear him and hopefully understand what he was trying to say. "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough."

Jesus pretended to lock an imaginary door from the inside, then he pretended he was on the outside knocking on that same door. "After the master of the house has arisen and locked the door, then will you stand outside knocking and saying, 'Lord, open the door for us.'" Jesus shook his head and continued. "He will say to you in reply, 'I do not know where you are from.'"

Clasping his hands together as if he were begging, Jesus said, "And you will say, 'We ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets.' Then he will say to you, 'I do not know where (you) are from. Depart from me, all you evildoers!' And there will be wailing and grinding of teeth when you see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God and you yourselves cast out."

The sounds of murmuring voices swept across the crowd as the people wondered who would enter the kingdom of heaven and who would be cast out of it. But Jesus, knowing their thoughts and concerns, smiled and said, "And people will come from the east and the west and the north and the south and will recline at table in the kingdom of God. For behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

When Jesus had finished speaking and was ready to leave, some Pharisees came to warn him. "Go away," they said, "leave this area because Herod wants to kill you."

Jesus said to them, "Go and tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and I perform healings today and tomorrow, and on the third day I accomplish my purpose.'"

## Nation/World/Vatican

# Pope's brother: criticism signals 'good pontificate'

By Catholic News Service

PASSAU, Germany -- Pope Benedict XVI's elder brother said criticism of the pope should be expected as the sign of a good pontificate and that recent controversies showed papal leadership could not be "all peace, joy and pancakes."

"I'm mainly concerned that the new situation will work well for my brother in relation to his faith, and I can witness that he's fulfilling what the good Lord expects of him and also being understood by many people," Msgr. George Ratzinger said in an Aug. 17 interview with Bavaria's Passauer Neuen Presse daily.

Msgr. Ratzinger said he had contacts "only with people who wish me and my brother well," adding that "negative voices"

reached him "through detours, when they've already been purified and don't hurt me anymore."

He said he was aware of recent controversies, such as debate over the pope's July 7 document allowing wider use of the Tridentine Mass, the liturgy that predates the Second Vatican Council, and a July 10 Vatican declaration that the Catholic Church is the one, true church.

"These critical voices were to be expected -- if everything went smoothly, it wouldn't be a good pontificate," Msgr. Ratzinger said. "A person active in God's kingdom has to expect resistance -- just like Our Lord, who also encountered enemies time and again. It can't all be peace, joy and pancakes."

Asked about Pope Benedict's upcoming

Sept. 7-9 trip to Austria, Msgr. Ratzinger said he and the pope were "Austria lovers," adding that he especially appreciated that Austria was "a foreign country with no language barriers" and the home of composers Joseph Haydn, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Franz Schubert and Anton Bruckner.

"I'm hoping for beautiful days of celebration, and that the devil which hides in the details, as we know, will remain hidden," said Msgr. Ratzinger.

He added that Austrians "are quite different than the northern Germans, who are very rational and hide the feelings, which they certainly have, under an externally frigid cover. This isn't the case with Austrians. They're friendly and nice -- nicer than us Bavarians. We're a bit grumpy, and Austrians are friendlier."



Msgr. George Ratzinger, left, and brother, Pope Benedict XVI. (CNS PHOTO)

# Working through parishes, church helps quake victims

LIMA, Peru (CNS) -- When it comes to dealing with disasters like the powerful earthquake that struck Peru's southern coast Aug. 15, the Catholic Church has an advantage -- the pastors know the people.

In responding to an emergency, "you build on your strengths," said Aaron Skrocki, South American emergency program manager for Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' overseas humanitarian and development agency. "Having a local (parish) community in place that knows the people better than any local government official does makes it much easier to get a response effort up and running."

Skrocki arrived in Peru the night after the earthquake and traveled Aug. 17 to Chincha, Pisco and Ica, the three cities nearest the epicenter.

The scene was chaotic immediately after the earthquake, which killed more than 500 people, injured more than 1,000 and left at least 35,000 families homeless. Although more than 200 flights, carrying more than 600 tons of supplies, had arrived at the air force base in Pisco, distribution was slow.

