

# West Texas ANGELUS

Serving the Diocese of San Angelo, Texas  
Volume XXVIII, No. 9 SEPTEMBER 2008

## Devotional Novena

- + Prayer repeated in public or private for nine successive days.
- + Held prior to a special feast or for a special intention.
- + Comes from the Latin word *novem*, meaning nine.
- + First appeared in the Middle Ages in France and Spain.

### RECENT PUBLIC NOVENAS

Intention	Held before	Called by
Church in China	Beijing Olympics	Diocese of Hong Kong
Life	Feast of the Visitation	U.S. Bishops
All the sick	World Day of the Sick	Indemnity Archbishop
Life, justice, peace	U.S. elections	U.S. Bishops



## Web site up and running

The Diocese of San Angelo's new web site, updated several times a week with news items and calendar events, can now be accessed at [www.sanangelodiocese.org](http://www.sanangelodiocese.org). We welcome your input and suggestions for stories.

Fall Festival Schedule: Page 4

## Marriage Encounter

MIDLAND -- A WorldWide Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held at the **Midland Downtown Hotel, Oct. 10-12**. Marriage Encounter is designed to give married couples the opportunity to examine their lives together. A time to share their feelings, their hopes, disappointments, joys and frustrations. Please contact Valentin and Maria Gomez, at [vgomez@wcc.net](mailto:vgomez@wcc.net) or 325.835.7044.

Diocesan Briefs/Pg.2

## SEPTEMBER 2008

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	31			

### Upcoming dates

**Oct. 3 -- SAN ANGELO**, Angelo Catholic School - Holy Angels Campus - Mass at Holy Angels for Feast of St. Francis of Assisi and Blessing of Animals, 8:30 a.m.

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

Full Schedules, Pg. 4

## LILIES OF THE DESERT



In a candid, un-posed moment, the Carmelite Sisters at the Our Lady of Grace Monastery near Christoval try to get the convent Labrador, Molly, to behave. Read about these cloistered nuns and the faith-filled, peaceful lives they lead/Pg. 3, 10-11.

## Ultimate Voting Guide

# Moral principles – not political party platforms – should be what leads us

By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

As we approach the presidential elections, and other elections, our ultimate guide in selecting the candidate for whom we cast our vote should be moral principles as explained to us by our Catholic Church, and not party platforms or party affiliation. The moral principles offered for Catholics by the U.S. Catholic Bishops in their

document *Faithful Citizenship*, are based on clear gospel proclamations by Christ and the constant teaching of the Catholic Church. The bishops seek to help Catholics form their consciences in accordance with the truth, so that they can make sound moral choices when voting.

Before casting a vote for a particular candi-

(Please See PRINCIPLES/19)

## THIS MONTH IN THE ANGELUS

### From the Bishop

Marriage comes to us from the hand of God. It does not originate from the state or the church, though both institutions regulate its practice. Therefore, neither church nor state can alter the meaning and structure of marriage in such a way as to grant equivalent status to same-sex unions. / Pg. 2



### Catechetical Sunday: Sept. 21



September 21 is Catechetical Sunday, a day celebrated annually in the U.S. reminding us of the importance of catechesis. Parishes across the country will be celebrating this day, recognizing the ministry of the catechist as a vocation and the role the whole faith community has to pass on the faith. / Pg. 5

### Hahn to speak in Lubbock

Most Rev. Plácido Rodríguez, Bishop of Lubbock invites you to "A BIBLICAL CONFERENCE: Our Lady in Scripture" Feb. 14-15, 2009, City Bank Auditorium, Lubbock, featuring Dr. Scott Hahn with Dr. Brant Pitre and Michael Barber. Tickets are on sale at: **FootstepsInFaith.com** and Brother John's Catholic Books & Gifts in Lubbock. For information: 806-698-6400 or 806-438-5253



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From the Bishop's Desk

# Marriage and same-sex unions: Marriage comes to us from the hand of God



By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

Marriage comes to us from the hand of God. It does not originate from the state or the church, though both institutions regulate its practice. Therefore, neither church nor state can alter the meaning and structure of marriage in such a way as to grant equivalent status to same-sex unions. From the perspective of Catholic teaching, "same-sex marriage" is a contradiction in terms. Marriage can only exist between a man and a woman, not between persons of the same sex. This is a truth given by God in the natural order of creation and then confirmed

through his revealed word in the Bible. It is a truth recognized by human reason and strengthened by faith.

A primary purpose of government at every level—federal, state, and local—is to foster the common good and to promote and protect the basic cell for a solid and good society which is marriage and family life. This has always been seen as a primary function of government. Government at all three levels—federal, state, and local—must promote just laws and structures based on the natural law, recognized by right reason, and respect the inalienable right of every person as intended by God. Laws in favor of

homosexual unions are contrary to God's law and to right reason because they confer legal guarantees, analogous to those granted to marriage, to union between persons of the same sex.

To better understand the Church's teaching on marriage and same-sex unions, which many are promoting to be the equivalent of marriage, I am presenting here several basic questions and answers about this critical issue. They are taken from the latest bulletin of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops on Marriage and Same-Sex Unions.

(Please See **MARRIAGE/19**)

## DIOCESAN BRIEFS

### 11 Days of Unity

The Unity Church of Christianity and San Angelo Peace Ambassadors invite you to commune with God as you embrace prayers filled with rich, heartfelt meaning from many of our world's faith traditions. From **Sept. 7-21**, San Angelo will celebrate "11 Days of Global Unity." The interfaith celebration will be observed at different locations throughout San Angelo. The opening peace concert was held Sunday, Sept. 7.

#### Thursday, Sept. 11

**9:30 am** Rev. Nathaniel Hankins, Minister at First United Methodist Church. 9/11 Memorial Celebration at the 9/11 Memorial at the San Angelo Museum of Fine Art. **7-7:30 pm** Rev. Janie Kelley, Minister at Unity of San Angelo begins 11 Days of Peace. Unity Church, 5237 S. Bryant.

#### Friday, Sept. 12

**Noon** Bishop Michael Pfeifer and Deborah Michalewicz present a Christian Prayer Program. St. Joseph Church, 301 W. 17th Street.

#### Saturday, Sept. 13

**10:30-Noon:** Girl Scout Art on the Concho Fun Fest. YMCA. Come make Peace Doves and Pinwheels at the Peace Ambassadors and Unity Church booths. 7 - 7:30 pm Ami Mizell-Flint presents a Jewish program. Congregation Beth Israel. 1825 W. Beauregard.

#### Sunday, Sept. 14

**2-4 pm:** Becky Benes leads a 3-part Meditation Series Focused on Inner Peace. Christ the King Retreat Center, 802 Ford St. (\$15 per individual session, \$30 for all three) FMI call 651-5352; 7-7:30 pm Rashda Khan and Ara Rahman present a Muslim Program. Unity Church.

#### Monday, Sept. 15

**7-7:30 pm:** Samuel Green Jr. presents a Baha'i Program. Unity Church.

#### Tuesday, Sept. 16

**7-7:30 pm** Dr. Sangeeta Singg presents a Hindu and Sikh program. Unity Church.

#### Wednesday, Sept. 17

7-7:30 pm Dewey Weaver presents a Buddhist program. Unity Church.

#### Thursday, Sept. 18

**6-6:30 pm** Native American Program. Unity Church. **7-9 pm** Fr. Frank celebrates St. Paul's 2,000th birthday. Holy Angels Catholic Church, 2317 A&M St.

#### Friday, Sept. 19

**7-7:30 pm** Teresa Rylander presents a Taoist Program. Unity Church.

#### Saturday, Sept. 20

**7 - 8 pm** Sister Malachy, Ami Mizell-Flint, Rev. Janie Kelly, Rashda Kahn, and Ara Rahman present a Women's program. Unity Church.

#### Sunday, Sept. 21

**7-8:30 pm** All presenters will join together in a city-wide closing prayer and celebration for Peace. Celebration Hall at First United Methodist Church, 37 E. Beauregard.

FMI: Unity of San Angelo Church at 651-6830

### Fr. Bhaskar's Farewell Picnic

Fr. Bhaskar Morugudi, pastor of St. Thomas, Miles, St. Joseph, Rowena, and St. Boniface, Olfen will be returning to India soon. A farewell lunch will be held **Sunday, Sept. 14** at St. Joseph's Parish Hall in Rowena, beginning at 11 a.m. A drive through with plates-to-go will be available. A benefit auction will follow. All proceeds will go to help support Fr. Bhaskar's project, helping the less fortunate children of India receive an education. To donate an item or for more information, contact Marty Frey at 325-718-9208. BYOB.

### Natural Family Planning

Helping couples to deepen conjugal love and achieve responsible parenthood is part of the Church's total pastoral ministry to Catholic spouses. Fulfillment of this ministry includes both education and pastoral care. This means "instilling conviction and offering practical help to those who wish to live out their parenthood in a truly responsible way" (Pope John Paul II, Familiaris consortio, #35). Below are scheduled seminars (San Angelo) and contact numbers for people who can help you with more information:

**SAN ANGELO, Christ the King Retreat Center**, (325) 651-5352, 2-4 p.m. 2008 dates: Sept. 14, Dec. 14: 2009: March 8, May 17, Sep. 13, Dec. 6. Contact Amy at amdgd@wcc.net.

**MIDLAND-ODESSA, Our Lady of Guadalupe**, call Christina Nevarez, (432) 682-2581;

**ABILENE, Holy Family Church**, call Mrs. Herman Blahak, (325) 692-1820.

### Meditation Series

**What:** A three-part series learning and practicing different modalities of meditation

**Where:** Christ the King Retreat Center, 802 Ford St., San Angelo, TX: 651-5352

**When:** Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m., September 14th, October 19th, and November 9th.

**Presenter:** Becky Benes, MPS. Becky has practiced and taught meditation for the past 18 years. She is a spiritual teacher, speaker and retreat leader.

**Cost:** \$15 per session or \$30 for the series. Minimum \$12 per session/max. 40 per session. Call CKRC, 325.651.5352 to reserve your spot.

### Diocesan Liturgy Day

**SAN ANGELO --** The annual **Diocesan Liturgy Day** is **September 27**. The theme of this year's Liturgy Day is "Liturgical Ministries: Their Purpose, Meaning and Function within the Gathered Assembly!"

The workshop will be held at **Holy Angels Church, located at 2309 A&M Ave. in San Angelo**. This workshop is designed for altar servers, ministers of hospitality, Eucharistic ministers, lectors, choir members, ushers, presiders, deacons, sacristans and priests. Information on the speaker will follow soon.

Look for registration forms and additional information in parish bulletins in the coming weeks.

If you have any questions please contact Fr. Ed de Leon, OMI at (432) 682-2581.

### St. Stephen's-KC Golf

**MIDLAND --** Knights of Columbus Council 12657 at St. Stephen's annual Golf Tournament is Sunday, Oct. 5 at Hogan Park Golf Course.

Details: Four Person Scramble Entry Fee: \$75 per player. First team off at 12:30 p.m. Prizes 1st-3rd Longest Drive, Closest to Pin Prizes. Registration deadline- Wednesday the 1st of October

Entry Fee includes green fee, cart, practice bucket, meal. Award Ceremony will begin 6:30 pm. Entry fee must be paid to guarantee entry. Policy is first-come first-served with paid entry. Players should arrive at 11 am for warm-up, check in. Drawing for raffle items will be held at the award ceremony.

For more information or to sponsor a hole, please contact Bob Wiesman, 432-262-5760 or Darrel Wiesman, 432-570-6253.

Please send your team members names and check to: Knights of Columbus, Bobby Wiesman, 3526 Imperial Ave, Midland, Texas 79707

### Marriage Encounter Weekend

**MIDLAND --** A WorldWide Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held at the **Midland Downtown Hotel, from 5 p.m., Fri., Oct. 10 until 4:30 p.m., Sun., Oct. 12**.

Marriage Encounter is designed to give married couples the opportunity to examine their lives together. A time to share their feelings, their hopes, disappointments, joys and frustrations. The emphasis on the weekend is on communications between husband and wife, who will spend a weekend away from the distractions of life to concentrate on each other.

A \$50 non-refundable registration fee is required Please contact Valentin and Maria Gomez, at vgomez@wcc.net or 325.835.7044.

### Angelo Catholic Anniversary

The 120th Anniversary and Reunion for Angelo Catholic School in San Angelo will be celebrated **November 8** at Sacred Heart Cathedral. The anniversary and reunion will include the schools of Immaculate Conception, St. Peter's, St. Mary's Sacred Heart Cathedral, Holy Angels and Angelo Catholic.

To complete our alumni directory we are searching for ex-students, faculty and parents who have had an address change in the last 10 years. Please send any information ASAP to Angelo Catholic School, 19 S. Oakes, San Angelo, TX, 76903.

Please also send memorabilia to the address above. Organizers are also looking for alumni who would like to perform during the social hour and dinner. Please contact us if you would like to be on the program.

### Our Lady of Grace Court 1734

Court Our Lady of Grace #1734, Catholic Daughters of America, Rowena, hosted a Bi-District Officer's Training Workshop at St. Joseph Parish Hall, Aug. 2. Representatives from courts in Brownwood, Brady, Rowena, San Angelo, Wall and Olfen attended. State Regent Carolyn Bachmann and Second Vice State Regent Carolyn Malick conducted the sessions which detailed the responsibilities of each office of the local courts. Tempe Gerngross and Ruth Halfmann, District III and 56 deputies, assisted.

### Hope in Your Tomorrow

Hope in Your Tomorrow is a maternity home that helps struggling pregnant women who are alone during this life changing experience. The ministry promotes a wholeness of self for women to become nurturing mothers and bring healthy children into the world. The home is available to women 18 and older. All other services are available to pregnant women of any age. The home is located in Brady. For more information on residency or services, please call 325.286.4397, 325.597.0233 or 888.775.7170 or email Hopeinyourtomorrow@gmail.com.

### Correction

An article on Safe Environment for Children, entitled, "Due care in protecting our children from the dangers of pornography," published in the August edition, incorrectly identified a contributor to the story. The contributor's correct name was James P. Cummings, a senior special agent with Immigration and Customs Enforcement for the Department of Homeland Security. *The Angelus* regrets the error.

## The Visiting Priest

# Fr. Bhaskar says goodbye to rural parishioners

By Rev. Bhaskar Morugudi  
Parishes of Olfen, Miles, Rowena

I came to west Texas in October, 2003 to the wonderful parishes of Sts. Boniface-Olfen, Joseph-Rowena and Thomas-Miles. I came as a stranger with a lot of fears but now I am going back with lots of friends, well wishers and family. When I first came, I asked my late Bishop Johannes to go back and he encouraged me to stay here. I had no option but to stay. (We soon got a new bishop who has plans for me in the diocese of Kurnool, India.)