"There was a lack of coordination," said Luis Cordoba, emergency coordinator for CRS in Peru. "No one knew what assistance had arrived, what had been distributed and what else was needed."

Two days after the quake, people were "waiting all day in line for one one-liter bottle of water," Skrocki said. "The longer this goes on, the more desperate people become."

Part of the problem with distribution was logistical: Electricity was cut off, water could not be pumped and roads and bridges were damaged. But part of the problem, Skrocki said, seemed to be fed by political infighting over whether the central government or local and regional governments should oversee relief



Relief arrives in Lima

CNS Photo

efforts.

"Unfortunately, it's a similar story (in) many other countries," said Skrocki, who has been involved in CRS disaster responses to Hurricane Stan in Guatemala in 2005, the eruption of the Tungurahua volcano in Ecuador in 2006, and flooding earlier this year in Bolivia.

By Aug. 21, the situation had improved in Ica. Bishop Guido Brena Lopez of Ica told Catholic News Service by telephone that electricity had been restored and some shops and markets were open again.

In Pisco, however, where more than 80 percent of the houses were destroyed, there was still no electricity. The bishop said relief efforts were concentrated in the center of the city, making it

difficult for people in more remote areas to get assistance.

Bishop Brena noted that in Pisco and Ica people are still very nervous because there have been a lot of strong aftershocks.

"More aid is arriving through the church, and we are channeling it as rapidly as possible so that it reaches the outlying areas," he said.

Meanwhile, people are organizing themselves.

"One characteristic in Peru is that relatives and neighbors help one another," the bishop said. Many people, especially those with small children, are trekking north to take refuge with relatives in Lima, while southbound buses have carried a steady stream of people from Lima carrying food, blankets and other supplies to family

members in the affected cities.

On Aug. 18, government emergency agencies and international organizations such as CRS, the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Oxfam and others set up a command center at the air force base in Pisco to exchange information and coordinate efforts.

"If a lot of agencies are involved and we don't organize well, it will only create more chaos," Cordoba said.

Security was the first obstacle. Shortly after the earthquake, looters struck, sometimes foraging for necessities and sometimes raiding the rubble of people's homes for anything of value. Although tents and shelters have been set up in all three towns, many people have camped out in front of the ruins of their houses to protect anything that might be left.

"I saw people sleeping on the street," Skrocki said. "They took the couch out of their house, put up a couple of chairs and put a sheet over the top, and that's where they're living."

That worried Dr. Manuel Pena, director of the Pan American Health Organization office in Lima. In an interview with the Channel N cable TV station, Pena warned that if people stayed near their homes the lack of water and toilets could lead to the spread of disease.

On Aug. 20, the Health Ministry dispatched health brigades to the cities to set up portable toilets, assist with hygiene and provide vaccinations against illnesses such as hepatitis.

The full extent of the earthquake's effects remained unclear. The CRS emergency team visited several rural communities where the facades of adobe houses showed only cracks, but back rooms had collapsed. Cordoba worried that if inspectors make only a quick visual check of those communities, they will underestimate the damage.

# Seven young men apply for college seminary

**By Fr. Tom Barley**  
Director of Seminarians  
Diocese of San Angelo

After several decades of drought it has finally started to rain in the Diocese of San Angelo. Yes, while we have received much needed moisture, we are now receiving much needed native vocations – seminarians from within the Diocese. While we are very thankful for the rains and for the international priests who have given up so much to minister in our Diocese, we are very thankful to God for the blessings of seven young men who have decided to join our three returning seminarians on their journey of a vocation to priesthood. I believe that we can attribute the rain, the international priests, our current seminarians, and the new applicants to prayer and to God's loving care. Also, we can be thankful for the good work of our Vocation Director's past and present, in promoting vocations to our diocesan priesthood.

These seven young men are Adam Droll, Charles Scammel, and Remigiusz Kiwior from St. Margaret Church in San Angelo; Michael Allen Lopez, Jr. and Alex Moreno from St. Mary Church in San Angelo; Thomas Shows from Holy Family Church in Abilene; and Antonio Gonzales from Immaculate Heart of Mary in Sweetwater. They will be joining Sam Matthiesen of St. Boniface Church in Olfen and Lorenzo Hatch of Sacred Heart Cathedral in San Angelo at Conception Seminary College in Conception, Missouri. Sam, Lorenzo, and Matthew Fenner (at Assumption Seminary and St. Mary's University in San Antonio) are college seniors.

In the past few years we have had five

young men ordained to the priesthood. They are now serving in parishes across the Diocese. They are: Fr. Rodney White who was past Vocation Director and now is pastor at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Ozona. Fr. Joey Faylona was recently at Holy Redeemer Church in Odessa and now is pastor at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Andrews. Fr. Emilio Sosa was at the Cathedral and is now at St. Ann Church in Midland. Fr. Ariel Lagunilla was at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Odessa and is now at St. Ann Church in Midland and St. Joseph Church in Stanton. Fr. Ruben Covos is at Holy Family Church in Abilene. Also in the past few years we have ordained 33 new deacons have started a new diaconate class of 31 men who have been received into Candidacy for the Permanent Diaconate for the Diocese.

It has taken many prayers and a change in the way we have viewed a willingness to encourage our own youth to consider discerning a vocation to the diocesan priesthood to get these seven new seminarians. God can invite. Priests can be good examples of good priesthood. But families must encourage their youth for the vocation to take hold. The work does not end there. It will take these new men four years of college and then four years of theology and a pastoral year to reach ordination to priesthood. They will have many opportunities to leave. We must all support them in prayer and with letters. We must challenge them to mature as human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral people. We, as a Diocese, must also be willing to support the Diocese in matter of the education costs for these men. The financial costs are great, but the blessings will far surpass the costs.

Students are invited to submit essays of 500-750 words, describing a situation in today's world or in their own lives in which Jesus would say "Put away your sword." First prizes of \$1,000 will be awarded in two divisions: for grades six-eight and for grades nine-12. Second prizes of \$300 and third prizes of \$150 also will be given in each division. The deadline for entries is Nov. 30, with winners to be announced in February.

More information is available on the Maryknoll Web site at: [www.maryknoll.org/essay](http://www.maryknoll.org/essay).

Would you, your family or your parish want to adopt one of our 10 seminarians? This would be a splendid way of having personal contact with one of them, by letting the seminarian know that you are praying for him on a daily basis and, perhaps writing him a note monthly or quarterly. Another way to support the seminarians is to pray for the one designated for that week in the Seminarian Calendar that comes from the Director of Seminarians Office to each parish, Religious Education program, and other parish based organizations.

Also, pray for the families of all of our seminarians, priests, deacons, and women religious who service in our Diocese. As our ten seminarians continue in their discernment, our current ministers need your prayers. A good number of our priests, dea-

cons and women religious are over the age that people normally retire and yet, they continue to serve in ministry. Many of our current ministers willingly carry heavy ministry loads that affect the lives of many people.

In summation – pray and encourage your own close family to seek a vocation from your youth. Please contact Fr. Barry McLean (Vocations Director – 325 651-7500) for more information at the Diocesan Pastoral Center. The seminarians can be contacted at:

Assumption Seminary  
2600 W. Woodlawn  
San Antonio, Texas 78228

or

Conception Seminary College  
Conception, Missouri 64433

## CARES: San Angelo taskforce for eradication of drugs sets goals

(From 6)

nents such as existing prevention and education programs, treatment programs, criminal justice agencies, the business community, employers, churches, schools — both public and private, civic organizations, private individuals, the media and social service agencies.

Goal 4 will also involve the following elements:

- ▶ Determining which components are best suited to address specific Risk and Protective Factors.
- ▶ Encourage each necessary component to fully commit to participate and become involved with the CV CARES Coalition .
- ▶ Ensure that each participating component has clear goals, objectives and evaluation methods.

**Goal 5:** To establish clear objectives and an evaluation process for each goal.

CV CARES has also created a steering committee to provide guidance and continuity along with the following committees: Membership, Memorandum of Understanding, Media & Communication, Resources, Fund-raising and Business.