Morugudi

I will sure miss all my friends and wonderful people of our cluster parishes. It took me almost three years to learn the culture and to getting into the shoes of the people. As I was very new, I didn't have much to talk to them but now I have a lot to talk about: rain, farm, steak and German Sausage etc. Now I can walk into

the houses and show up for meals. You can never believe this: I hardly ever have to cook. People are so thoughtful and bring a lot of food. I could just walk to farms and fields and join with farmers to strip the cotton and connect myself to them well.

It is an amazing time to be here in Texas. As a child I dreamed of how America would be. It is even more than I ever dreamed it would be. I love everything about it. But most of all I love the people and how much you all cared for me and took the time to teach me your culture. I would like to invite Y'ALL to come to India. I would surely love to show you my home.

There is a lot that I learned in this culture. People are very loving, caring and thoughtful. What they say they mean, and the culture here has broadened my understanding of the marriage system. In India mostly we have arranged marriages. It was a shock to see here and now I look at it in a different way. In India, The young people never call the older people by

name.

Really I do feel so much at home here in Rowena. The secret of my happiness here is I was open to culture and people. It made me so happy to learn lots of things faster. When I came here I was a vegetarian. Now I love to eat my steak and chicken. And also when it comes to liturgical services, Masses at home in India are much longer. You could say that Mass will last for at least 1:30 to 2 hours and the people sit on the floors in the church. That is our culture. I am going to miss everyone. From the little children that give me a high five to the aged that I love just to visit. You have all made my last five years so special and I will truly miss you all

The credit as a successful pastor goes to the wonderful secretaries and pastoral, finance councils, CCD and youth directors and Liturgy committee and the volunteer minister in liturgy and volunteers for various above all support and prayers of loving people.

(Please See MORUGUDI/20)

## USCCB: Pelosi misrepresented church teachings

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The chairmen of the U.S. bishops' pro-life and doctrine committees criticized House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, saying she "misrepresented the history and nature of the authentic teaching of the Catholic Church on abortion" in a nationally televised interview Aug. 24.

Pelosi, D-Calif., who is Catholic, said in an appearance that day on NBC's "Meet the Press" that church leaders for centuries had not been able to agree on when life

begins.

An Aug. 25 statement by Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia and Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Conn., said the church since the first century "has affirmed the moral evil of every abortion."

"The teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable," the statement said. "Direct abortion, that is to say, abortion willed either as an end or a means, is gravely contrary to the moral law."

Cardinal Rigali heads the Committee on Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, while Bishop Lori

chairs the USCCB Committee on Doctrine.

The statement recalled how in the Middle Ages "uninformed and inadequate theories" about the development of a child in a mother's womb led some theologians to suggest that human life capable of receiving an immortal soul may not exist until a few weeks into pregnancy.

"While in canon law these theories led to a distinction in penalties between very early and later abortions, the church's moral teaching never justified or permitted abortion at any stage of development," the church leaders said.



Game time at Our Lady of Grace Monastery: S. Mary Grace, middle, and S. Josefina, right, listen as S. Catherine reads her answers.

## Simple pleasures: Playing board games with nuns

By Jimmy Patterson

Dad always said one of the best ways to get the most out of life is to enjoy the simple things. And so that's what this story is about. There are no ooooh or ahhh moments. No gotchas or grabbers at the end. Just a story about the opportunity of a lifetime: Playing Scattergories with nuns.

Sister Mary Grace. Sister Mary Catherine. Sister Mary Michael. Sister Josefina. Sister Imelda. They all beat me at the game.

I'd never **▶ Related Story, photos/Pgs 10-11** played

Scattergories before, so Sister Mary Grace gave me about 15 seconds to hear, absorb and understand the rules. Which is why I was only able to come up with six out of 10 answers in the first round, scoring a miserable 5 out of 10 on that first hand. The second round wasn't much better, but the sisters seemed impressed when, using the letter "C," I was able to answer Corpus to the prompt "Things found in a chapel."

Winning wasn't really the object though. Not for me, at least. I think maybe Sister Michael was a little more competitive than I, but when a nun turns it up a notch in Scattergories, you just sit back and get out of her way.

I spent a day with The Carmelite Sisters of Our Lady of Grace Monastery recently, about an hour's drive south of San Angelo. I don't know that I've been to a place more filled with peace. The silence was beautiful. The frill-free meals I was given were as good as or better than most restaurants where you pay \$20 or \$30.

Most of the sisters' days are spent in prayer. When they are not praying they are working, preparing meals or tending to the grounds or the monastery itself. Sister Michael and Sister Imelda, two of the senior nuns, enjoy picking at each other like a couple of biological sisters and their give and take in the kitchen while trying to decide which apron S. Imelda should wear for a photo was priceless.

I've heard that people strive for joy more so even than happiness. Joy is a fuller, richer, longer-lasting feeling than mere happiness, which can be fleeting. The five sisters at the



Patterson

## Del Escritorio del Obispo

# El matrimonio origino en dios no en una ley humana



Obispo Miguel Pfeiffer OMI

Preguntas y respuestas sobre el matrimonio y las uniones del mismo sexo

por el Obispo Miguel Pfeiffer, OMI

El matrimonio es una institución humana y social básica. Aunque es regulado por las leyes civiles y las leyes de la iglesia, no se originó ni en la iglesia ni en el estado, sino en Dios. En

consecuencia, ni la iglesia ni el estado pueden alterar el significado y estructura básicos del matrimonio.

El matrimonio, cuya naturaleza y propósitos están establecidos por Dios, sólo puede ser la unión de un hombre y una mujer, y debe quedar como tal en la ley. A diferencia de cualquier otra relación, el matrimonio hace una contribución única e irremplazable al bien común de la

sociedad, especialmente mediante la procreación y educación de los niños.

La unión de esposo y esposa se convierte, en el curso de toda una vida, un gran bien para sí mismos, su familia, las comunidades y la sociedad. El matrimonio es un don que debe ser apreciado y protegido.

Un movimiento creciente hoy

(Mira OBISPO/18)

(Please See PATTERSON/20)

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

**14-16 -- AUSTIN**, Texas Catholic Conference – General Assembly & Meeting of Texas Bishops  
**18 -- SAN ANGELO**, Holy Angels – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Presentation on St. Paul by Fr. Montalbano, OMI  
**19 -- SAN ANGELO**, Diocesan Pastoral Center – Staff Mass at 8:30 a.m. and Staff Meeting at 11:00 a.m.  
**20 -- SAN ANGELO**, St. Mary(& St. Margaret) – Confirmation at 5:00 p.m.  
**21 -- SONORA**, St. Ann – Mass at 10:30 a.m.  
**22-25 -- MUNDELEIN, Illinois** – Home Mission Bishops' Meeting  
**26 -- SAN ANGELO**, Pastoral Center – Presbyteral Council Meeting  
**27 -- SAN ANGELO**, Holy Angels-Diocesan Liturgy Day  
**28 -- SWEETWATER**, Immaculate Heart – Mass at 10:30 a.m.  
**28 -- COLORADO CITY**, St. Ann - Mass at 10:30 a.m.  
**30-Oct. 1 -- SAN ANGELO**, Christ the King Retreat Center – Clergy Convocation

**OCTOBER**

**30-Oct. 1 -- SAN ANGELO**, Christ the King Retreat Ct.-Clergy Convocation  
**3 -- SAN ANGELO**, Angelo Catholic School – Holy Angels Campus - Mass at Holy Angels for Feast of St. Francis of Assisi and Blessing of Animal, 8:30 a.m.  
**4 -- ODESSA**, St. Elizabeth-Workshop for Pastoral and Finance Councils 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
**5 -- SAN ANGELO**, Sacred Heart Cathedral – Adult Confirmation, 2 p.m. (Annual Respect Life Program)  
**6 -- SAN ANGELO**, Diocesan Pastoral Center – Mass for Staff at 8:30 a.m. and Staff Meeting at 11 a.m.  
**6 -- SAN ANGELO**, Holy Angels – Living Rosary at 6:30 p.m.  
**7 -- ODESSA**, St. Elizabeth – Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.  
**8 -- SAN ANGELO**, - Meeting of Big Brothers, Big Sisters  
**9 -- ODESSA**, St. Mary – Presentation to RCIA Groups of the Midland/ Odessa Deanery at 6:30 p.m.  
**11-13 -- SAN ANTONIO** – MACC Board Meeting.  
**15 -- CRANE**, Good Shepherd – Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.  
**16 -- SAN ANGELO**, Sacred Heart Cathedral – White Mass at 6:30 p.m.  
**17 -- SAN ANGELO**, Christ the King Retreat Center – Staff Retreat  
**18 -- SAN ANGELO**, Holy Angels – 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 pm. LITURGY DAY  
**19 -- ABILENE**, St. Francis – Confirmation at 11:00 a.m.  
**20-21 -- Rest and Prayer**  
**23 -- ABILENE**, Sacred Heart – Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.  
**24-26 -- SAN ANTONIO** – Oblate Youth Event  
**28 -- ODESSA**, St. Mary – Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.  
**30 -- ABILENE**, Sacred Heart – Presentation to RCIA Groups of the Abilene Deanery at 6:30 p.m.

**Christ the King  
Retreat Center**

14 -- Introduction to Meditation & Contemplation  
 14 -- Natural Family Planning Classes  
 15 -- Heart of Mercy Prayer Group  
 16 -- San Angelo Deanery Deacons' Quarterly Meeting  
 16 -- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 5-6 pm  
 18-21-- Women's Walk to Emmaus  
 22 -- Heart of Mercy Prayer Group  
 23 -- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 5-6 pm  
 25-28 -- San Angelo Women's ACTS Retreat  
 29 -- Heart of Mercy Prayer Group  
 30-1 -- Clergy Convocation - Rites of Initiation  
 30 -- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 5-6p.m.

**October 2008**

1 -- Clergy Convocation-Rites of Initiation  
 3-5 -- Lubbock Deacons' Retreat  
 6 -- Heart of Mercy Prayer Group  
 7 -- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 5-6 pm  
 10-12 -- Deacon Training Program  
 13 -- Heart of Mercy Prayer Group  
 14 -- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 5-6 pm  
 17-19 -- Engaged Encounter  
 19 -- Introduction to Meditation & Contemplation  
 20 -- Heart of Mercy Prayer Group  
 21 -- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 5-6 pm  
 23-26 -- Women's Walk to Emmaus  
 27 -- Heart of Mercy Prayer Group  
 28 -- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 5-6pm  
 30-2 -- San Angelo Men's ACTS Retreat

**NECROLOGY  
October**

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

**Ethics & Integrity  
Workshops**

**San Angelo Deanery**  
 Sept. 15, Monday, 6:30-9:30 pm, Holy Angels, San Angelo  
 Oct. 13, Monday, 6:30-9:30 pm, Sacred Heart School, San Angelo

**Midland/Odessa Deanery**  
 Sept. 15, Monday, 7-10 pm, St. Mary School, Odessa  
 Oct. 6, Monday, 7-10 pm, St. Stephen, Midland  
 Oct. 21, Tuesday, 7-10 pm, St. Mary School, Odessa

**Abilene Deanery**  
 Sep. 27, Saturday, 9 am-12 noon, Holy Family, Abilene

**FALL FESTIVAL CALENDAR****September 21  
ELDORADO**

**Our Lady of Guadalupe  
Parish Festival**  
 Schleicher County Courthouse Lawn  
 Raffle Tickets - \$1 each  
 prizes: 1st prize - \$500 Gift Certificate  
 2nd prize - BBQ Pit  
 3rd Prize iPod  
 Tickets being sold by parishioners;  
 Game booths, Auction, BBQ Brisket dinner, Food booths, Country store. For more info, call the church at 325.853.2663.

**September 21****CARLSBAD-STERLING CITY**

Annual Fall Festival  
 Knights of Columbus Hall  
 3636 N. Bryant, San Angelo  
 A barbecue brisket/homemade German sausage dinner with all the trimmings will be served from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. The meal may also be purchased from a drive-thru at the same location.  
 Cooked/Uncooked sausage and barbecued brisket may be purchased in the afternoon. An auction featuring donations from various merchants and parishioners will begin at 1:15 p.m. A Country Store, Silent Auction, Bingo and other games will be available throughout the afternoon.  
 THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND.

**September 27  
MIDLAND**

**St. Ann's Family Fair**  
 60th anniversary  
 2000 W. Texas  
 Carnival rides, games offered for 4 days.  
 Thurs., Sept. 25, 6-10 p.m.; Fri., Sept. 26, 6-10 p.m.; Sat., Sept. 27, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sun., Sept. 28, 1-6 p.m..  
 The Family Fair – with food booths, games for children, bingo, the book booth and grand garage sale – takes place on Saturday, September 27. The day begins with a fun run at 8 a.m.

**September 28  
KNICKERBOCKER**

Immaculate Conception  
 Annual Fall Festival  
 Brisket & Sausage Barbeque Meal  
 11 a.m.-3 p.m.  
 Adults \$7 Children \$4  
 Raffle-Auction-Bingo-Games-Entertainment

**October 4**

**ABILENE**  
 Holy Family  
 5410 Buffalo Gap Road  
 23rd Annual FallFest  
 Noon to 10 PM  
 Fantastic Food, Live Entertainment, Silent Auction, Bingo,  
 Games for all ages, much more

**October 5**

**ST. LAWRENCE**  
 52nd annual  
 ST LAWRENCE  
 FALL FESTIVAL

Mass begins at 9 a.m.  
 Barbeque Brisket/German Sausage  
 Lunch 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
 followed by Live Auction.  
 Texas A & M University Aggie Wranglers perform @ 11 a.m.  
 Fun begins at 10:30 with Arts & Crafts booths, Petting zoo, Children's Booths, Kountry Kitchen, Christian Corner, Silent Auction, Jumpy Houses, Parish Cookbooks and more. Bingo from 12-4. sausage sandwiches beginning at 2 p.m. We are beginning a new Era in our new parish hall, please join us for a relaxing day of family fun!

**October 5  
BRADY**

St. Patrick's Fall Festival.  
 "The Ed Davenport Civic Center"  
 HWY 87 North in Brady  
 Serving of a delicious German Sausage/Turkey and Dressing Meal, Bingo, Cake Walk, Country Store, Children's Games, Silent Auction for "Specialty Meals" and smaller items and the big Auction for the larger items. Serving of the meal 11 a.m.-2 p.m. The big Auction gets underway at 1 p.m. and the event is topped off with drawings for prizes associated with the festival.