Additionally, it was determined that a Criminal Justice subcommittee would be beneficial to address specific issues relating to law enforcement, the courts, probation, parole issues and other criminal justice issues for juvenile and adult populations. Other subcommittees may be developed upon the recommendation of the chairper-

son and members of the standing committees.

A major step for the existing committee chairpersons and the steering committee is to match all coalition members with an appropriate committee. Secondly, all Coalition members must complete a Memorandum of Understanding, which will document and outline the member's commitment and contributions to the Coalition. Additionally, all Coalition members must submit a detailed description of risk and protective factors.

Risk factors can be described as existing or potential issues, circumstances or problems that contribute to or increase the risk of individuals becoming involved in substance abuse and/or other risky behaviors.

Protective factors can be described as resources, assets, benefits, abilities or support that act to insulate individuals from the risk of substance abuse involvement.

Therefore, risk factors contribute to substance abuse and protective factors eliminate or reduce the risk of substance abuse involvement. Consequently, each can occur in multiple domains such as, family, individual, peers, school, work community/environmental and societal.

It's imperative that all Coalition members develop and provide their own descriptions of risk and protective factors, which originate from their unique scope and sphere of experiences, attitudes, beliefs, expertise and

(Please See DRUGS/15)

# OBISPO

(Para 3)

do universalmente. Antes de nacer, el valor de un niño pareciera que depende solo de la actitud de sus padres hacia él. Un anuncio de Planificación Familiar ilustra muy bien esta idea: “Los bebés son ruidosos, apesados y caros, a menos que se desee uno”.

Los niños nonatos son deshumanizados de forma rutinaria por la industria del aborto. El autor de un popular texto sobre técnicas abortivas describe el embarazo como una “enfermedad parasitaria”. Un columnista muy conocido dice: “Un pez dorado se parece más a un ser humano que un embrión humano.” Otro describe al ser humano por nacer como “basura protoplasmática”, un “trozo de carne”.

Un profesor de la Universidad de Princeton ha llevado este pensamiento hasta su conclusión lógica, para degradar al niño recién nacido: “Los bebés humanos no nacen conscientes de sí mismos, ni son capaces de comprender que existen en el tiempo. No son personas”. Por lo tanto “la vida de un recién nacido es de menor valor que la de un cerdo, un perro, o un chimpancé”.

Esta actitud ha ido calando en el sentir de la gente. Consideren esto: A pesar de los muchos riesgos y efectos colaterales dañinos, los contraceptivos hormonales exceden mundialmente los \$24 mil millones en ventas anuales.

La industria del aborto afirma que la mitad de los niños concebidos en Estados Unidos son “no

deseados” y de estos se abortan la mitad—Mass de 1.3 millones anualmente. La razón más usada para abortar es que la crianza de un niño puede interferir con la educación o carrera de los padres.

A menudo nos dicen cuán costoso es criar a un niño. La escasez de familias numerosas que hay entre las parejas adineradas y de ingresos medios sugiere que muchos de los que podrían permitirse el lujo de tener más hijos valoran otras cosas más que traer una nueva vida al mundo.

Lamentablemente, muchos científicos y políticos ven los embriones humanos vivos, creados en laboratorios—ya no deseados por sus padres biológicos—como materia prima que puede destruirse para la investigación de células madre. ¿Nos sorprende que algunos científicos quieran crear embriones humanos en el laboratorio, por fertilización o clonación, para matarlos por sus células madre?

Es así como nos están instando a que dejemos de ver la vida humana como Dios la ve. Desde el momento de nuestra concepción, Dios no nos ve superficialmente como una célula microscópica no diferenciada. En cada niño, nacido o por nacer, Dios ve al individuo que Él creó para amar y ser amado, por toda la eternidad.

En el otro extremo de la vida, también, los vínculos generacionales del amor se están estirando hasta casi romperse. Algunos doctores y éticos afirman que los pacientes con demencia

o en el llamado “estado vegetativo persistente” no son realmente personas, y que las familias deben negarles hasta las formas básicas de alimentación y cuidado. Mass, no importa lo débil y vulnerable que parezcan, estas personas tienen el asombroso poder de inspirar el amor heroico y sacrificado de sus familiares y de quienes velan por ellos—un poder que puede llevar a la santificación de aquellos que los cuidan.