**Oct. 11**

**MENARD**  
 Fall Festival  
 Sacred Heart Church  
 Menard

**October 12**

**OLFEN**  
**Saint Boniface Fall Festival**  
 Traditional sausage, turkey & dressing meal (11 a.m.), along with the auction (1 p.m.), bingo and games (12 Noon). Drive thru plates to go at 10:30 a.m. This year's theme is "Happy Trails". Come and enjoy the fun.

**October 18  
BROWNWOOD**

**St. Mary Queen of Peace  
Catholic Church Fall Festival**  
 12 Noon-7 p.m.  
 Among the many events will be a CAR SHOW, area-wide SINGING TALENT CONTEST, with a \$1,000 first prize, a LIVE AUCTION featuring two round-trip Southwest Airline tickets to anywhere within the continental United States, and a RAFFLE, with a first prize of a \$2,000 gas card. There will be an area just for the children and youth which will include many inflatables as well as a Petting Zoo. The variety of selections available in the many FOOD BOOTHS should satisfied everyone.  
*All proceeds from this year's festival will be deposited in a start-up fund for a proposed Youth Center.*

**SONGFEST at St. Mary's**

St. Mary's is hosting a vocal competition in conjunction with the Fall Festival, on Oct.18."SongFest" at St. Mary's will begin with auditions the week of

Oct.6-11. Preliminary judges' scores will determine the Top 10 competitors who will perform at the Festival for the three finals judges and the public. Each of our three judges' and the public's votes will count as one-fourth of the final score and the winner will receive a \$1000.00 cash prize.

Competition open to the public  
 15 and older  
 Any genre of music welcome  
 Entry fee is \$20  
 E-mail  
 SongFest.Competition@gmail.com for entry form, rules and more info.

**October 19  
WALL**

**St. Ambrose / Holy Family  
Fall Festival  
Oktoberfest-  
We Are Built On Tradition**

Turkey/dressing/sausage meal with all the trimmings, including homemade desserts will be served beginning at 11 am in the Parish Hall. You may also purchase tickets for plates to go. Entertainment will begin at 1pm (auction area) and the live cotton/miscellaneous auction will begin at 1:30 pm. There will be indoor and outdoor games for the kids, bingo, and a market.

**October 19  
COLEMAN**

**Sacred Heart Parish  
OCTOBER FIESTA!**

201 San Saba St., Coleman  
 11 a.m.-5 p.m.  
 Brisket ala Mexicana  
 Serving from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.  
 Beef brisket cooked Mexican Homestyle with Spanish rice, beans, salad, flour tortillas, drink, dessert  
 Adult plate: \$7 Child's plate: \$4.  
 Take out available.  
 Concession stand 2-5 p.m.  
 Serving Grilled burgers  
 Ice Cold Drinks and candy  
 EVENTS include Games ... Bingo ... Country Store ... Silent Auction ... Cake Walk ... Horseshoe Tournament  
 Raffle: \$5 tickets or 6 for \$20.  
 1st prize: 42" High Def Flat Panel TV  
 2nd Prize: 3rd of Beef  
 3rd: DVD/VCR Combo Player  
 (Need not be present to win)

**November 9  
ROWENA**

**St. Joseph**  
 86TH ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL  
 MID-DAY MEAL OF TURKEY,  
 DRESSING & TRIMMINGS  
 ROWENA GERMAN STYLE SAUSAGE  
 GAMES FOR ALL AGES  
 AUCTION  
 COUNTRY STORE

*Include your parish in this calendar.  
 Email your festival dates to  
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## Celebrate Catechetical Sunday 2008

# The word of God in the life and mission of the church

*“Catechesis is that particular form of the ministry of the word which matures initial conversion to make it into a living explicit and fruitful confession of faith. (GDC 82) Catechesis aims to bring about in the believer an ever more mature faith in Jesus Christ, a deeper knowledge of love of his person and message, and a firm commitment to follow him.” (NDC p.56) This is the focus and direction of catechetical ministry.*

Sunday, September 21 is Catechetical Sunday. It is a day celebrated annually in the United States reminding us of the importance of catechesis. Parishes across the country will be celebrating this day, recognizing the ministry of the catechist as a vocation and the role the whole faith community has in continuing to pass on the faith from generation to generation. It is by our Baptism, that each of us is called to share in the mission of Christ. We are called to “echo God’s Word” to proclaim the Good News of Christ.

The theme for Catechetical Sunday is *“The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church”*. It invites us to take time to study the Word of God throughout the year and come to a better understanding of the many meanings of Word of God.

It is also the theme of the 2008 Synod of Bishops which is scheduled to take place in Rome in October, 2008.

The *2008 Catechetical Sunday Resource* identifies various meanings the phrase ‘Word of God’ has for Catholics. They include:

- ▶ The pre-existent Word, the Second Person of the Trinity, the Son of God God’s Word at creation, through whom everything that exists came into being Jesus himself, the Word that became flesh and dwelt among us.
- ▶ Sacred Scripture, God’s inspired Word Church Tradition, which faithfully echoes the Word of God to every generation

As we begin this new catechetical year, let us take time to reflect and be attentive to the many ways the Word of God is active in our lives and the many ways we give witness to God’s Word in our families, in our work places, in the use of resources, in the way we reach out and respond to one



Elise Brogan, 7, a religious education student from SS. Peter and Paul Church in Manorville, N.Y., prays the Lord’s Prayer with fellow students during a special Mass at St. Agnes Cathedral in Rockville Centre, N.Y., Nov. 18 to mark Religious Education Week in the Rockville Centre Diocese. More than 400 students, catechists and religious education directors attended the Mass. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz, Long Island Catholic)

another, in the way others see our faith lived.

Catechesis is a ministry that involves the whole faith community. Catechesis is “a necessary and demanding task” of interpreting the Word of God in the Church (Lineamenta, Chapter 1). Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity to catechize the assembly about its role.

them encourage their sons and daughters to consider a life of service to the Church as priests, brothers, and sisters.

We need to remember that vocation ministry is not something that is added on to parish ministry. The promotion of vocations is at the heart of a parish’s ministry to its families. Strong, faith-filled, and lively Catholic families provide good candidates for Church service.

I am very grateful to the families of our Diocese who have offered their sons and daughters to the Church as priests and religious, and I encourage all of our families to become more actively involved in the promotion of vocations to priesthood and religious life.

## Catechetical Sunday highlights work done by church’s catechists

By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

The theme for Catechetical Sunday 2008, which is celebrated on September 21<sup>st</sup>, is “The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church”. This theme is particularly appropriate in light of the topic for the October worldwide meeting of the Synod of Bishops that will be held in Rome. The theme before the bishops is “The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church.”

The annual celebration of Catechetical Sunday has become an occasion to highlight the importance of the catechetical ministry as the Church carries out her work of passing on the good news from one generation to another. It is also an opportunity for parishes of our diocese to recognize and thank all those who give so generously of their selves and time to the ministry of catechesis—especially in the work of teaching young people.

As we celebrate Catechetical Sunday, I congratulate all the wonderful catechists, teachers of religion, in our diocese and I thank them for their good service that they give to this primary ministry of the Church. Those who take part of this ministry are sharing in one of the primary ministries of Jesus himself, which was to teach about the kingdom of God. Thank you, good catechists and teachers for this splendid service that you give to the many churches of our diocese. And, a special thank you to Sister Hilda Marotta and Sister Adelina Garcia and their staff for the constant efforts to prepare and train people for ministry, especially in the field of catechesis as they lead the office of Formation and Education of our diocese.

On this special Sunday, I ask that our pastors recognize the catechists of our diocese, and offer them a special blessing in the presence of the entire community and all weekend masses. This ministry needs the affirmation and support of the entire community. And, of course, we remember that parents are the first teachers of their children, and we encourage all parents to learn more about our Catholic faith and to share this with their children. And parents send your children to religious education classes so that they can learn more about our God, the life and mission of Jesus, and the beautiful teachings of our Catholic church.

Each day as we strive to imitate the life and teaching of Christ, we are indeed making the Word of God present in our lives. May Mary our Mother, the teacher of the greatest teacher, be our model in learning and putting the word of God into practice.

## Creating home environment conducive to vocations

By Bishop Michael Pfeifer

The national strategy for promoting vocations of the U.S. Catholic Bishops a few years ago, “A Future Full of Hope,” identified the importance of parental encouragement for the Church’s vocation ministry for all vocations, but especially for priesthood and religious life. If parents are to create a home environment that is conducive to vocational development, they need support and help from the Church, and parents need to remember that they are the first vocational directors for their children.

There are many ways the Church can help parents to encourage their children

to consider a priestly or religious vocation: Catholic schools, quality religious education programs, youth ministry programs, a vibrant parish life, excellent liturgies, outreach programs for the poor and needy, as well as priests and religious who are inspirational and positive role models.

When we help families see themselves as faith communities in union with other families in Christ through the Church, we empower and encourage them to call forth priests and religious from their midst. When we help families share and pray together, read Scripture, support them in their joys and sorrows of life, and inspire them to reach out in service, we, in turn, help

## Making Sense of Bioethics

**Sex and little pills: viagra and birth control**

By Rev. Thad Pacholczyk

A prominent politician was recently pressed by reporters to comment on the "unfair situation" of health insurers reimbursing for Viagra but not for birth control. The politician declined to

reply, and the ensuing firestorm led to accusations of gender bias (and even misogyny) on his part. Other commentators took the argument and ran with it: Why should men be able to get drugs so they can

have sex, but women cannot be given the same access to needed drugs so they can have sex safely and without the risk of becoming pregnant? Do men somehow have more of a right to sex than women, as implied by the unequal coverage of these drugs?

Behind these questions are some misguided views about sex, pregnancy, and morality, as well as some basic confusion over the respective actions of these two drugs. Viagra and birth control should not be used to make a strained analogy between men and women — these powerful drugs serve two different purposes, and each one has its own unique ethical considerations. Viagra, at a minimum, treats an actual dysfunction, while birth control does not. In fact, one might say that Viagra fixes a broken system, while birth control breaks a perfectly working system.

Whenever the pill is used *as birth control* (its major use in America today), rather than as a treatment for irregular cycles or bleeding, it tosses a

wrench into a healthy, properly-functioning biological system, and enables a married couple to act against their own natural fruitfulness. A grave moral violation occurs whenever we turn marital sexuality into a radically lifeless transaction through the use of contraception. In our society, pregnancy and fertility are too often seen as if they were some kind of health anomaly. Fertility, clearly, is not a disease at all, and does not need to be treated as if it were a pathological state. Pregnancy is the normal, healthy physiological process by which human beings enter the world, and every person's life-journey includes a good stretch in the womb. In our society, however, the over-brimming desire for sex, and especially for sex separated from its consequences, has pushed millions to act against the proper order of their own marriages by adverting to birth control.

Meanwhile, in the case of erectile dysfunction, a normal biological process may have become impaired due to age or injury, and through the use of Viagra, this impairment can sometimes be remedied. Viagra does not aim to disrupt normal function, but rather to restore it. Within marriage, the medical use of Viagra for such restorative functions does not generally raise moral problems.

Some might still argue that it is natural and normal for a male to lose erectile function by a certain age. Should we assume that a male is entitled to keep having sex beyond the age of erectile impotence, when we wouldn't try to force a woman to remain fertile beyond the age of menopause? If a man is too old to continue doing what "nature" used to allow him to do, the argument goes, then it would seem to

be improper for him to utilize Viagra, and he should simply accept his limitations with grace. But this parallelism between men and women is not a compelling one, as women have a rather strict and well-defined natural age limit on their fertility, while men do not, with many remaining quite capable of fathering children even when they are elderly, often without any assistance from drugs like Viagra. The use of these drugs, then, even by older married men, should not be construed as "against nature."

Viagra has other uses, though, which do raise significant moral concerns. Studies have shown evidence of Viagra use among men who have sex with men, sometimes for the purpose of overcoming the erection-inhibiting effects of alcohol or street drugs such as ecstasy and crystal methamphetamine. Even in the absence of erectile dysfunction, Viagra is coming to be seen by some as a lifestyle, recreational, or even a "party" drug. Serious moral objections exist, of course, to virtually any use of this drug for erectile purposes outside of marriage.

Coming full circle, then, we can ask whether insurance reimbursement for Viagra, but not birth control, makes sense. It is worth mentioning that, in fact, most insurance companies do not yet cover Viagra for erectile dysfunction, notwithstanding the opening question directed to the politician. The use of Viagra does seem to involve a lifestyle choice more than a health issue *per se*, so perhaps health insurance should not be expected to cover it. Although Viagra fixes a broken system, it is not, strictly speaking, an essential system for physical health or

(Please See THAD/20)

'Why Catholic?'

**Program has been truly effective in our diocese**

By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

"Why Catholic?" has truly been an effective program in the Diocese of San Angelo for those who have been involved in this wonderful process of spiritual renewal. It is very gratifying for me to know that almost 2,000 people of our Diocese have participated in the second year of the process of "Why Catholic?" While this is a little bit less than the first year, the facts that I have received hopefully will encourage those who dropped out to sign up for year three: Life in Christ, Walking with God. I strongly encourage all of our parishes to once again look at this wonderful program that helps all of us to know better our Catholic faith and to inspire us to share our faith with others.

I am very grateful to Sister Hilda Marotta and Sister Adelina Garcia for all the time and attention that they have given to promote "Why Catholic?" in our Diocese. The sisters have been in constant contact with RENEW International that sponsors Why Catholic?, and I am very pleased about the many visits that the sponsors of "Why Catholic?" have made to our Diocese during the past.

During this past year, those sharing in "Why Catholic?" took part in a workshop for "small community leaders" which gave them the tools for facilitating in their groups and also an overview of the content of the year to come on Sacraments. Also, as part of this wonderful program there was a Faith Enrichment Workshop. This two-hour experience offered "Christ's presence in the Eucharist: A Eucharistic Spirituality for Today," and reflected on the presence of Christ at Mass with particular focus on the Eucharistic Prayer, the paschal Mystery in our lives and what it means to become the Body of Christ. The third presentation by the sponsors of "Why Catholic?" was a retreat entitled, "Eucharist: Bread for the Journey."

I am deeply grateful to the members of RENEW

(Please See WHY CATHOLIC/20)

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# Pro Life Mass

Aug. 29, 2008  
Midland



Left, right and below, images of small children attending the Pro-Life Mass in Midland, Aug. 29. Above, over 400 braved wet weather at the start of the Mass. Top left, bishop Pfeifer prays with retired Episcopal priest Jon Stasney.

## Pfeifer calls for support of HB 4133; makes note of Pelosi's mis-statements on church teaching

By Jimmy Patterson  
The Angelus

When Elizabeth proclaimed that "the infant in my womb leaped for joy," that infant was St. John the Baptist, and so it was fitting that Bishop Pfeifer's Pro-Life Mass this year was celebrated on the day in which Catholics celebrated The Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist.

Over 400 pro-life advocates celebrated a Mass for the Unborn Aug. 29 at the Prayer Garden in downtown Midland. The Mass was celebrated on a Friday, the day of the week during which the Planned Parenthood clinic, located across the street from the Prayer Garden, performs abortions.

Bishop Pfeifer called on those in attendance to support House Bill 4133, introduced by Rep. Mark Smith. Passage of the

bill would amend amend Title X of the Public Health Service Act to prohibit family planning grants from being awarded to any entity that performs abortions.

"Do not lose this momentum," Pfeifer implored those in attendance who braved a gentle rain at the outset of the Pro-Life Mass. "Lives of the unborn depend on us, and on you."

Pfeifer also drew note of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and her misrepresentation and, in fact, lack of knowledge of church teachings regarding its stance on abortion. Pelosi said in a televised inter-



view in August that for centuries church leaders have not been able to agree on when life begins, when in fact church leaders have for centuries agreed that life begins at conception. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops issued a statement that says, "The teaching has not changed

and remains unchangeable. Direct abortion, that is to say, abortion willed either as an end or a means, is gravely contrary to the moral law."

Each year, 290,000 abortions are performed in Planned Parenthood clinics, a number far

greater than any other organization that performs abortions.

"All human life is made in the very image and likeness of God and must be held sacred from the moment of conception until natural death," Pfeifer said.

Pfeifer added that in the upcoming presidential election, Pro-Life issues "deserve priority over all other issues."

Democratic nominee Barack Obama is an outspoken pro-choice advocate, as is his vice presidential candidate Sen. Joe Biden (D-Del.), a Catholic; Republican nominee John McCain sees Roe v. Wade as a flawed decision that must be overturned. His VP selection, Alaska Governor Sarah Palin, is a strong Pro-Life candidate with five children.

The Pro-Life Mass was attended by members of several denominations, and by students from St. Ann's School in Midland.

## Catholic Voices

**Summer's end: contemplating autumn and God's name**

Kmiec

**By Douglas W. Kmiec**  
Catholic News Service

The last days of summer are upon us. As a child, I didn't much like this August time of year. The summer I looked forward to the previous school year was fast disappearing, and soon a new school year would intrude upon what seemed to me then the truest form of human freedom: a child's unmanaged hours of summer leisure.

As a young boy my small hands would cling fast to summer vacation, unprepared to concede that my early summer perspective of unlimited free time was unrealistic. Though older

now, I still sometimes find myself resisting the calendar turn from summer to fall.

The flip of the month triggers a bittersweet mixture of memories of much anticipated summer family get-togethers as well as summer projects not yet accomplished.

Now, of course, I still see the boy in the mirror, but God who sees us both calms our jointly-managed, anxious heart and permits us to know him as the God of all seasons.

Even thinking back to Easter in late summer brings to mind the joy of our redemption through Christ, of spring and the beauty of new beginnings.

In between Easter and now, the church has honored the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ and helped us welcome the gifts of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost still at work in the here and now. The precious summer weeks that remain are allowed to ripen the seed of faith.

The church calendar of late summer also brings its own special beauty in the feast of the Assumption.

In mid-August, the image of Mary, the mother of Jesus, being taken into God's presence without the pain or anxiety of death underscores how the peace of summer need never end. Mary's miraculous journey awaits us if we fol-

low her example of submission to the divine will.

During the 20 years I was privileged to teach at the University of Notre Dame, it always seemed to me that the statue of Mary atop the Golden Dome, the university's famed administration building in the center of the campus, stood in ever more tranquil splendor on this feast day.

Each Aug. 15, Jesus' mother seemed to gently tilt her head and smile upon the nearby Indiana and Michigan countrysides as they were being prepared almost imperceptibly by God's hand for the fall harvest.

(Please See **KMIEC/17**)

**... and the human rights gold medal goes to:**

Magliano

**By Tony Magliano**  
Catholic News Service

Practice from sunup to sundown over and over again until you're good. But good is not enough. You need to get better. So you practice harder. And when you're better, you practice even harder yet. Because better is still not good enough. To win the gold, you must practice until you're the best!

However, when it comes to human rights, relatively few athletes and still fewer countries strive for the gold. But one Olympian stands out: American Joey Cheek.

After winning the 500 meter speedskating event at the 2006 Winter Olympics, Cheek donated his \$25,000 gold medal award from the U.S. Olympic Committee to refugees from Darfur, Sudan.

The government of Sudan has a long record of committing genocide toward the people of Darfur. Yet despite an international movement to put economic pressure on Khartoum, China continues to participate in a mutually beneficial trading relationship with Sudan.

Because Cheek has been critical of China for continuing to trade

(Please See **MAGLIANO/17**)

**There is strength in gentleness, no room for hatred**

**By Father William J. Byron, SJ**  
Catholic News Service

On West Street at the edge of Shenandoah, Pa., there's an empty lot with a permanent marker that reads:

"Site of the Birthplace and Boyhood Home of Walter J. Ciszek, SJ."

Jesuit Father Ciszek's 1964 book "With God in Russia" recounts the story of his growing up in Shenandoah; his leaving town in 1928 against his coal miner father's will to join the

Jesuits; his post-ordination assignment to the "Russian missions"; and his 23 years in Soviet prisons and labor camps for the crime of being a "Vatican spy."

My mother grew up a few blocks

from Wally Ciszek's birthplace. Her father was the town's "general physician and surgeon." He delivered most of the babies, my mother told me, and attended to the victims of violence in the days of the Mollie Maguire labor uprisings in the coalfields.

Our family home on Main Street, which housed my grandfather's office, was, like the Ciszek home, eventually razed. There's a gas station and convenience store there now.

I have many memories of childhood visits to Shenandoah. Sunday morning bells called worshippers to the "Irish" church (the official Catholic diocesan parish), the Lithuanian church, the Italian church, the Polish church and several onion-dome Greek churches. There were a few Protestant churches in town and a synagogue too.

The "pool," a weekly lottery, brought

everyone to town on lively Saturday nights. Some residents called the borough "Little New York."

Located midway between Scranton and Harrisburg, Shenandoah had a population of about 25,000 when anthracite was king; it's down to about 5,600 now.

Hispanics, mostly Mexicans, attracted by factory work and farm labor opportunities, have added to the ethnic mix.

I saw tough little Polish kids like Wally Ciszek (whom I didn't know then but met many years later) smoking cigars. My cousin Tom Coakley, an Irish kid, played football for Shenandoah High. I had the impression from him that the gridiron surface was more coal slag than grass. They were all tough kids.

Sadly, Shenandoah is now making disturbing national news. On July 14, Luis Ramirez, 25, an illegal Mexican

(Please See **BYRON/17**)

**Building something new in the rubble**

**By Karen Osborne**  
Catholic News Service

I grew up in a land of unbridled optimism. Everything seemed to be improving. I watched the Berlin Wall topple and communism in Russia enter the history books. The '90s were among the most prosperous times in U.S. history.

When my friends and I went to the movies, we watched movies like "Independence Day," where the bad guys were defeated and everything came out fine at the end.

And then came Sept. 11, 2001, and everything seemed to change.

Many of the teens reading this column today were in elementary school, watching cable news on cafeteria televisions with their teachers and their questions. That day changed their lives.

Over a somber dinner in the college dining hall that evening, a friend shared a thought common to all of us: that the world as we knew it ended when those airplanes smashed into glass and steel and the dreams of an entire country. Around the world people said much the same thing.

That prediction seemed to have come true. Teens today are watching security walls go up between Palestinians and Israelis, terrorism on the rise, whisperings at home that echo the paranoid Cold War era.

Their Sunday matinees resemble "The Dark Knight," where viewers experience no resolution and no happy ending. The U.S. is headed into another recession.

While I grew up expecting a rising tide, today's

(Please See **OSBORNE/9**)



Byron

# What can be done to reduce prison recidivism?

By Deacon Robert Leibrecht  
Director of Criminal Justice Ministry  
Diocese of San Angelo

In Texas, there are over 250,000 men and women incarcerated in federal, state and county jails. About 25 percent or 60,000 inmates are released annually; however, over two-thirds return to prison (recidivism rate of about

► **Criminal Justice Sunday is November 16, 2008.**

70 percent) because of a lack of family, community and church support. Some of the incarcerated do establish a relationship with Jesus and experience peace and joy inside the prison walls; while many still remain in darkness, because they have not yet come to grips with the consequences of their actions. They only see participating in religious activities as a sign of weakness, and are blind to any spiritual message of hope and salvation. In order to plant seeds of reconciliation, time and dedicated volunteers are needed, and both are in short supply, so the effectiveness of the gospel message is limited.

In addition to developing a relationship with Jesus in prison, the inmate needs to participate in anger management, life skills, and other programs. The inmate should be encouraged to obtain their GED if they didn't complete high school before incarceration. There are vocational programs like plumbing, refrigeration, electrical, etc. that can assist an inmate in finding employment and a better paying job upon release. Besides preparing the offenders, there is a great need to work with families of the incarcerated so they are prepared for the return of their loved one. If the offender, family or both are not well prepared, the likelihood for the offender to return to prison will be great. This is one of the primary reasons for the very high recidivism rate in our penal system today.

## *A life-altering experience*

By Anna N. Tucker

Our understanding of life is shaped, in part, by our life experiences. One of these life altering experiences would forever change the way I viewed the incarcerated. As a child, I was brought up, not to judge anyone. I had no opinion about the incarcerated. I was apathetic because I didn't have anyone close to me that had been incarcerated. To me, they were just people who had committed crimes and were serving their time. I never once thought about the suffering it entailed, not only for the one incarcerated but for their families, and their loved one(s) that might also end up "serving time" too.

I never stopped to think about how difficult it must be for a woman to raise her children without the help of a father, knowing there are certain things only a father can provide; or for a man to raise his children without the tenderness of a mother. I never thought about how hard it must be for a son to say that his daddy was "working out of town" when his classmates ask what his father did for a living; or for a daughter to say that her mother was "away at school" when asked the same question. The family is impacted not only financially, but emotionally, and spiritually, as well. Often the person who is the guardian of minor children carries the heaviest burden. This can range from providing for their children by holding on to two jobs to

being a full-time mother, and father, and the sole disciplinarian.

Children become an even greater risk, in following the incarcerated person's footsteps. They are left like lambs among wolves without the presence, guidance and protection of a father. This is a hard and harsh world in which we live. It does not look kindly on those incarcerated, nor on the families who are innocent. Yet families are treated with the same repulsiveness and indignity, as their loved one that is incarcerated. Yes, this world is an unforgiving place. Even when the incarcerated person has done his/her time the stigma and punishment continue because society never forgets.

Finding work will be one of the most difficult challenges the newly released will have to face when re-entering society. Finding a place to live will also prove to be difficult because no one wants to live near an "ex-convict." The impact is astounding and overwhelming at times.

So how did I come to walk down the Via Dolorosa, the Road of Suffering? My situation is unique from most of the families in our support group. Unlike my brothers and sisters in Christ who have adult children incarcerated and have seen and lived the pain of seeing them choose the hard road, I chose to befriend an incarcerated man whom I

(Please See **EXPERIENCE/17**)

The impact of crime extends beyond the prison walls to those in our community and parishes. There are families with a loved one incarcerated, victims of crime & domestic

violence, and drug & alcohol abuse in home. Each in crisis is struggling with a personal situation that appears hopeless, so we must respond by offering love, acceptance, and

understanding. As a Church, we are called to be the hands and feet of Christ, His disciples, ministering to those in need, helping them find peace, joy and hope that we have found in our relationship with Lord.

To help provide a message of hope to those impacted by crime, the Catholic community of Midland established a New Life Ministry (NLM) support group for families of the incarcerated in February 2008. This NLM group meets every Thursday from 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Stephen's, 4601 Neely. In addition to families, those returning home from prison have found great benefits in attending the support group. They are able to hear firsthand of the struggles and come to realize what the families deal with when a child or spouse is incarcerated. Also, ex-offenders that have attended the NLM group are able to give the families some insight into the trials and suffering behind the bars. So, if you have a loved one in prison, or have been recently released from jail or prison, please come and join our group. Our main goal is found in Matthew 11:28, where Jesus says, "Come to me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. God wants us to realize that we are not alone during difficult times, as He wants to help carry our burdens so we can find rest in Him. This new life in Christ can offer us a renewed sense of peace and hope for the future.

The NLM support group in Midland was just the beginning, as Deacon Bob Leibrecht would like to work with you to help establish a group in your parish, or community, where there are multiple churches. Please call him at 432-889-3858 to offer your help. To show how God is already changing lives by offering renewed hope, several of those that have been attending the Midland support group want to share their stories, and the peace they have found. The first in a series of stories accompanies this article, and is entitled, "A Life Altering Experience." Other testimonies will be included in upcoming Angelus issues.

## **OSBORNE: Even the darkest of nights has a morning**

(From 8)

teens often see only a downward trek.

When something terrible and unexpected happens in life, whether it's a divorce, the loss of a friend or some other personal tragedy, the world seems to change, and often for the worse.

People react to events like this sometimes by being so optimistic -- or pessimistic -- that they can't dig themselves out of the emotional hole they seem to be standing in.

We've learned one lesson from Sept. 11:

that wide-eyed, Pollyanna-like optimism isn't the way to go, for it can make people blind to reality. Incorrect, too, is the darkest-night negativity that seems to be the rule in the way many teens are being raised to see the world. If you can't see the light, it's harder to change.

Reality is somewhere in the middle.

We can't change what happened that September day. We can't put the broken beams back together and restore life to the thousands who died. Likewise, we can't turn back the clock on personal tragedies.

But maybe we can build something beautiful in its place.

It means being like Batman and holding on to hope. It means holding on to the good times in the midst of depression, and keeping that light ahead of you in the dark places. It means never losing sight of others who may not be as fortunate. It means planning for the leaner times that will inevitably come when everything seems bright and sunny.

You may not be able to reunite your parents or bring a group of friends back together.

But life and God both point us toward new things we can accomplish.

We have to move on, to build something

new in the rubble, to honor the past but work for something better.

My teen world may have looked a little different, but it was the same world. Out there is the same world we had before the towers were torn down. Out there is the same world before the tragedies in our homes and our schools destroyed what we thought we had -- what we thought was real.

Any wall that goes up can come down.

Any downturn, economic or emotional, can make a U-turn.

Even the darkest night has a morning.

# Carmelite sisters of Our Lady of Grace monastery do God's work through prayer, work and silence

By Jimmy Patterson  
The Angelus

SCHLEICHER COUNTY -- In most everything they do, there is silence.

Even in their cantoring, the prayerful singing done throughout each day. The singing is quiet, filled with a sense of the Holy Spirit, and calm so as to properly and completely glorify God and give devotion to Mary.