A Dios no le importa si estamos conscientes de nuestra existencia o somos capaces de “pensamiento superior”. El valor de la vida no depende de si el intelecto funciona sino del amor paternal de Dios por cada uno, creado a su imagen y semejanza. Su amor está presente mucho antes de que nuestras ondas cerebrales puedan medirse a las seis semanas de gestación y mucho después de que nuestra inteligencia deje de funcionar. Su amor está presente antes de que nuestro corazón empiece a latir 22 días después de la concepción y mucho después que empiece a fallar. Su amor está presente en cada paso y desliz de nuestra vida.

¡Que nunca nos cansemos de proclamar la dignidad y valor de cada persona! ¡Que nunca nos cansemos de servir al vulnerable y a quienes lo cuidan generosamente! ¡Y que nunca dejemos de orar por el día en que todas las personas y todas las naciones defiendan a cada ser humano desde su concepción hasta su muerte natural.

# BISHOP: Never tire of proclaiming dignity of human life

(From 2)

created and loved by God—is no longer universally accepted. Before birth at least, a child’s worth seems to depend on his parents’ attitude toward him. A Planned Parenthood ad illustrates this point well: “Babies are loud, smelly, and expensive, unless you want one.”

Unborn children are routinely dehumanized by the abortion industry. The author of a widely-used textbook on abortion techniques describes pregnancy as a “parasitic illness.” A well-known columnist writes: “A goldfish resembles a human being more than an embryo does.” One author has described the unborn human being as “protoplasmic rubbish,” a “goblet of meat.”

A Princeton professor has followed this thinking to its logical conclusion, to demean the newborn child: “Human babies are not born self-aware, or capable of grasping that they exist over time. They are not persons.” Therefore “the life of a newborn is of less value than the life of a pig, a dog, or a chimpanzee.”

Such attitudes have crept into people’s behavior. Consider:

Despite their many risks and harmful side effects, hormonal contraceptives exceed \$24 billion in annual sales worldwide.

The abortion industry claims that half the children conceived in the United States are “unwanted,” and half the “unwanted” children are aborted—over 1.3 million annually. The most common reason given for abortion is that raising a child could interfere with one’s education or career.

We are often told how costly it is to raise a child. The scarcity of large families among wealthy and middle-income couples suggests that many who could afford more children value other things more than bringing a new life into the world.

Tragically, many scientists and politicians now think of living human embryos created in fertility clinics—but no longer desired by their biological parents—as raw material which can be destroyed for stem cell research. Is it any wonder that some scientists now want to create human embryos in the lab, by fertilization or cloning, solely to kill them for their stem cells?

In all these ways we are being urged to stop seeing human life as God sees it. From the moment of our conception, God does not see us superficially as a microscopic, unformed cell. In every child, born or unborn, God sees the individual he created to love, and be loved by, for all eternity.

At the other end of life, as well, the bonds of love between generations are being stretched thin. Some doctors and ethicists

claim that patients with dementia or in a so-called “persistent vegetative state” are no longer really persons, and that families should deny them even the most basic forms of nourishment and care. And yet, however weak and vulnerable such patients may appear, they have the awesome power to inspire heroic, sacrificial love from their family members and caregivers—a power that can lead to the sanctification of those who care for them.

It matters not to God whether we are now, or ever, conscious of our existence or capable of “higher thought.” The value of a human life does not depend on exercising one’s intellect; it comes from God’s fatherly love for each human, created in his image. His love is present long before our brain waves can be measured at six weeks’ gestation, and long after our brains no longer function so well. His love is present long before our heart begins to beat at 22 days after conception, and long after our heart begins to fail. His love is present at every step and misstep of our lives.

May we never tire of proclaiming the dignity and worth of every human life. May we never tire of serving the vulnerable and their caregivers with generous hearts. And may we never cease to pray for the day when all people, and all societies, will defend the life of every human from conception to natural death.