When the Carmelite Rule was put down in the 13th century, the tenets of this form of worshipful life were simple: Pray, work, be silent.

If silence makes a person more open to the presence of God, then the five cloistered nuns at the Our Lady of Grace Monastery near Christoval must be very close indeed.

The presence of the Lord is everywhere here.

When my truck pulled up outside the convent that Friday morning, the crackle of the gravel may have been the loudest thing that had happened here since the last time someone visited.

Don't get the wrong idea. There is communication. The five sisters here share and talk and laugh and learn so the silence is not complete. But the reverence here is inviting and the Carmelite Nuns' example of living can make a person find a deep love of Christ all over again.

The five sisters have tasks that must be performed each day. Sister Mary Grace is the prioress, overseeing the day-to-day operations. Sister Catherine is the sacristan and takes care of outdoor work including the gardening. Sister Josefina oversees the laundry, trash and designs greeting cards for special occasions celebrated by friends of the monastery. Sister Michael does most of the cooking and sewing while Sister Imelda, stricken for months with shingles, has had her schedule curtailed but still helps with the cooking.

Early on the day of my visit, S. Mary Grace led a class with S. Josefina and a postulate (a woman in discernment) and after a remarkably tasty lunch of baked fish, boiled potatoes and bread, I was told I could go to my guest room for "a siesta."

(Continued/11)



## LILIES OF THE DESERT



Clockwise from top left, the Our Lady of Grace Monastery; Sister Catherine, left, and Sister Josefina tend the monastery garden; Molly, the Monastery Labrador, protects Sister Mary Grace and Sister Mary Catherine; Sister Mary Michael and Sister Mary Grace at Mid-day prayer; Sister Imelda playing Scattergories as Sister Michael watches on; a statue of St. Therese, patroness of the Carmelites; Sister Michael and Sister Imelda prepare dinner, the noontime meal, and Sister Mary Grace teaches Sister Josefina in a class on the Sacraments.

Above, left to right, S. Mary Michael, S. Josefina, S. Imelda, S. Mary Grace and S. Catherine.



**continued**

(From 10)

Not one to miss a great opportunity, I spent the next two hours in quiet time and found the music that I usually enjoy while I sleep felt more like an intrusion.

In mid-afternoon on this particular Friday, the sisters and I took in a DVD of Jeff Cavins, a protestant-turned-Catholic apologist with EWTN, as he explained the passages in Matthew 16 that Catholics commonly view as the biblical foundation of the faith.

I watched, fascinated, as these humble women of God made their day work. From S. Josefina burning trash and hanging laundry to S. Michael and S. Imelda preparing my meals and S. Mary Grace teaching class and overseeing everything from the work to a game of Scattergories at night (see related column, Pg. 3).

Text from the Carmelite Sisters brochure sums up briefly just what it is the women do and believe:

"Community Life is a bit like fitting a puzzle together. Each member has her particular gifts and personality from God which helps to build up one another in love. A give and take of Vitamin H (humor) each day helps to keep all kinds of things away.

"Our work contributes to a well-balanced prayer life. Community life is caring, sharing and bearing. The sword of the spirit is the word of God pondered and practiced."

The Carmel's motto, according to the literature, is not about contemplation but about one of the fruits of contemplation: "I have been most zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts (1 Kings 19:10)."

The Schleicher County monastery was dedicated in 2001. The land for this desert holy place was donated by rancher Pierce Holt, just one of many examples of the kindnesses that have been bestowed on the community (another being that recently, because of generous donations, the sisters' food bill for the entire year was \$67).

Sister Imelda, who has been a Carmelite for 60 years, and Sister Mary Grace, were among the original pioneers who arrived in the desert from North Dakota in 1989; Sister Catherine moved to the monastery from North Dakota in 2003. Sister Josefina, who was raised in Bryan, Tex., celebrated her simple vows just two summers ago.

### A Day in the Life of a Carmelite Sister

**5 a.m.** -- Rise (Personal prayer, breakfast, quiet time)

**7:15 a.m.** -- Morning praise

**8 a.m.** -- Eucharist

**8:45 a.m.** -- Midmorning prayer

**9:15 a.m.** -- Work or study

**11:40 a.m.** -- Mid-day prayer, examination of conscience

**12 Noon** -- Dinner, clean-up

**1 p.m.** -- Recreation or free time.

**2 p.m.** -- Work

**3:45 p.m.** -- Class or study

**4:30 p.m.** -- Personal prayer

**5:30 p.m.** -- Evening prayer

**6 p.m.** -- Supper and clean-up, followed by Office of the Readings.

**7:30 p.m.** -- Recreation

**8:45 p.m.** -- Night Prayer

**9:30 p.m.** -- Retire

# 13 seminarians studying the faith in diocese

Fr. Hubert Wade Jr., the Director of Seminarians for the Diocese of San Angelo, held a welcome and overnight Day of Reflection at Christ the King Retreat Center for the seminarians of the Diocese.

Fr. Wade stated that the day was important as the seminarians study at two different seminaries and have not had the opportunity to interact with one another since the beginning of the school year. Currently there are seven seminarians studying at Conception Seminary in Conception, Missouri. Conception is a four-year college seminary with studies leading to a degree in philosophy.

Five men are enrolled at Assumption Seminary, in San Antonio studying theology. They are in the first year of a five-year program that will lead to ordination to the priesthood.

The final seminarian is from Nigeria and is awaiting a visa to enter the United States and begin his studies with his fellow classmates at Assumption Seminary.

During the past summer leading up to Fall classes, the seminarians were in parishes throughout the Diocese "shadowing" priests and becoming more familiar with their daily routines and expectations of a Diocesan priest.

They became familiar with the talents, skills and gifts that will be needed to serve as a priest in the diocese. During the Day of Reflection they related what they had

learned and how their studies would prepare them for service in the Diocese. The seminarians also heard from several priests, women religious and laymen who spoke on various topics that are important to any college and post-college student.

Classes have begun at Assumption Seminary and Conception Seminary resumes classes in the near future. Seminary costs are going up and Fr. Wade stated that he relies on parishioners' generous donations to fund their studies.

"These men are studying for the priesthood and will be our priests within a few years," Fr. Wade said. "We need to support them for their continued presence in our parishes."

Fr. Wade also asked for prayers from parishioners, and, "oh, if anyone could donate a laptop computer, we have three seminarians in need of one for their college work," Wade added.

Fr. Wade also assures the people of the Diocese that the seminarians pray for them on a daily basis. For more information about our seminarians, please contact Fr. Hubert Wade at St. Mary, Star of the Sea, Ballinger, (325) 365-2687 and for more information about a vocation to the priesthood or religious life, please contact Fr. Barry McLean, Director of Vocations, (325) 651-7500.

-- Submitted by Rev. Hugh Wade.



Seminarians from the Diocese of San Angelo were honored recently with a celebration and overnight Day of Reflection stay at Christ the King Retreat Center in San Angelo.

## Holy Communion has a fuller form

Jesus recognized that eating and drinking, the most common gestures of the human condition, assume a particular meaning when experienced in community. Eating and drinking brings about a sense of unity, a communion. In accepting the invitation to eat and drink we form a union with the one offering the invitation.

Jesus invited us to "take and eat...take and drink" and in the process enter into an intimate relationship with us. The communion we share is a prelude to the heavenly banquet. Many Catholics have been satisfied to receive Him under the species of bread alone. The church teaches that we receive the full Christ when we receive the Consecrated Host alone. However, the Church, (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, no. 281) also says:

The sign of communion is more complete when given under both kinds, since the sign of the Eucharistic meal appears more clearly. The intention of Christ that the new and eternal covenant be ratified in his blood is better expressed, as is the relation of the Eucharistic banquet to the heavenly banquet.

So that this "fuller light" may fall upon the import of Christ's words at the Last Supper and in the Eucharistic prayer, and for the sake of the faithful's greater participation in the mystery, communion under both kinds is to be desired in all celebrations of the Mass, although this is not possible in all cases. For this sacred rite: the sign of the Eucharistic meal stands out more explicitly, and the act of drinking the consecrated wine, the blood of Christ, strengthens the faith of the communicants in the sacrificial nature of the Mass. Communion under both kinds can therefore manifest more fully the nature of the Mass

both as a sacrifice and as a sacred Meal belonging to the same mystery, to such an extent that they are linked to one another by a very close theological and sacramental bond (Excerpt from This Holy and Living Sacrifice: Directory for the Reception of Communion under Both Kinds, USCCB) -- Fr. Ed DeLeon

### Letters

#### From the Office of National Collections:

"We have received your recent check for \$16,069.23. This amount has been posted to the 2008 Collection for the Catholic Communications Campaign and will appear in our annual report. I am grateful for your assistance in facilitating the generous gifts of the parishioners in the Diocese of San Angelo."

-- Mary M. Campbell  
Assistant Director for Promotions  
Office of National Collections, USCCB

#### From the National Religious Retirement Office:

"To the people of the Diocese of San Angelo, "On behalf of men and women religious throughout the U.S., I extend heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to the annual appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious in 2007. Your generous donation totaled \$68,450.78, a full eight percent more than was contributed in 2006. We know this represents great sacrifice on the part of many in these difficult economic times and we are deeply grateful."

"Your generosity helps to provide care for more than 37,500 religious in the United States who are past age 70, including more than 4,9000 who need skilled nursing care. These women and men pray daily for your intentions, asking God to bless you abundantly."

## OBITUARY

### Deacon Enemencio 'Chapo' Samniego

Deacon Enemencio "Chapo" Samaniego, 78, went to be with the Lord on Thursday, August 21, 2008 after a courageous battle with lung cancer. Deacon Samaniego was born on September 3, 1929.

Dcn. Chapo was preceded in death by his wife, Anita Samaniego. He is survived by his daughter, Elvia Lopez and son Rene Samaniego and his wife Karina; grandchildren Jerry Lopez, Echi Samaniego, Leslie Samaniego, Monica Samaniego; great grandchildren Mariah, Meeko and Johnny.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, August 23, 2008 at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Sonora. The Most Rev. Michael Pfeifer, O.M.I., officiated, along with several clergy from around the Diocese of San Angelo. The church was filled with family and friends who found in Dcn. Samaniego a man of faith, a humble servant of God.

One of the first men ordained a permanent deacon in the diocese, Dcn. Samaniego served at St. Ann's parish for decades, making himself available to everyone who needed assistance.

The family wishes to express gratitude to the doctors and nurses of Shannon Medical Center and Shannon Clinic, Oncology Department as well as Hospice of San Angelo, particularly nurses Veronica and Laura.

# Fr. Bhaskar: Our Americanized Indian priest will be greatly missed

Submitted by the parishioners of Rowena, Miles & Olfen

Father Bhaskar came to us a very young, naive priest from India four years ago. After being around our American culture, he has adapted very well. He looks really good in a Stetson and his speech is now effortlessly sprinkled with "hey," "ya'll" and "see you later" and other Texas style grammar. Although he can't claim horseback riding as one of his accomplishments, he has learned how to drive a four-wheeler and can be found tearing up the streets of Rowena. He has learned to swim and enjoys his laps in the pool at the YMCA. He tops off his morning there with a stop at McDonalds. Although he complains about gaining weight, he loves pecan pie and cookies, something he wouldn't touch for months when he first arrived here. He has even acquired a taste for beef and will admit that he does like "his steak".

While he has enjoyed the conveniences of his stay here in America, he has never forgotten about the less fortunate back home in India. A portion of his monthly salary goes to his home diocese of Kurnool and another portion of it goes to his special



Climbing atop this four-wheeler was just one of the things Fr. Bhaskar did to endure himself to his parishioners in Rowena, Olfen and Miles.

project, which is the education of less fortunate Indian children. These children are taken care of in different boarding homes by groups of nuns. The nuns provide for the children's basic needs as well as their schooling. Father Bhaskar has been helping to financially support the children the entire time he has been here. The monetary birthday and Christmas gifts he received have been shared with these children.

Although we are concerned about Father leaving, the nuns in the boarding homes are also. Father has been providing us with wonderful spiritual leadership and at the same time has been providing these special children with an education.

Father Bhaskar has the unique gift of being able to relate to every age group. He has many "mothers" in the parishes who make sure he is fed and that he has warm

clothing when those blue Texas northers blow in. He is wonderful with the junior high and high school teenage group, with spiritual retreats tailored specifically for them. The very young have learned that Father will give them a "high five" and hug. They wait for the opportunity -- no matter where. He is generous with his time in ministering to the aged in the nursing homes and those who are homebound, showing his wonderful smile, compassion and gentle ways. When Father celebrates Mass, it is a religious experience, with never a doubt as to the Real Presence.

A farewell luncheon and benefit auction will be held on Sunday, September 14th at St. Joseph's Hall in Rowena. The meal will begin at 11 a.m. with drive through plates-to-go available. The auction will follow the meal. There is not a better way to say "thanks" to Father for all he has done for us and to show him how much we love him, than providing him with the monetary gift he needs to continue his project back home.

*We love you Father Bhaskar --  
The parishioners of St. Boniface, Olfen;  
St. Joseph, Rowena and St. Thomas, Miles.*

## Change of name doesn't change reality, morality

By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

Sadly, there is a movement by some people in government and our court systems that want to change the reality and morality of important life issues that have already been defined by God and the supreme teaching of the Catholic Church. This movement wants to make what has been held as sinful since the beginning of time to now be something moral and acceptable. Humans want to boldly usurp an authority to themselves that belongs only to God. However playing God is futile and destructive.

This effort wants to sanitize sin by giving specific sins new noble names. I mention here several fundamental issues where many mere human movements are now trying to change what has always been sinful and objectionable, to now be acceptable and by giving new names to make what is sinful to now be good and moral.

A recent case in point is the California Supreme Court decision that has changed the essential meaning of marriage by ordering that the term, marriage, should now be applied to same-sex unions. However, renaming same-sex unions to be marriages cannot change the reality nor the morality of what they really are as established by God and the natural law. The proponents of same-sex marriages hope that by equating same-sex and opposite-sex unions under the name

of marriage, that we, as a society, will lose sight of the fundamental distinction between the two. This effort to sanitize sin violates basic divine biblical principles that no human can change.

In a similar way, this sanitizing of sin has happened as regards of sexual promiscuity between members of the opposite sex. Biblical passages that called this fornication are now changed by mere humans who erroneously want to call this sexual liberation.

Abortion is another sin that has gone through the sanitization process. Down through the ages, abortion, the taking of innocent unborn life and the violation of the dignity of the mother has always been condemned by the Church as intrinsically evil. Now some mere humans want to call it a choice, or even reproductive right.

The issue of euthanasia has also gone through a similar renaming process, trying to make something evil to be something good. The killing of those in a weakened and vulnerable circumstances is now considered by many to be mercy killing. This practice of taking the life of the elderly and weak members of our human family is now covered over by many as right to die at whatever time one chooses.

In this sanitizing process of sin, mere humans are foolishly wanting to play God by rejecting ageless moral truths in favor of human standards. The society that does this will collapse.

### ARE YOU QUALIFIED?

#### Are you...

- ▶ Unhappy with your current job (underpaid, overworked, blocked from promotion)?
- ▶ Currently looking for a new career (sending out resumes, asking about opportunities, unemployed)?
- ▶ Facing an uncertain future (downsizing, involved in a family business, in an appointed position)?
- ▶ Being paid less than your worth (maxed out in pay, subject to pay limits, can't go any higher)?
- ▶ A member of the Knights of Columbus (or eligible to join)?
- ▶ Personable and outgoing?
- ▶ Anxious to earn an income equal to your worth?
- ▶ Seeking independence and control of your own destiny?

#### Do You...

- |                                     |                                  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
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## Family

# Should Super Hero kids come with warning labels?

By Dan Morris  
Catholic News Service

I have long thought that 2-and-a-half to 3-year-olds should have warning labels temporarily tattooed onto their foreheads which could be replaced later with a revolving police car red light on top of their heads as they head into 5-year-oldness.



Morris

Why? For one thing, 2-and-a-half to 3-year-olds have a superhero capacity to stretch their arms for about seven feet and snag things off stoves, counters, desks, dining room tables and dash boards.

One of the more amazing things about this ability is that it comes with highly sophisticated stealth technology which, I hear, scientists have been working to understand for years.

I watched a 3-year-old recently snatch a coffee cup full of pens, letter openers and pencils from a receptionist's desk at the dentist. The child was not tall enough for his eyes to peak

over the desk. His arms were not nearly long enough to reach the back of the desk.

Yet while a gaggle of adults stood around, this lad somehow ended up with that cup of highly sharp objects before anyone could think of saying, "Don't touch, Bubba."

One theory is that these children's arms have a transitional physical ability related to a frog's tongue. They can snap their arms out several feet and back in less than a split second, quicker than the human eye can detect.

While high-speed cameras have not documented this, major supermarket chains have been working under the assumption that the theory might be true. Most parents and grandparents think the new shopping carts with attached "kiddy cars" are to entertain the kiddies and encourage return shopping.

The real truth is that these friendly looking modes of kid conveyance cut down on 2-and-a-half to 3-year-olds pulling jars of maraschino cherries off top shelves and dropping them in the aisles, which, in turn, creates a red lake of sticky red fluid that shuts down the grocery store for several days and can involve fines from the Environmental

Protection Agency.

That said, it is also suspected that supermarket marketing scientists have long placed high-priced, super-sugarcharged cereals at easy snap-and-grab level for our wee superhero friends.

How many child-accompanied shoppers have reached the check out stand only to find that several boxes of Sugar Insanity Flakes and packets of M&Ms have mysteriously materialized in their carts?

So you say to your suspected mystery shopper sidekick, "Hey, Bubba, did you put these in here?"

Bubba will say, "I have to go to the bathroom."

You: "So you did put them in here?"

Bubba: "Grandma likes them. Me, too."

Side note: When you are through with the red-revolving-light-on-the-noggin' phase, save the light. You will need it again in about 10 years.

(Comments are welcome. E-mail Uncle Dan at [cnsuncle01@yahoo.com](mailto:cnsuncle01@yahoo.com).)

Bill & Monica Dodds

## Inspired by the Olympics

By Bill and Monica Dodds  
Catholic News Service

If your family is like most, you've been watching at least some of the 2008 Olympics competition.

It's easy for children to imagine being that swimmer, that runner, that ballplayer.

It's hard for parents to imagine having to organize all those events and people. (On the other hand, it couldn't be much more complicated than arranging that recent family reunion, could it?)

Odds are there's a little "spirit of the games" in every family household, including:

► The Hop and Shout. Five family members in a house with two bathrooms. The participant stands outside a bathroom door, hops from foot to foot and shouts, "C'mon, hurry up, my turn, huh?"

► The Parent Relay. Dad or Mom has been on duty for an extended period of time during which the little darlings have been particularly active. As the other par-

ent (finally) enters the front door, the one going off duty announces, "They're all yours," and runs out.

► The Half Swim. A parent gets about 50 percent soaked leaning over the bath tub and making sure that little one gets 100 percent clean. (Well, 80 to 90 percent anyway.)

► Hamper Ball. This is an event that, apparently, many family members choose to boycott. And such simple rules, too. After rolling one's dirty clothes into a wad, toss them in the hamper! How hard can that be?

► Drinking-Straw Wrapper Shooting. Your kids know this one well. Tear one end of the wrapper off, aim at sibling, blow. Bonus points if participant hits brother or sister in the face while family is at a restaurant and the target screams.

### Profiles in Perseverance

Certainly for some viewers, the best part of the Olympics isn't watching the competing; it's learning more about the competitors. And they are inspiring.

It's good for family members of all ages to learn about the amazing dedication and hard work -- oftentimes for years and years -- that it takes for an athlete to reach

a skill level that allows him or her to compete on a world stage.

We all face those kinds of challenges, too: getting through school, establishing and maintaining a happy marriage, creating a loving home or learning to age gracefully, accepting health challenges and the limitations they can bring.

It takes the perseverance of an Olympian to continue to grow in wisdom, knowledge and love. That and, of course, the grace of God.

### The Olympics/Gospel Quiz:

1. Name two real or fictional characters in the Gospel who, while not exactly weightlifters, did pick up something or someone.
2. What two long-distance walkers were joined by Jesus as they went along their way?
3. While it's not really an "equestrian" category, and the Gospels make no specific mention of this, tradition holds who rode a donkey from Nazareth to Bethlehem?

**Answers:** 1. The paralytic cured by Jesus (Mk 2:9) and the good Samaritan (Lk 10:34). 2. The pair on the road to Emmaus (Lk 24:13). 3. Mary.



"I knew we were in trouble when she said, 'Welcome-back-I-hope-you-had-a-nice-summer-my-patience-is-wearing-thin.'"

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### ANSWERS

1. Saul
2. Stephen
3. Barnabas
4. Romans

5. two
6. the church
7. Timothy



**READ MORE ABOUT IT:**  
**Matthew 16**  
**Q&A**

1. What did Jesus say about the leaven of the Pharisees?
2. Who did Peter say Jesus was?

**PAULINE YEAR**

Pope Benedict XVI has declared the 12 months between June 2008 and June 2009 as the "Year of St. Paul." In his remarks about one of the most important early Christians, the pope said, "In the papal basilica and Benedictine abbey attached to it there can be a series of liturgical, cultural and ecumenical events as well as various pastoral and social initiatives, all of them inspired by Pauline spirituality."

The pope also wants to see a movement of prayer, Bible study and evangelization in dioceses around the world.

We can study the Book of Acts to learn about Paul's conversion and his missionary work, and we can read the letters he wrote, which are part of the New

Testament. His life and teachings can be an inspiration to us all.

**BIBLE TRIVIA**

What are the only two books of the New Testament not named after a person or place?

Answer: Acts and Revelation.

**PUZZLE**

Using the New Testament as a guide, answer the following questions about Paul. Some hints have been provided:

1. What was Paul's name before he changed it? (Acts 9) ...
2. Paul stood by as which saint was stoned to death? (Acts 7) ...
3. Who traveled with Paul on his first missionary journey? (Acts 15) ...
4. Which letter written by Paul immediately follows the Book of Acts? ...
5. How many letters to the Corinthians are in the New Testament?
6. What did Paul say was the "body of Christ"? (Ephesians 1) ...
7. What Christian did Paul mention in his greeting to the Philippian?

# JUST 4 KIDS

## Peter recognizes Jesus as the son of God

Looking for a way to test Jesus, the Sadducees and Pharisees asked him to show them a sign from heaven. Jesus answered them, "You know how to judge the appearance of the sky, but you cannot judge the signs of the times. An evil and unfaithful generation seeks a sign, but no sign will be given it except the sign of Jonah." Then Jesus left his questioners to ponder his words.

After crossing the sea, Jesus was alone with his apostles, but they had forgotten to bring any bread.

Jesus used this opportunity for a lesson. "Look out," he said, "and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

The apostles said to each other, "It is because we have brought no bread."

"You of little faith," Jesus said to them, "why do you conclude among yourselves that it is because you have no bread? ... How do you not comprehend that I was not speaking to you about bread?"

Then the apostles realized Jesus was referring to the teaching of the Pharisees.

Jesus and his friends traveled to Caesarea Philippi. "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" Jesus asked.

They answered, "Some say John the

Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

"But who do you say that I am?" Jesus asked.

Simon Peter replied, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

Jesus smiled at him and said, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father.

"And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

After Jesus had said this, he told his apostles not to tell anyone else he was the Messiah.

Then Jesus started talking to his apostles about some of the things that would happen to him in the days ahead. He said he would go to Jerusalem, where he would be abused by the chief priests and scribes and killed, but on the third day he would rise again.

### Coming of Age

# The 'housewife': making a comeback in 2008

By Theresa Borchard  
Young Adult Writer/Catholic News Service



Borchard

It had been a long time since I heard the term "housewife." But recently a friend told me that he is now the housewife in his relationship and that he is thoroughly enjoying it.

"So, not to be disrespectful, but what do you do all day?" I asked him.

"Laundry, grocery shopping, errands, household things, different projects. You'd be amazed how

quickly the time fills up," he replied.

Then I logged on to a support group for

depression (Beyond Blue) that I moderate on Beliefnet's social networking site, and I came across Jennifer's post:

"I always stumble when people ask me what I do. I still can't say, 'I'm a housewife' with conviction. It is so anti-everything my mother ever taught me about being a woman. And yet, I'm proud. I recognize that my life as a financial consultant was killing me at 70 hours a week, and that I had become so much less of myself."

Right after that I read with interest Sarah Jio's article on CNN.com about a growing niche of stay-at-home wives. Jio interviewed Scott Haltzman, author of "The Secrets of Happily Married Women," about the trend.

Says Haltzman: "In the past few years, many women who are well-educated and trained for career tracks have decided instead to stay at home." Among the 650 women he interviewed

who stay at home, he estimates that more than 10 percent are childless.

Although some people regard the stay-at-home wife (and the stay-at-home mom, to a certain extent) as a status symbol expressing to the community that one partner makes so much money that the other can do whatever the heck she wants with her time, others say money has nothing to do with it.

When one person stays at home, she (or he!) has time to do the cooking so the couple doesn't have to pay off a credit card bill full of restaurant tabs; they don't need a maid because she can do the in-depth cleaning; ideally, the wife has time to find good deals at secondhand stores, garage sales and at the grocery store (more savings there); and she has time to clip coupons!

Eating spaghetti twice a week so that one per-

son can take care of the household responsibilities allows both partners to play a little more, something that Americans need to do more of.

Like many of the women interviewed, Anne Marie Davis, 43, said that 10 years ago she was an overwhelmed high school English teacher who didn't have time for her husband, and "didn't have a life."

Now she does the laundry on Tuesdays, the grocery shopping on Wednesdays and cleans the house on Thursdays. On Mondays and Fridays she runs errands and goes to appointments.

Sound boring? It works for her and her husband. Davis says that they are a happier couple since they've made the transition, that they aren't as stressed out and that the weekend to-do lists have disappeared.

Man, that sounds nice. I wish she'd come live with me.

# La Mente, El Cuerpo y El Espiritu

*Bienvenidos a La Mente, El Cuerpo y El Espiritu, una oferta de temas sobre la salud, presentada por la Asociación Católica para la Salud de Texas y el Subcomité de los Obispos para La Salud. El propósito de esta columna es informar a los tejanos católicos acerca de los asuntos de la salud que hacen impacto a nuestro estado y la nación. Nuestras organizaciones comparten la profunda creencia que una acción de convicción es fundamental a la ciudadanía fiel.*

**No nos cansemos de hacer el bien, porque a su debido tiempo cosecharemos si no nos damos por vencidos. (Gálatas 6:9)**

La carga de las enfermedades crónicas en los Estados Unidos y Texas ha crecido bastante en la última década, dado que hoy día unos 7 de cada 10 muertes ocurren debido a esas enfermedades prevenibles. El grupo de las enfermedades crónicas más comunes y costosas incluye la diabetes, el cáncer, enfermedades cardiovasculares y el derrame cerebral.

Estas enfermedades no solamente causan la muerte sino también son debilitantes y el proceso de recuperación es difícil. Los Centros para el Control y Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC) informó que en el año 2005 casi la mitad de la población americana vivía por lo menos con una enfermedad crónica y los costos de tratamiento para esa personas consumieron

más de 75% de los \$2 millón de millones de dólares gastados en los EEUU por la atención médica. En Texas el impacto económico del tratamiento y la pérdida de productividad fue \$92.5 millón de millones de dólares en el año 2003, según datos recopilados por el Milken Institute.

Las investigaciones médicas nos enseñan que los factores de riesgo principales de cualquier enfermedad crónica no transmisible son una dieta poco saludable, la inactividad y el uso de tabaco, de los cuales todos son decisiones personales de hábitos. El Departamento Estatal de Servicios de Salud de Texas informó que las causas reales de muerte más frecuentes en el año 2001 fueron el tabaco (24,899 muertes) y el sobrepeso/la obesidad (18,649 muertes).

A pesar de las estadísticas negativas, la solución está en nuestras manos y hay mucho que podemos hacer como individuos y en la comunidad para llegar a ser un país libre de la discapacidad prevenible, la mortalidad prematura y el costo elevado del cuidado médico. Como individuo, evalúe su salud personal—junto con su médico—y haga que sea una prioridad. Adoptar un estilo de vida saludable para toda la familia es vital para asegurar un futuro feliz y libre de enfermedades crónicas. Al perder solo 10% del peso corporal se puede reducir el riesgo de enfermedad crónica. Esto se puede lograr por una combinación de la dieta saludable y por lo menos 30 minutos

de ejercicio diariamente.

El tabaquismo es un causante mayor al cáncer y hace mucho daño a todos los sistemas del cuerpo. Los estudios médicos nos muestran que el uso de tabaco es el hábito más perjudicial para la salud y los beneficios de dejar de fumar se presentan inmediatamente.

Después de poco tiempo de dejar el tabaco, se disminuye mucho el riesgo de las enfermedades cardiovasculares y cerebros vasculares, entre otras.

Las comunidades tienen que colaborar con las autoridades elegidas y hacer algo para asegurar que todos los residentes tengan acceso a los recursos necesarios para una vida productiva y

feliz: alimentos saludables y asequibles, transporte, seguro médico adecuado y un lugar seguro donde se puede realizar actividades físicas.