# DRUGS: Group’s efforts will be aided by grant

(From 13)

perceptions. Upon reviewing and studying the collective risk and protective factors, the Coalition will decide how and when to address specific risk factors and how and when to create, develop and enhance protective factors. Moreover, it will be necessary to effectively determine which community components are best-suited to confront and attend to specific risk and protective factors.

Criminal history and a history of substance abuse are obvious risk factors and CV CARES is addressing these immediately by preparing a grant proposal for ‘Weed & Seed.’ This U.S. Department of Justice program may bring \$1 million to our community and will involve the local criminal justice system and local social service agencies with an overall objective to reduce substance abuse, crime and recidivism in the community. Already:

We have acquired a grant of \$2,500 from the Redwine Foundation to assist the CV CARES Coalition with its efforts.

Currently, the CV CARES Coalition membership includes 28 local agencies and nine individuals. The Coalition would like neighborhood associations, a significant community component currently missing from the Coalition, to participate and become active members of this important project.

At its most recent meeting, Aug. 13, the Concho Valley CARES Coalition spent much time with the representatives from a similar drug effort group in San Antonio called the San Antonio Fighting Back Committee to learn from the experience of this important effort in San Antonio. We have gathered much helpful information and are now ready to launch out with practical and positive steps with programs to address the drug situation in the city of San Angelo and the surrounding area.

It was encouraging to have some 50 people from all segments of our community present for the dialogue with the people from San Antonio. It is obvious from the number of people that attended that our community wants to come together to address the escalating problem of drug and substance abuse in this area.

For more information, please contact the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo at 325-651-7500 or the Alcohol & Drug Abuse Council for the Concho Valley at 325-224-3481.

# BIOETHICS: What is our own response to evil around us?

(From 7)

There is a certain banality about evil. It doesn't necessarily present itself in a monstrous or dramatic way. It can take the shape of simple conformity to what everyone else is doing, to what the leadership says is right, to what the neighbors are doing. The gradual encroachment of evil in our lives can be something we might not even notice because we are not paying attention; it can be something barely on the periphery of our consciousness.

The majority of those who collaborated with some of history's most terrible crimes and falsehoods need not be cast as inhuman monsters; instead, they were often like us. They were capable of giving and receiving sympathy and love; they could have beautiful feelings and noble ideals; heroism, loyalty, family and culture could all co-exist with almost unbelievable evil.

During the Nazi years, there often were no momentous decisions to be made for or against evil. People were concerned with their daily affairs, and on that level, Nazism seemed good: it seemed to bring prosperity, it made things work, it allowed people to feel good about themselves and their country. The moral issues — the ones that we now see as having been central — were carefully avoided.

When the full horror of Nazism was revealed at the end of the war, the German people responded, "We didn't know." When a local townsman was asked whether he knew what was going on in the camp, he gave a more complete answer. "Yes, we knew something was up, but we didn't talk about it, we didn't want to know too much." Primo Levi, a writer and a survivor of Auschwitz, described the German ethical blind spot this way:

"In spite of the varied possibilities for information, most Germans didn't know because they didn't want to know. Because, indeed they wanted not to know. ...Those who knew did not talk; those who did not know did not ask questions; those who did ask questions received no answers. In this way the typical German citizen won and defended his ignorance, which seemed to him sufficient justification of his adherence to Nazism. Shutting his mouth, his eyes and his ears, he built for himself the illusion of not knowing, hence not being an accomplice to the things taking place in front of his door."

Martin Luther King, Jr. used to say that what pained him the most was the silence of the good. Albert Einstein, who fled Germany when Hitler came to power, articulated the same sentiment in an interview for Time Magazine on December 23, 1940. He stressed that sometimes it was only the Church and religion that could challenge the status

quo as evil made inroads into a society:

"Being a lover of freedom, when the revolution came in Germany I looked for the universities to defend it, knowing that they had always boasted of their devotion to the cause of truth; but no, the universities immediately were silenced. Then I looked to the great editors of the newspapers, whose flaming editorials in days gone by had proclaimed their love of freedom. But they, like the universities were silenced in a few short weeks. Only the Church stood squarely across the path of Hitler's campaign for suppressing truth. I had never any special interest in the Church before, but now I feel a great affection and admiration because the Church alone has had the courage and persistence to stand for intellectual truth and moral freedom."