Espere otras columnas de La Mente, el Cuerpo y el Espiritu—presentadas por la Asociación Católica para la Salud de Texas—sobre el estilo de vida saludable, la prevención de enfermedades crónicas y la defensoría del seguro médico para todos o visite hoy al sitio de web: [www.chatexas.org](http://www.chatexas.org).

Para mayor información sobre las enfermedades crónicas y consejos para la prevención de ellas, visite el sitio de web del CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/spanish/>.

## EDICTAL SUMMONS

August 31, 2008

CASE: GARTNER – TRAINER

NO.: SO 08/47

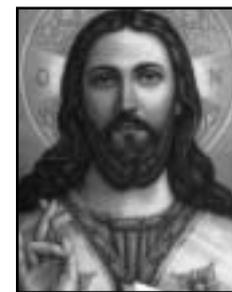
The Tribunal Office of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo is seeking Donald Ray Trainer.

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 Ed. Summons -SEPTEMBER 30, 2008, to answer to the Petition of Sasha Renee Gartner, now introduced before the Diocesan Tribunal in an action styled, "Sasha Gartner and Donald Trainer, Petition for Declaration of Invalidity of Marriage." Said Petition is identified as Case: GARTNER – TRAINER; Protocol No.: SO 08/47, 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 13th day of August 2008 .

-- Rev. William R. DuBuisson, OMI, MCL, JCL  
judicial Vicar



## Our Holy Father's Monthly Intentions 2008

### September

**Refugees.** That Christians may defend and protect refugees.

**Christian Families.** That every Christian family may be a small evangelizing community which is responsive to the needs of others.

### October

**Synod of Bishops:** That the Synod of Bishops may help all those engaged in the service of the Word of God to transmit the truth of faith courageously in communion with the entire Church.

Participation in the Church's Universal Mission: That in this month dedicated to missions, every Christian community may feel the need to participate in the universal mission with prayer, sacrifice and concrete help.

### Daily Offering Prayer

**O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary I offer you my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world. I offer them for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart: the salvation of souls, reparation for sin and the reunion of all Christians.**

**I offer them for the intentions of our bishops and of all Apostles of Prayer, and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father this month.**

## 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)



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## EXPERIENCE: Group provides support to members, resources for released

(From 9)

would later marry. I suffered the rejection of my loving extended family, as they struggled to understand how I, an educated woman, could fall for such a man. I would endure remarks like "you're wasting your life on a convict." I found myself alone; having no one I could talk to who would understand the daily suffering I would face and not judge me.

Last year, I saw a small advertisement in the West Texas Angelus about a New Life

Ministry (NLM) support group for families with a love one incarcerated. This group would later become my "saving grace". I approached Deacon Bob Leibrecht about my situation and offered my experience, as a social worker to get a support group started in the Midland community. I wanted to be able to reach out to others and walk with them on this very difficult road, as well as, receive the support I so desperately needed. Deacon Bob told me that he had been praying for people who could help get this started and welcomed me warmly. I was introduced

to the core people who would become my greatest support and family in Christ. We held our first meeting, the week Lent began in February 2008.

Since that time, God has truly blessed us as a group. We have seen so many miracles worked in our midst already. Mothers and fathers have been re-united with their loved ones with understanding, mercy, forgiveness and healing taking place. We have cried together and suffered together. We have rejoiced when they rejoice. I know what it means to be church, a part of the living com-

munity of faith. Our group not only provides support to its members, but resources for the newly released, as well as, resources for families who are struggling financially. It is our hope that others will find the courage to reach out to our support group, as I know our members truly have the heart to be present to those in need. It takes a great deal of courage to step forward and to tell others that they too have a loved one incarcerated. I know God is good and faithful and I trust He will bring those who are looking for unconditional love and support to our NLM group.

## BYRON: We must teach teens the wisdom and strength in gentleness

(From 8)

immigrant, died from head injuries he received from a severe beating at the hands of several teenage boys, all Shenandoah High School football players.

They are of Slovak, Irish, Lithuanian and Polish descent. Their motive, according to the New York Times, is not altogether clear, but ethnic tensions and hatred fueled by

alcohol appear to be the cause.

Many of my relatives are buried in Annunciation Cemetery in Shenandoah Heights, overlooking the town. I visit there once or twice a year. I have no living relatives in town now, so when I return I typically see familiar places but no one who I know. The ethnic mix is nothing new; the hatred, however, is.

Ironically, in this summer of ethnic vio-

lence in a tiny town connected to the rest of the world by television, residents of Shenandoah must know that "South Pacific" has returned to Broadway after a 50-year absence. I hope they'll hear the song from that show that reminds us, "You've got to be taught to hate."

Who taught these Shenandoah teenagers to hate?

As high school football resumes all over

the country, who's going to convince the athletes that they can play tough but never dirty; that strength is good but violence bad; that life within the rules is the good life, and that success on the field must never yield to arrogance on the streets?

We have to demonstrate to our young the wisdom of strength in gentleness and teach them that there is no place for hatred in their lives.

## MAGLIANO: Land of the free not so free for everyone within our borders

(From 8)

with Sudan, Beijing would not allow him into the country to attend the 2008 Summer Olympics.

But that's not all. China's oppression of Tibet and its coercive abortion policies are also grave violations of human rights.

China, however, does not have a corner on human rights violations. Sadly, most nations -- including the United States -- deny human rights to some of their people.

In truth, "the land of the free" is not so free for everyone within its borders. Consider Native Americans: Not only is U.S. history filled with human rights violations --

Washington's broken treaties, stolen land, forced marches and massacres -- current neglect of Native Americans is often unfair.

Life on many reservations is very poor. In short, a lot is still owed to America's first inhabitants.

Then there's the absence of human rights for undocumented workers. Although they work hard and often perform essential services -- for example, 1.5 million farm workers in the U.S. are undocumented -- they are often denied fair wages, decent working conditions and are hounded by agents of our government.

Next, consider the human rights violations at many of America's prisons. All too

often weaker inmates are beaten, raped and literally enslaved by dominate inmates.

Many U.S. prisons are little more than schools for crime. Even worse, the United States is the only industrialized nation that actually kills some of its prisoners. The death penalty, by Catholic moral standards, is a grave violation of human rights.

Then there are all the abuses of economic human rights. For instance, the U.S. government's neglect of 13 million poor American children is certainly a violation of their human rights to decent housing, health care, quality education and sufficient, wholesome food.

Speaking of children, the very worst

human rights violation committed in America is the deplorable fact that 1.3 million unborn babies are brutally dismembered and murdered each year by legal abortions.

Winning Olympic gold is indeed a great sports accomplishment. But greatness in sports is nothing compared to greatness in human rights.

May the day soon come when the nations of the world compete for the highest honor in human rights. In that event I would say, "Go Team USA!"

But on second thought, I hope there's a tie among all the nations of the world for the gold medal in human rights!

## KMIEC: September arrives bathed in the true light of God's seasons

(From 8)

The students had not yet returned, enabling August to remain a casual walk in undisturbed admiration for the morning dew on lush green lawns edged by goldenrod and purple sage.

Oh yes, September arrives, but bathed in the true light of faith and God's seasons, the mind is reassured. The sprinkled dew of Our Lady's August yields to September's moist condensation on front-porch swings.

The harvest season is open. And I am ready.

Soon enough will come the feast day of St. Michael near September's end. Michael, it will be recalled, is the good Lord's "great harvester" who, when all our final seasons are at end, will lead the worthy to paradise.

Tony Snow and Tim Russert, friends who began the summer with us, are gone. In one case God gave notice; in the other, he did not. Like the child within my memory who mistakenly thought summer's end could be resisted, neither

man knew his moment and both likely planned -- as we all pretend to do -- beyond it.

In the passing of each season, we come to appreciate how our lives progress in God's time, not our own. If we are accepting of that, we lose none of our summer days. Instead, we gain the restful reassurance of even greater times to come.

# OBISPO

## (Para 3)

favorece hacer de las relaciones denominadas comúnmente uniones del mismo sexo el equivalente legal del matrimonio. Esta situación desafía a los católicos—y a todos los que buscan la verdad—a pensar profundamente sobre el significado del matrimonio, sus propósitos y su valor para los individuos, las familias y la sociedad. Esta clase de reflexión, utilizando la razón y la fe, es un apropiado punto de partida y marco para el actual debate.

Para comprender más completamente la enseñanza de la Iglesia acerca del matrimonio y las uniones del mismo sexo, les presento estas preguntas y respuestas sobre este asunto tan crítico. Estas reflexiones vienen del folleto, *Entre Hombre y Mujer* de los obispos Católicos.

## ¿QUÉ ES EL MATRIMONIO?

El matrimonio, tal como está instituido por Dios, es una unión fiel, exclusiva y de por vida, de un hombre y una mujer juntos en una comunidad íntima de vida y amor. Ellos se comprometen completamente el uno con la otra y con la maravillosa responsabilidad de traer niños al mundo y velar por ellos. El llamado al matrimonio está tejido profundamente en el espíritu humano. El hombre y la mujer son iguales. Sin embargo, tal como fueron creados, son diferentes entre sí pero hechos el uno para la otra. Esta complementariedad, incluyendo la diferencia sexual, los atrae a una unión de mutuo amor que debe estar siempre abierta a la procreación de niños. (véase *Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica* [CIC], № 1602-1605).

Estas verdades sobre el matrimonio están presentes en el orden de la naturaleza y pueden ser percibidas por la luz de la razón humana. Han sido confirmadas por la divina Revelación en la Sagradas Escrituras.

## ¿POR QUÉ EL MATRIMONIO SÓLO PUEDE EXISTIR ENTRE UN HOMBRE Y UNA MUJER?

La estructura natural de la sexualidad humana hace al hombre y a la mujer socios complementarios para la transmisión de la vida humana. Sólo una unión masculino-femenina puede expresar la complementariedad sexual querida por Dios para el matrimonio. El compromiso permanente y exclusivo del matrimonio es el contexto necesario para la expresión del amor sexual deseado por Dios tanto para servir a la transmisión de la vida humana como para

robustecer el lazo entre esposo y esposa (véase CIC, № 1639-1640).

En el matrimonio, esposo y esposa se entregan totalmente el uno a la otra en su masculinidad y feminidad (véase CIC, № 1643). Son iguales como seres humanos pero diferentes como hombre y mujer, realizándose el uno a la otra a través de esta diferencia natural. Esta complementariedad única hace posible el vínculo conyugal que es la médula del matrimonio.

## ¿POR QUÉ LA UNIÓN DEL MISMO SEXO NO ES EQUIVALENTE A UN MATRIMONIO?

Por varias razones una unión del mismo sexo contradice la naturaleza del matrimonio. No se basa en la complementariedad natural de varón y hembra; no puede cooperar con Dios para crear nueva vida; y no puede alcanzar el propósito natural de la unión sexual. Las personas que conforman uniones del mismo sexo no pueden entrar en una verdadera unión conyugal. En consecuencia, es equivocado equiparar su relación con un matrimonio.

## ¿POR QUÉ ES TAN IMPORTANTE PARA LA SOCIEDAD QUE EL MATRIMONIO SEA PRESERVADO COMO LA UNIÓN EXCLUSIVA DE UN HOMBRE Y UNA MUJER?

A través de los tiempos, culturas y creencias religiosas muy diferentes, el matrimonio es el fundamento de la familia. La familia, a su vez, es la unidad básica de la sociedad. Por tanto, el matrimonio es una relación personal con significado público. El matrimonio es el patrón fundamental para las relaciones masculino-femeninas. Contribuye a la sociedad porque moldea la forma en que mujeres y hombres viven interdependientemente y se comprometen, de por vida, a buscar el bien recíproco. La unión marital proporciona también las mejores condiciones para criar niños: a saber, la relación estable y amorosa de una madre y un padre presente sólo en el matrimonio. El estado reconoce correctamente en sus leyes esta relación como una institución pública porque la relación hace una contribución única y esencial al bien común.

Las leyes desempeñan un papel educativo en la medida en que dan forma a patrones de pensamiento y comportamiento, particularmente sobre lo que es socialmente permisible y aceptable. En efecto, dar a las uniones del mismo sexo el estatus legal del matrimonio otorgaría aprobación pública

oficial a la actividad homosexual y la trataría como si fuese moralmente neutral. Cuando el matrimonio es redefinido a fin de hacer que otras relaciones sean sus equivalentes, la institución del matrimonio se devalúa y se debilita más. El debilitamiento de esta institución básica en todas las esferas y por diversas fuerzas ya se ha cobrado un costo social demasiado alto.

## ¿NEGAR EL MATRIMONIO A PERSONAS HOMOSEXUALES DEMUESTRA DISCRIMINACIÓN INJUSTA Y FALTA DE RESPETO POR ELLAS COMO PERSONAS?

No es injusto negar el estatus legal a las uniones del mismo sexo, porque el matrimonio y las uniones del mismo sexo son realidades esencialmente diferentes. De hecho, la justicia requiere que la sociedad lo haga así.

Sostener el propósito de Dios para el matrimonio, en que las relaciones sexuales tienen su lugar propio y exclusivo, no es ofender la dignidad de las personas homosexuales. Los cristianos deben dar testimonio de la verdad moral completa y oponerse, por ser inmorales, tanto a los actos homosexuales como a la injusta discriminación contra las personas homosexuales.

El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica urge a que las personas homosexuales “sean acogidas con respeto, compasión y delicadeza” (№ 2358). También alienta las amistades castas. “La castidad se expresa especialmente en la amistad con el prójimo. Desarrollada entre personas del mismo sexo o de sexos distintos, la amistad representa un gran bien para todos” (№ 2347)

## ¿DEBEN LAS PERSONAS QUE VIVEN EN RELACIONES DEL MISMO SEXO TENER DERECHO A ALGUNOS DE LOS MISMOS BENEFICIOS SOCIALES Y ECONÓMICOS ASIGNADOS A LAS PAREJAS CASADAS?

El estado tiene la obligación de promover la familia, la cual se basa en el matrimonio. En consecuencia, sólo puede dar a las parejas casadas derechos y beneficios que no extiende a otros. En último término, la estabilidad y florecimiento de la sociedad depende de la estabilidad y florecimiento de una vida familiar saludable.

El reconocimiento legal del matrimonio, incluyendo los beneficios asociados con éste, no tiene que ver sólo con el compromiso personal, sino también con el compromiso social que esposo y esposa hacen con el bienestar de la sociedad. Sería equivoca-

do redefinir el matrimonio con el objeto de proporcionar beneficios a quienes no pueden entrar correctamente en el matrimonio.

Algunos beneficios buscados actualmente por personas que conforman uniones homosexuales pueden ya obtenerse independientemente del estado civil. Por ejemplo, los individuos pueden convenir en poseer propiedades en común, y en general pueden designar a cualquiera que escojan como beneficiario de su testamento o para que tome decisiones relativas a atención en salud en caso de que queden incompetentes.

## ¿A LA LUZ DE LA ENSEÑANZA DE LA IGLESIA SOBRE LA VERDAD Y LA BELLEZA DEL MATRIMONIO, QUÉ DEBEN HACER LOS CATÓLICOS?

No debe haber separación entre la vida y la fe de uno en los ámbitos públicos o privados. Todos los católicos deben actuar siguiendo sus creencias con una conciencia bien formada basada en las Sagradas Escrituras y la Tradición. Deben ser una comunidad de conciencia dentro de la sociedad. Con su voz y con su voto, deben contribuir al bienestar de la sociedad y examinar su vida pública según las normas de la recta razón y la verdad del Evangelio. La ciudadanía responsable es una virtud. La participación en el proceso político es una obligación moral. Esto es particularmente urgente a la luz de la necesidad de defender el matrimonio y de oponerse a la legalización de las uniones del mismo sexo como matrimonios.

Las parejas casadas mismas, con el testimonio de su amor fiel y vivificante, son los mejores defensores y promotores del matrimonio. Con su ejemplo, son los primeros maestros de la siguiente generación sobre la dignidad del matrimonio y la necesidad de sostenerlo. Como líderes de su familia—que el Concilio Vaticano II denominó una “iglesia doméstica” (*Lumen Gentium*, № 11)—, las parejas deben traer sus dones así como sus necesidades a la Iglesia en su conjunto. Allí, con ayuda de otras parejas y sus pastores y colaboradores, pueden fortalecer su compromiso y sostener su sacramento en el curso de toda una vida.

*(Publicación No. 5-905, USCCB Publishing, Washington, D.C., ISBN 1-57455-905-2)*

# MARRIAGE: Male-female union the ‘fundamental pattern for relationships’

(From 2)

## Why does the Catholic Church teach that marriage can exist only between a man and a woman?

Marriage, as both a natural institution and a sacred union, is rooted in the divine plan for creation. The fact that marriage can only exist between a man and a woman is a truth woven deeply into the human spirit. The Church’s teaching on marriage expresses a truth, therefore, that can be perceived first and foremost by human reason.

## Why can marriage exist only between a man and a woman?

The natural structure of human sexuality makes man and woman complementary partners for expressing conjugal love and for transmitting human life. Only a union of male and female can express the sexual complementarity willed by God for marriage. This unique complementarity makes possible the conjugal bond that is the core of marriage. The permanent and exclusive commitment of marriage is the necessary context for the expression of sexual love intended by God both to serve the transmission of human life and to build up the bond between husband and wife.

## Why is a same-sex union not equivalent to a marriage?

A same-sex union contradicts the nature

and purposes of marriage. It is not based on the natural complementarity of male and female. It cannot cooperate with God to create new life; and the natural purpose of sexual union cannot be achieved by a same-sex union. Because persons in a same-sex union cannot enter into a true conjugal union, it is wrong to equate their relationship to a marriage.

## What unique contributions does marriage between a man and woman make to society?

Marriage is the fundamental pattern for male-female relationships. It contributes to society because it models the way in which women and men live interdependently and commit, for the whole of life, to seek the good of each other. The marital union also provides the best conditions for raising children: namely, the stable, loving relationship of a mother and father present only in marriage. The state rightly recognizes this relationship as a public institution in its laws because the relationship makes a unique and essential contribution to the common good.

## If people of the same sex love and care for each other, why shouldn’t they be allowed to marry?

Love and commitment are key ingredients of marriage, and the Church recognizes that a basic purpose of marriage is the good of the spouses. The other purpose,

however, is the procreation and education of children. There is a fundamental difference between marriage, which has the potential to bring forth children, and other relationships. The fact that marriage between a man and a woman will usually result in children remains a powerful human reality, even if circumstances do not permit every marriage to result in children. This makes marriage between a man and a woman a unique institution.

## What difference would it make to married couples if same sex partners are allowed to marry?

We need to answer this question not simply as individuals, but as members of society, called to work for the common good. If same sex marriage were legalized, the result would be a significant change in our society. We would be saying that the primary purpose of marriage is to validate and protect a sexually intimate relationship. All else would be secondary. While we cannot say exactly what the impact of this change would be, experience suggests that it would be negative. Marriage would no longer symbolize society’s commitment to the future: our children. Rather, marriage would symbolize a commitment to the present needs and desires of adults.

## Isn’t the Church discriminating against homosexual persons by opposing same sex unions?

To uphold God’s intent for marriage, in which sexual relations have their proper and exclusive place, is not to offend the dignity of homosexual persons. Christians must give witness to the whole truth and, therefore, oppose as immoral both homosexual acts and unjust discrimination against homosexual persons.

## What is the Church’s position on legislation to allow civil unions or domestic partnerships?

On two different occasions, in 2003 and 2006, the USCCB Administrative Committee stated: “We strongly oppose any legislative and judicial attempts, both at state and federal levels, to grant same-sex unions the equivalent status and rights of marriage – by naming them marriage, civil unions, or by other means.”

## Why are the U.S. bishops supporting a proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution to ban same sex marriage?

The bishops are supporting an amendment that simply defines marriage as only the union of a man and a woman. They are doing so because they want to bear witness to a truth that is given by God in the natural order of creation and that is confirmed by divine Revelation in the Bible. Protecting marriage in this way will benefit children, families, and the common good of society.

# PRINCIPLES: Certain issues must be considered before votes are cast

(From 6)

date, the U.S. Catholic Bishops insist that Catholics should have well-formed consciences, and first and foremost, study the moral dimension of issues that deal with human life. Then prayerfully review the position of each candidate on these life issues against the moral principles involved in each issue. The teachings of the Catholic Church on these important life issues are based on the biblical principle that all human life is sacred and has an inherent dignity, and is made in the very image and likeness of God. The bishops in their document point out that a Catholic cannot take part in or support acts that are intrinsically evil.

The pre-eminent life issue is the right to life. The intentional killing of the member of the human family—which is what happens in every abortion—is the most pressing social justice question of our time.

Catholics, before casting a vote for a presidential candidate have a serious moral obligation to look at the position of each candidate on the following basic life issues, and to study the teaching of the Catholic Church about each one:

**ABORTION**—which ends the lives of more than a mil-

lion children a year. While sadly there is a human law that approves abortion at any stage of pregnancy, there is a clear dogmatic teaching of the Catholic Church stating that direct abortion is intrinsically evil. It can never be approved. Abortion violates the basic right to life which is the most fundamental human good and the condition for all others. A legal system that violates the basic right to life on grounds of choice is fundamentally flawed.

**HUMAN CLONING AND DESTRUCTIVE RESEARCH ON HUMAN EMBRYOS**—Research that destroys human embryos has been classified by Pope John Paul II as eugenic abortion. According to Catholic teaching, this can never be permitted as it is intrinsically evil as it destroys human life at an early age of development.

**EUTHANASIA**—is also intrinsically evil as it is the direct taking of a human life. All human life is sacred even in its weakest stages. Euthanasia can never be permitted.

**RACISM**—is also intrinsically evil, as one can never approve discrimination of another human being because of color or ethnicity as this violates human dignity.

**MARRIAGE AND FAMILY**—there is a movement by many who want to change the Judeo Christian teaching on

marriage. Marriage as explained to us in the Bible, and according to the constant teaching of the Church can only happen between a man and woman who freely join their lives together. Same-sex marriages are a moral contradiction.

The above issues must be seriously taken into account by all Catholics before casting their vote. Of course, there are many other life issues that one must also take into consideration when voting; issues like education, the economy, the war, poverty, environment, security, violence, capital punishment and others. The moral principles underlying these life issues must be carefully reviewed. But the pre-eminent life issue is the right to life. Perhaps no one candidate fully fulfills the teaching of the Catholic Church on every life issue, but the beginning point in considering for whom to cast a vote must be on basic life issues, especially those that deal with actions which are intrinsically evil.

As we prepare for the presidential elections, now is the time to form our consciences based on moral principles as given to us by the church, and to let these principles-- not party platforms and affiliation -- be our ultimate guide.

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

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

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Member  
Catholic News Service  
Catholic Press Association  
Texas Catholic News

Published the first Monday following  
the 1st Saturday of each month and  
delivered to all registered parish-  
ioners in the San Angelo Diocese.

Subscription rate for all others:  
\$10 per year

THIRD CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT  
SAN ANGELO, TEXAS

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

#### Submissions:

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

**COPY, PHOTO DEADLINE:**  
Third Friday of every month.

Photos should be in jpeg format.

Letters to the editor are welcome,  
and should be emailed to  
JimmyLPatterson@grandecom.net.  
Letters to the editor are printed at  
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address and phone number when  
submitting letters.



A new cycle (two years) of Diocesan Basic Formation will begin at St. Mary's-Odessa in September. All interested persons are welcome and encouraged to attend these adult faith formation sessions. This is an opportunity for persons who participate in any church ministry but especially for anyone who catechizes at any level. A commitment of the two-year cycle is required. There are monthly sessions that begin at 8:45 am and conclude at 4:00 pm. Each session includes prayer, input on specific content, reflection time, small and large group discussion and journaling. Input and materials are in English. Small group discussion can be in Spanish if needed. Information regarding this cycle will be sent to parish leaders in June. Each session is \$10. Payment is worked out with the pastor/pastoral coordinator. (For more infor-

mation, call the Office of Education and Formation at 325-651-7500.)

#### BASIC FORMATION St. Mary's, Odessa Odessa 8:45 am - 4:00pm Year 2008

Aug 16 - Ministry  
Sept 6 - Personhood 1  
Oct 4 - Personhood 2  
Nov 8 - Spirituality 1  
Dec 13 - Spirituality 2

#### Year 2009

Jan 10 - Spirituality 3  
Feb 14 - Hebrew Scripture 1  
Mar 7 - Hebrew Scripture 2  
Apr 4 - Hebrew Scripture 3  
May 2 - Hebrew Scripture 4  
Aug 22 - Christian Scripture 1

## Basic Formation Schedule

Sept 12 - Christian Scripture 2  
Oct 3 - Christian Scripture 3  
Nov 7 - Christology 1  
Dec 5 - Christology 2

#### Year 2010

Jan 9 - Church 1  
Feb 6 - Church 2  
Mar 6 - Sacraments 1  
Apr 10 - Sacraments 2  
May 1 - Retreat

#### ADVANCED FORMATION St. Joseph Parish San Angelo 8:45 am - 4:00pm

Advanced Formation Sessions are scheduled to begin at St. Joseph Church, San Angelo. These are adult faith opportunities. All persons are welcome to attend. The content, site and

dates of the Advanced Formation Sessions are listed below. (For more information, call the Office of Education and Formation at 325-651-7500.)

#### Year 2008

Sept 20 - Church History 1  
Oct 18 - Church History 2  
Nov 15 - Liturgy

#### Year 2009

Jan 24 - Morality 1  
Mar 14 - Morality 2  
Sept 19 - Mary, Saints & Angels  
Oct 10 - Scripture 1 (Micah, Amos)  
Nov 14 - Scripture 2 (Gospel of Mark)

#### Year 2010

Jan 23 - Scripture 3 (Letter to the Romans)  
Mar 13 - Social Justice

## THAD: Answer to birth control question clear

(From 6)

personal survival.

The question about birth control coverage is even more clear. Considering that birth control pertains to a lifestyle choice and disrupts a healthy bodily system (and even carries significant health risks like blood clots, strokes, and heart disease), health insurance coverage ought not reasonably be expected. It is also worth mentioning that male birth control (the condom) — which is really the more obvious analog to female birth control — is also not typically covered by health insurance. However, it is clear that various medical uses for birth control pills (to address gynecological problems like irregular cycles or bleeding) and certain medical uses for Viagra (like treating pulmonary hypertension) would constitute legitimate health treatments where insurance coverage could reasonably be expected. Each little pill, in sum, is unique in its properties and uses, with significant ethical distinctions between them as well.

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*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)*

## MORUGUDI: New Indian bishop calls priest home

(From 3)

works and I sure have very special relation with the parishioners here. I know them by their names at 90 percent of them. I always believe that we make a great difference when you call them by their name. What amazes me is, when I told the church that my bishop had called me back, people in our clustered parishes prayed for me and the prayer chain went around the

cloak that in hopes my bishop may change his decision. The little ones lighted the candles, the elderly prayed several rosary.

The cluster parishioners have arranged a send-off meal for me on Sept. 14. I got a lot of cards and am booked for meals already for all the meals till the day of my departure. I will be leaving on October 29, and I will never, ever forget the love and care I received from the wonderful parishioners of

St. Joseph, St. Boniface, St. Thomas.

I sincerely extend my thanks to Bishop Michael and Msgr. Larry Droll for their wonderful guidance and support and to all my friends and well-wishers and wonderful and loving parishioners in the cluster parishes of Sts. Boniface, Joseph and Thomas. I would say a big thanks to my brother priests and deacons of the diocese of San Angelo.

## PATTERSON: Monastery great place to find peace

(From 3)

monastery are obviously joy filled. Perhaps one of the reasons is because they end each day with recreation.

"What do you do at recreation?" I asked.

"You'll just have to wait and see," Sister Mary Grace told me. I had caught a glimpse of a basketball goal out back earlier in the day, and so my hopes ran wild that I might see S. Imelda throw

an elbow in S. Michael's direction after the apron comment.

After spending the entire day with the nuns, I was led into the common room at the monastery where Sister Catherine began prepping the table for Scattergories, a game at which they all excelled.

Perhaps another reason for their joy, which is obvious in the photo on Pg. 1, is their Labrador, Molly, who has the run of the place. She reeked of skunk

Friday morning after surveying the grounds and petrifying the unwary rodent the night before. But Molly didn't care what she smelled like. Not with as much running free space as she has.

I looked at Sister Mary Grace after Molly ran off in chase of a bird and said, "Wow ... what a great place to be a dog."

Sister turned to me and chuckled.

"It's not a bad place to be a nun either," she said.

## WHY CATHOLIC: Program has been a blessing

(From 6)

International who sponsor "Why Catholic?" for all that they have done to make Why Catholic? such a wonderful experience for our Diocese. In particular, I am grateful to Anne Scanlan, the

main presenter, for all that she has done during her personal visits to make this program such a wonderful spiritual experience for hundreds of people.

I am very pleased with how God is blessing the people of our Diocese to come to a better

understanding of our beautiful Catholic faith, and to put into practice what we believe, through the program of "Why Catholic?." Let us pray and work for God's transforming power and grace to continue this process.