The courageous, even daring question we must ask is, "What is our own response to the evil around us?"

*Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See [www.ncbcenter.org](http://www.ncbcenter.org)*

# DIACONATE: Deacons manifest new spirit, service in ministry

(From 3)

apostolic ministry. The traditional institution of the diaconate is found in the book of Acts, when the apostles looked for seven men, filled with the Holy Spirit, to assist them with the ministry of the fledgling Church. Since that time, history reflects that the leadership of the Church has

always been under the care of bishops, priests and deacons.

Today the diaconate continues to manifest a new spirit, reflecting the service aspect of ministry in a way that connects more directly to the worship, sacramental and spiritual life of Christians. The men currently in formation are preparing to undertake that very life of commit-

ment to the service of preaching, teaching and sanctifying as deacons. With their wives supporting their vocational call and preparation, they represent the active participation of all Christians to respond to Christ in deed and in spirit.

# MISSION: Eight youth doing mission work in San Angelo diocese

(From 4)

homes of the youth for three days each week. They ministered to anyone they encountered on the visits—not just the youth themselves—praying for them in the homes. One of the missionaries told of the end of a visit when the youth told her and the other two visiting "thank you for coming and letting me talk to you. I've never had a chance to do that with anyone in a long time." It made a difference in his life, for he came to the youth rallies. From his participation there, she could tell that the visit had made a difference. At the youth rallies the missionaries were able to interact with the youth on their level. One of them stated, "The rallies renewed my attitude towards ministry because the youth lit up during our activities. Their happiness made

me love and appreciate the work we were doing no matter how difficult it was or how badly home visits [may] have gone." The retreats each week provided a chance for the team to evangelize more in depth than on the short encounters of a home visit or a rally.

Two activities rounded out each week: Days of Reflection and the Holy Hours. The Days of Reflection gave the Team a time to be together in a relaxing way, receive input on a theme, and be challenged to look for the good in each other member on the team. In the Holy Hours the Lord offered them a sense of peace and anew they were able to surrender their lives to Jesus Christ. Often the members of the Team felt they had received a special grace from the Lord.

A highlight of their summer was their visits to a youth detention center, the

Brownwood State School, where youth ages 12 to 21 are incarcerated—now mainly populated by females. They were warmly welcomed by the staff and inmates alike. The chaplain was delighted that the team was able to come, as they do not have many "special" programs like this. They had one hour each day at the two units they visited. Those who attended the sessions were well behaved and attentive to the gospel message the Team presented to them. As the youth missionaries spoke of love, forgiveness and healing that the Lord offers them, the inmates responded from their hearts to the love, the message and the prayer.

The ones that impacted the evangelizers the most was, of course, their own fellow missionary brothers and sisters. They had some "rough spots," as one of them put it, but by working through them, the Lord gave

them spiritual growth and bonding. One of them put it this way: "This is going to be an experience that will be with me forever." He went on to say how these seven weeks in total commitment to the Lord will help him re-evaluate his priorities so he can see the personal vocation the Lord has for him. All in all, the summer changed each of them deeply in ways that only time will reveal.

I am deeply grateful to these youth ministries for having given themselves, their time and their talent to evangelize other youth of our diocese. They have been special instruments of Christ to help bring other youth closer to our Lord and to living their Catholic faith. I am especially grateful to Father Bob Bush and the other lay leaders who helped to train these young missionaries and to support them during their missionary experience in our diocese.

**EDICTAL SUMMONS**  
September 1, 2007  
**CASE: ALLISON – SMITH**  
**NO.: SO 07/37**

The Tribunal Office of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo is seeking Jessie Ray Smith.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo, at 804 Ford Street, San Angelo, Texas 76905, on or before the 30th day September 2007, to answer to the Petition of Heather Michelle Allison, now introduced before the Diocesan Tribunal in an action styled, "Heather Smith and Jessie Smith, Petition for Declaration of Invalidity of Marriage." Said Petition is identified as Case: ALLISON – SMITH; Protocol No.: SO 07/37, 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 September 2007 .

Reverend Tom Barley,  
MSW, MBA, M. Div., JCL  
Adjutant Judicial Vicar

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Story suggestions, calendar items,  
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JimmyLPatterson@grandecom.net.

#### COPY, PHOTO DEADLINE:

Third Friday of every month.

Photos should be 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 iden-  
tities of the writer are subject to  
verification. Please include name,  
address and phone number when  
submitting letters.



## DIOCE-SCENES

### *Assumption Seminary Dedication*



Prelates in attendance at the Aug. 15 dedication Mass for the new Archbishop Flores Residence Hall at Assumption Seminary included, from left, Bishop Armando Ochoa of the Diocese of El Paso, Bishop Kevin Vann of the Diocese of Fort Worth, Bishop Edmond Carmody of the Diocese of Corpus Christi, Bishop Raymundo Peña of the Diocese of Brownsville, Auxiliary Bishop Patrick Zurek of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI, of the Diocese of San Angelo, Auxiliary Bishop Rutilio J. del Riego of the Diocese of San Bernardino, Calif., and Bishop John Yanta of the Diocese of Amarillo

### *Hispanic Pastoral Musicians Conference, Albuquerque*



*A number of  
Hispanic music  
ministers in the  
Diocese attend-  
ed the Hispanic  
Pastoral  
Musicians  
Conference in  
July.*



Left to right: Joe Lopez, Father Gully, Linda Light, Richard Light and Sady Cady.

From left to right: Linda Light (Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Big Spring); Richard Light (Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Big Spring); Anh Dao Phan (Our Lady of Lourdes, Andrews); Lisa Vasquez (Our Lady of Lourdes, Andrews); Sady Cady (St. Mary Queen of Peace, Brownwood); Diane Ortiz (Our Lady of Lourdes, Andrews); Rosa Gonzales, Our Lady of Lourdes - Andrews); Fr. Bernard Gully, San Angelo Diocesan Liturgical Comm. member; Joe Lopez (Our Lady of Lourdes, Andrews) and Dewey Cady (St. Mary Queen of Peace, Brownwood)

## GUIDELINES

### (From 6)

the Eucharist;

- an active prayer life and an exemplary moral life;
- a spirit of cooperation and leadership with the laity and clergy of the parish;
- both a strong desire and an ability to foster liturgical participation;
- skills in public speaking;
- a sense of presence in movement, gesture and prayer;
- evidence a commitment to ministry and the time to minister.

Upon completion of the Diocesan training and upon the request and recommendation of the pastor, the bishop will appoint lay persons, with the care of preparing and directing SCAP services. The appointment of these lay persons is for a three-year term.

The appointment to serve in the role of leader of prayer is to be made known to the

community by a commissioning. The "Order for the Blessing of Those Who Exercise Pastoral Service" contained in the Book of Blessing may be used for this purpose. Pastors/pastoral administrators will be responsible for the commissioning. This occasion will provide another opportunity to catechize the community on the nature of Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest.

Only those names of laypersons having successfully completed a process of discernment, training, certification and commissioning are to be submitted to the bishop for his permission to allow them to preach. It is the bishop alone who admits laypersons to preach (Interdicasterial Instruction Ecclesiae de Mysterio, Article 2, §3).

With regard to SCAP, 'The pastor is to see to the suitable and continuous instruction of these laypersons and to assist them in the preparation of worthy celebrations.

These commissioned leaders of prayer bear a responsibility for continuing personal spiritual growth and study beyond the formation period. They need to root themselves ever more deeply in the mystery of Christ. Of special value will be retreats and days of recollection, parish and diocesan formation programs, and workshops sponsored by the diocese that address the needs of sacred worship. The reading of periodicals and books on liturgy and prayer, and the study of Scripture will nourish these ministers and those whom they serve. After evaluation, the bishop may renew their commissioning of service. The bishop reserves the right to terminate the service of any lay leader of prayer.

Distribution of Holy Eucharist at Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest  
The bishop has approved the distribution of Holy Communion during Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest.