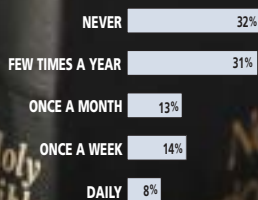


West Texas ANGELUS

Serving the Diocese of San Angelo, Texas
Volume XXVIII, No. 10 OCTOBER 2008

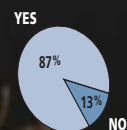
Bible Time

Other than at Mass, about how often did you read the Bible in the last year?



From a 2008 survey of U.S. Catholic adults

Is there a Bible in your home?



From a 2005 survey of U.S. Catholic adults



SanAngeloDiocese.org

This month at www.SanAngeloDiocese.org: Articles from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishop's Faithful Citizenship initiative as well as reprints of Issues 2008 articles you will also find in this edition of the Angelus.

Complete Fall Festival Calendar: Page 4

ISSUES 2008

Special Edition

With one of the most important elections in our recent history less than a month away, we have included a number of articles and columns that we hope you will find helpful when you go to the polls Nov. 4. As a result, some of our regular features are not included in this edition of the *Angelus* but will return next month. Look for Issues 2008 coverage throughout this issue of the West Texas Angelus.

OCTOBER 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

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.

NOVEMBER 4 -- ELECTION DAY

Full Schedules, Pg. 4

Complete Coverage, Pages 9-12



Some have termed this election the most important of our lifetime. Check Pages 10-11 for how the two candidates stand on important issues.

Nancy Pelosi crosses the sacred line

► Claiming to be an "ardent Catholic," Pelosi twists Catholic doctrine to cover her political pro-abortion views.

By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

On August 24, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, describing herself as an ardent practicing Catholic, misrepresented the official Catholic Church's teaching about abortion and the beginning of human life on nationwide TV while defending her political pro-abortion view. By so doing, Pelosi, an "ardent Catholic," has crossed the sacred line between the Catholic Church's defined teaching on abortion and her bold attempt to falsely use Church teaching to support her own strong political position on abortion.

In their document, Faithful Citizenship, in which the

(Please See PELOSI/17)

THIS MONTH IN THE ANGELUS

From the Bishop's Desk

The annual Respect Life program begins Sunday, October 5, 2008, and the theme for this year-long program is *Hope and Trust in Life*. This program focuses on the dignity and sacredness of every human life—unborn and born. /

Pg. 2

October 26: Priesthood Sunday



On Sunday, Oct. 26, the Diocese of San Angelo will join other dioceses in the United States in celebrating World Priest Day/Priesthood Sunday, a day to celebrate and affirm the men who commit their lives to the Lord and the Church via the Sacrament of Holy Orders. / Pg. 5

Don't postpone joy

My sister Cathy had a best friend named Mary who remained close to her right up to Cathy's death in 1999. Mary came to see me recently because she had been given a shocking diagnosis: She had an inoperable, cancerous brain tumor. Understandably afraid and dejected, she reached out to pray for a miracle. / Pg. 8



Rev. John Catoir

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From the Bishop's Desk

Hope and Trust: Respect Life Sunday focuses on dignity of all life



By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

The annual Respect Life program begins Sunday, October 5, 2008, and the theme for this year-long program is *Hope and Trust in Life*. This program focuses on the dignity and sacredness of every human life — unborn and born. To celebrate the theme for this year, each parish receives information on the critical issues that are linked to the Church's teaching on human life, as we strive to create a culture of life that is so much needed in our society today.

There is a great urgency to the pro-life movement

today. There are doctors who have been given the gift of compassion and healing who have used their talents to abort babies. There are counselors who have been given the compassion to help those in distress, but have urged people to choose to abort their child. There are parents to whom God has given the power to create life with him, who advise their pregnant daughter to get an abortion. There are care givers for the elderly who refuse to respect their human dignity, and there are men and women in all sectors of society, especially in government and court systems, who refuse to use their talents for the promotion of the Gospel of Life.

In April, Pope Benedict XVI paid his first pastoral visit to the United States of America. He brought with him a message of hope, that is the foundation for this year's Respect Life program — *Hope and Trust in Life*. God sent Pope Benedict to us with a message on the sacredness of life and how we need to be people of hope as we promote a culture of life, and put our faith into action.

In his meeting with the U.S. Catholic bishops of

(Please See BISHOP/20)

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

October: Czech Month

"To remember all the good Czech people who have done so much for the Catholic Church and the wider society down through the ages, I am proclaiming October as Czech Heritage Month for the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo."

-- Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

Our God, the Great I Am

Diocesan Jr. High Youth Event

The 2008 Diocesan Jr. High Youth Event, "Our God, the Great I Am," will be from 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Sun., Oct. 12, at the gymnasium at the University of Texas-Permian Basin in Odessa.

This year's featured presenter is Gabe Gutierrez, a youth minister in Keller.

Early registration \$15 postmarked before 9.12.2008 or \$20 postmarked after 9.12.2008. Late registration, postmarked after 10.02.2008, is \$25. Registration fee includes registration, supper and dance.

For more information call Sister Adelina Garcia, OSF, at the Office of Education and Formation, Diocese of San Angelo (325) 651-7500.



ADACCV receives federal grant

The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council of the Concho Valley was informed last month that it had been awarded the Drug Free Communities Grant from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

The grant is for \$125,000 a year for up to five years for a total of \$625,000. The grant will allow ADACCV to provide guidance and direction towards the successful accomplishment of specific substance abuse prevention strategies and methods for the Concho Valley community through the Concho Valley CARES Coalition (Community Awareness and Resources for Empowerment and Success). The CV CARES coalition was started by Bishop Michael Pfeifer in March 2007 in order to help the community address and confront a growing methamphetamine and overall drug abuse problem. ADACCV's goals are to continue building on the success started by Bishop Pfeifer for the Concho Valley CARES Coalition.

The awarding of the grant was announced by U.S. Representative Mike Conaway.

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 Valentín and María Gómez, at vgomez@wcc.net or 325.835.7044.

CJM Training, Info

A Criminal Justice Ministry (CJM) Information and Training Session will be held in Midland at 7 p.m., **Mon., Oct. 20**, in Rm. 11 of the parish hall at St. Stephen's Church, 4601 Neely Ave. In addition, there will be another session in Odessa at 7 p.m., **Mon., Oct. 27**, in the activities room at St. Mary's Church, 612 E 18th Street. These sessions are open to everyone, including both experienced and new volunteers that might have an interest in becoming involved. Opportunities for ministry exist with both the youth and adult incarcerated and in the parish through the New Life Ministry efforts to reach out to the families of the incarcerated, and those returning home from prison. No commitment is required. For more information, contact Deacon Bob Leibrecht, 432-889-3858.

Fathers for Good Web Site

The Knights of Columbus' initiative on Fatherhood has moved into its second month with a new featured topic, "The Involved Father," on the Fathers for Good Web site, www.fathersforgood.org.

Dr. Richard Fitzgibbons, a Catholic psychiatrist, explains why fathers must be involved with their wives and children to fulfill their vocation and achieve personal happiness.

Also featured is a helpful article, "8 Habits of Highly Effective Fathers."

Visit www.fathersforgood.org today, and tell all your friends about this new Web site sponsored by the Knights of Columbus!

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.

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.

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: 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.

Initiation Convocation turns 35

The North American Forum on the Catechuminate will convene its 2008 International Convocation in Christian initiation November 6-8, in Cleveland, Ohio, to coincide with the 35th anniversary of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) and the 25th anniversary of the Forum. Under the theme "Handing on What We Have Received from the Lord," more than 600 parish and diocesan ministry leaders throughout the U.S. and Canada, as well as leaders from beyond North America, are expected to attend.

OBITUARY

Msgr. Monroe John Matthiesen

Msgr. Monroe John Matthiesen, 91, died Wednesday, September 24, in St. Joseph's Home for Retired Priests, in Panhandle.

Mass of Resurrection was celebrated at St. Theresa's Church in Panhandle with retired Bishop Leroy T. Matthiesen as principal celebrant. Concelebrants were Bishop Patrick Zurek, Msgr. Joseph Tash, homilist, and brother priests of the Diocese of Amarillo. After the Mass, Msgr. Matthiesen's body was delivered to Lange Funeral Home in Ballinger.

A rosary/vigil service was held September 26 at St. Boniface Church in Ofen. Another Mass of Resurrection was celebrated September 27 at St. Boniface Church with burial following in the St. Boniface Cemetery.

Msgr. Matthiesen was born September 28, 1916, in Ofen, the second of eight children born to Joe and Rosa Matthiesen. He attended elementary school in Ofen and entered his first year of high school in Price Memorial College in Amarillo in 1930. He then transferred for his sophomore year to Pontifical College Josephinum, north of Columbus, Ohio.

Msgr. Matthiesen was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Amarillo on May 30, 1943 and was assigned to old Sacred Heart Cathedral in Amarillo. His duties included teaching a religion class and coaching a girl's basketball team at St. Mary's Academy.

Msgr. Matthiesen is survived by his brother, Bishop Leroy Matthiesen; two sisters, Irene Mazur and Olga Miller, of San Angelo, and two older brothers, Arnold Matthiesen, of Ofen and Norbert Matthiesen of Brady.

The family requests that memorials be made to the Matthiesen Seminary Burse.

The Visiting Priest

Satan: Our real adversary

Editor's Note: Our "Visiting Priest" columns are usually written by priests; this month's column was written by Kyle Clement, a parishioner at Sacred Heart in Abilene, with assistance and editing by his parish priest, Rev. Bob Bush.

By Kyle Clement

The adversary we face today, smarter and stronger than we are, knows the scriptures better than we do, and has had since the beginning of creation to perfect his obsession: the ruin of our eternal heritage. Wise the man who takes the time to know the methods and devices of his adversary, the rules of engagement, and the true nature of his peril for in the ignorance of these lies his defeat. The great adversary, Satan, relies on our denial of his existence and methodology in our lives, our ignorance of the rules of engagement as set forth in God's law, and our lack of understanding of the peril or eternal consequences of the choices we make.

This article is the first in a series addressing the first point above: Satan's

reliance on our denial or diminution of his existence and methodology. The West Texas Angelus April 2008 article by Bishop Michael Pfeifer entitled "Satan: A Roaring Lion Looking for Someone to Devour" begins with a thorough discussion of this phenomena and leaves no doubt regarding the existence of the adversary. We will seek to go deeper into these concepts in an effort to understand more completely our enemy and his methods.

Anyone familiar with the military or hunting knows the concept of camouflage—the ability to "hide" in plain sight, a person or object for the purpose of accomplishing a task while undetected. The master camouflage agent matches the background pattern and alters any inconsistencies in the background pattern in a gradual way so as to fool the eye of the target into the belief of "background uniformity." In a similar manner the adversary uses the background of society and culture to hide in plain sight.

Camouflage is the passive element of

deception. An active element of deception is the counterfeit, or "lie by object." For example, when a criminal seeks to manufacture and pass currency, he relies on the inability of the victim to recognize the counterfeit. The adversary has grown quite adept at counterfeiting most every aspect of the Church and those things which would draw us closer to God. The counterfeit relies on some element(s) of truth. For instance, the bill in the example above should be same size, color, and resemble the real object as closely as possible.

People today are searching for more and more ways to be entertained. The adversary capitalizes on this by insinuating that even our worship must be "enterprising" in order to be "meaningful." He can thus draw us away from authentic worship, which involves the giving of ourselves to God who simply wants our hearts, to what excites us personally (without actually centering on God at all). This is the counterfeit of real worship.

(Please See SATAN/18)

Diocese again in compliance with Charter

The Angelus

The Catholic Diocese of San Angelo recently received good news that the recent safe environment audit finds the Diocese of San Angelo to be in compliance with the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* that was issued by the Bishops in 2002 and has since been revised.

The annual audit was conducted by the independent auditing group of William Gavin, located in Winthrop, Mass. Recently an auditor from The

Gavin Group spent almost a week in the Diocese reviewing all the various components that are necessary for the safe environment. It is indicated that the conclusions reached as to the compliance of the Diocese of San Angelo with the *Charter* are based on the completeness and accurate information that were furnished by the Diocese during the almost week-long audit.

"Of course, I am very pleased with the results of this audit, and this is another way of assuring all of our people that the Diocese is doing every-

thing possible to provide a safe, healthy, and sacred environment for all of our people, especially our children, said the Bishop Michael Pfeifer. "I am very grateful to the priests, women religious, deacons, and so many other pastoral leaders who are constantly working to provide this safe environment. At the same time, we must continue to work together, and invite other agencies of society, to assist with eliminating the prevalent sexual abuse, especially of children, in our society."

Del Escritorio del Obispo

Domingo de respetar la vida

Por el Obispo Miguel Pfeifer, OMI

El programa anual de Respetar la Vida comienza el domingo, 5 de octubre de 2008, y el tema para el programa de este año es "¡Tengan Esperanza y Confianza en la Vida!". Este programa enfoca en la dignidad y santidad de cada vida humana—nacida y

no-nacida. Para celebrar el tema de este año, cada parroquia recibe información sobre los asuntos críticos que se enlazan a las enseñanzas de la Iglesia de la vida humana, al esforzarnos a crear una cultura de vida que es muy necesitada hoy en nuestra sociedad.

Hay una gran urgencia del movimiento de pro-vida. Existen

doctores a quien se le ha dado el don de compasión y curar que han usado sus talentos para abortar bebés. Hay consejeros que se les ha dado el don de compasión para ayudar a los abatidos, pero han urgido a gente para escoger el aborto de su niños. Hay padres y madres a quienes Dios les ha dado el poder para crear vida con (Mira OBISPO/13)

From the Editor

Maybe it's time we start making up our own minds

By Jimmy Patterson

There was a moment, a turning point I wish, during John McCain's speech at the Republican National Convention. It came after pool cameras had turned their lenses on protesters who were causing a ruckus at the convention.

"Don't be distracted by the ground noise and the static," he said.

Indeed.

It was the only sound bite of either convention that should be remembered and adhered to.

"Don't be distracted by the ground noise and the static."

It wasn't part of his prepared remarks, but when the senator said it, it occurred to me again that in order for us to proceed with any semblance of dignity, it's time to turn off all the people that are making politics such a mockery. People who are making the whole process such a bitter horse pill to choke back. Isn't it time to really cut out the ground noise and the static? One and all. Once and for all?

The political process today is not so much about our leaders anymore, but about our pundits and their collective audacity. There is no dignified conversation. It's really just about who can out scream the other, out offend the competition, de-humanize the opposing party. Compromise? Do and you're spineless; someone who doesn't have what it takes to really believe in what you say you believe in.

After major political speeches, we as a people are always gifted with the all-important network analysis. It's the American way. And that's so often where that misguided ball begins to roll down the wrong path. That's when we begin to let other people start making our decisions for us. When the speeches are picked apart sound bite by sound bite, we can't see Washington for the fog of Fox and the pollution of Air America.

Our choices are colored for us in the deep hues of red and blue by a former public relations worker for the Kansas City Royals, a one-time Not Ready for Prime Time Player, a former "InsideEdition" reporter and a former sportscaster with a fondness for his voice and the way he cocks his head to the camera unwittingly on television until now. These are just some of the people we let tell us how and what to think.

These people, and no doubt countless others like them (bloggers included), have taken away our ability to judge for ourselves. They have broken down politics and made it muddier than the Mississippi after Gustav and they have poisoned the river with their often hateful rhetoric. Constructive discourse? Not in 21st century America.

It's time to turn them off and make our own decisions.

In many ways the screamers and disruptors we hear on our TVs and radios and in our blogs are really no different than the protesters who interrupted McCain's speech. They just have a different platform, more time, and are less likely to be dragged away by security.

(Please See PATTERSON/19)



Patterson

DIOCESAN DATES**Bishop's Calendar****OCTOBER**

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.

NOVEMBER

1 -- SAN ANGELO, Sacred Heart Cathedral – All Saints Day Mass at 9:00 a.m.
2 -- SAN ANGELO, Calvary Cemetery – Annual All Souls Day Mass at 11:00 a.m.
5 -- SAN ANGELO, Homeless Coalition Meeting at 9:00 a.m.
8 -- SAN ANGELO, Sacred Heart Cathedral, 5:00 pm Mass to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Angelo Catholic School
9-13 -- WASHINGTON, DC – Meeting of the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops
14-15 -- Rest and Prayer
17-18 -- Corpus Christi, Kenedy Foundation Board Meeting
19 -- SAN ANGELO, Santa Rita Elementary School – Read to Students at 8:30 a.m.
20 -- SAN ANGELO, C.A.R.E.S. Meeting -1:00 to 2:00 p.m.
21-23 -- AMARILLO, Region 10 Youth Conference
24 -- SAN ANGELO – Victory Community Church – Ecumenical Prayer Service at 6:30 p.m.
25 -- MIDLAND, Task Force Coalition meeting – 2:00 – 3:00 pm
27 -- SAN ANGELO, Sacred Heart Cathedral – Thanksgiving Day Mass at 9:00 a.m.
28-30 -- Rest and Prayer

**Christ the King
Retreat Center****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-Nov. 2 -- San Angelo Men's ACTS Retreat

November 2008

1 -- San Angelo Men's ACTS Retreat
2 -- CKRC Confirmation
3 -- Heart of Mercy Prayer Group
4 -- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 5-6 pm
5 -- Shannon Auxiliary Board Retreat
7-9 -- Deacon Training Program
9 -- Introduction to Meditation & Contemplation
10 -- Heart of Mercy Prayer Group
11 -- Annual Audit Review - Presbyteral & Finance Council Meeting
11 -- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 5-6 pm
13-16 -- Men's Walk to Emmaus
17 -- Heart of Mercy Prayer Group
18 -- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 5-6 pm
24 -- Heart of Mercy Prayer Group
25 -- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 5-6 pm
27-30 -- Office Closed – Thanksgiving Holiday

NECROLOGY**November**

10 - Rev. James Coleman (2002)
19 -- Rev. Frank Zimmerman, C.M. (1999)
23 -- Rev. Colm Mullan MSC (2003)
27 -- Rev. Michael Dwyer MSC (1997)

**Ethics & Integrity
Workshops****San Angelo Deanery**

Oct. 13, Monday, 6:30-9:30 pm,
Sacred Heart School, **San Angelo**

Midland/Odessa Deanery

Oct. 21, Tuesday, 7-10 pm, St.
Mary School, **Odessa**

FALL FESTIVAL CALENDAR**October 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)

**October 25
MIDLAND**

St. Stephen's Annual Fall Festival
Featuring a children's mini carnival and costume contest, including karaoke. It is a safe place for children to enjoy! ... The Knight of Columbus will be selling hot dogs and nachos ... The Festival includes baked goods store, arts and crafts donated by the community, and our Silent Auction with many local businesses donating items, religious items, certificates. Event: 6 pm-9 pm, Silent Auction ends 6:15pm Sunday, Oct.26.

**November 9
ROWENA
St. Joseph**

86th Annual Fall Festival-Sun., Nov. 9
Theme: "Count Your Blessings"
Flag Raising: 10:30 a.m.
at Veteran's Monument
Meal 11 a.m.-2 p.m.-Turkey, Dressing & Trimmings-Rowena German Style Sausage
Drive Through plates to go available
Auction begins at 1:30 p.m.
Games for all ages 11:45 a.m.-3:45 p.m.
Country Store throughout the day
Sausage Sandwich Supper begins at 4:30 p.m.

Pornography degrades and dehumanizes**By Bishop Michael Pfeifer**

Pornography Awareness Week, — also known as WRAP (White Ribbon Against Pornography) — is celebrated this year from Oct. 26--Nov. 2. This week focuses on a moral cancer which is eating away at our American society. During this special week—WRAP — aimed at combating this subtle evil, Americans throughout our great nation will participate in various ways to overcome the evil of pornography, especially by displaying White Ribbons as a symbol of the community's standards of decency and to support the enforcement of obscenity laws. The White Ribbon Against Pornography [WRAP] week is intended to educate the public about the extent of the pornogra-

phy problem and what can constitutionally be done about it. Fighting pornography, however, is a year-round challenge.

Pornography is evil because it debases the priceless worth and dignity of each human being and the gift of human sexuality given by God who shares His loving, creative power with us.

Pornography now generates more annual income than all three professional sports combined and causes as well the world's fastest-growing addiction. It is astounding to know that daily there are 68 million search engine requests for porn sights on the Internet, which accounts for 25 percent of all searches. The average age of a child's first exposure to pornography from the Internet is at age 11. The Internet is awash with hard-

core pornographic material that is also available to minors without cost or proof of age.

As we deal with this deadly cancer that is invading more and more of our homes, we need to remember that the Supreme Court has held that enforcement of obscenity does not violate the First Amendment and that legitimate governmental interests are furthered through enforcement of these laws.

Pornography degrades and dehumanizes both female and male participants and presents youth with a false and distorted image of human sexuality, devoid of love, commitment and responsibility. Pornography also features criminal

(Please See **PORNOGRAPHY/20**)

October 26: Celebrating World Priest Day

A priest and pilgrims from Poland attend Pope Benedict XVI's weekly general audience at his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, Aug. 20.



By Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

I am very happy to announce to all that on Sunday, October 26, 2008, our diocese will join many other dioceses in the United States in celebrating World Priest Day – Priesthood Sunday. I am very pleased to know that these two events

this year will be held on the same Sunday.

As we celebrate World Priest Day and Priesthood Sunday, I remind you that this is a day to celebrate and affirm the men who commit their lives to the Lord and the Church via the Sacrament of Holy Orders. It is an opportunity for all Catholic people to express their love and affirmation for all of our priests.

It is a day for all of our people to do something special to recognize the good service of our priests and to express our gratitude to them for the beautiful service they give to the Body of Christ.

Pray and pray for our priests and please do something special to help them celebrate World Priest Day and Priesthood Sunday.

Feminism and the Sexual Revolution

Are women wearing the 'Emperors New Clothes?'

Editor's Note: Melanie Saiz Cordero is a freelance writer and a parishioner at St. Ann's in Midland.

By Melanie Saiz Cordero

Ah, the proverbial feminist society...screams of EMPOWERMENT, EQUALITY, and the overall EVOLUTION of WOMAN by way of sexual and reproductive freedom fill the air around them. While the words are cacophonous to the religious right, they sound like music to the words of the independent-thinking woman. The idea that men have kept us "down" with sexual oppression incites the cries of angry picketers and liberated females across this great nation. Visions of Gloria Steinem and the ERA dance in our heads as we envision a country where we can bust through the symbolic chastity belt and "Express Ourselves" Madonna-style! But...what does this really mean? Are we really empowering ourselves, or are we playing into the hands that have caused us this so-called oppression in the first place? Hmmm? What an interestingly unpopular stance to ponder.

The sexual revolution began to really flourish after the introduction of a little thing we all know as "The Pill." The pill was an amazingly innovative new form of contraception that provided women with a better living through chemistry approach to pregnancy prevention. One pill a day keeps the baby away, so to speak. Today the pill has evolved into many different types of hormone induced contraception. While oral contraception is not specifically targeted to the market of promiscuity, it has given members of the so-called "oppressive sex" a reason to lift their own worries about the issue. Instead of becoming empowered, women have taken on the burden of putting their own health at risk in order to avoid an unwanted pregnancy. Isn't that ironic? We fight for reproductive freedom citing "our bodies, our choice," when all along, we have truly been allowing "our bodies" to be put at risk by allowing ourselves to consume synthetic hormones

(Please See **EMPEROR/18**)

Re-igniting the Flame of Our Baptism: Proclaiming Our Call



Diocese of San Angelo Catholic Schools (Angelo Catholic, St. Ann's, St. Mary's Central Catholic) faculty and administration attended a Curriculum Workshop at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Odessa, Aug. 7-8. The teachers met for two days of active learning strategies and reflection. On Friday, Dr. Sandra Kennedy, a national consultant for Sadlier Publishing, led the group in a day of recollection.

How to prevent obesity, save our pocketbooks

Catholic Health Association

As a matter of culture, we Americans have a natural propensity to focus intently on personal success, and resultantly our health, especially our weight, gets tossed into the backseat. Recently, a popular mainstream radio host proposed the following do-it-yourself assessment during an on-air discussion of our overweight Western society: "If your dog is fat, so are you." Simple enough, yet the statement hits the mark.

Thanks to daily schedules crowded with commitments and automated everything, we have become a stressed, sedentary, and overweight Texas, with more than 61 percent of adults considered as obese or overweight. Blacks are disproportionately affected, with 70 percent of the population in Texas considered overweight or

obese, while 60 percent of whites and 64 percent of Hispanics carry excess weight. As a nation, 32 percent of us are obese, compared with 20% globally. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) define "overweight" as someone with a body-mass index (BMI) of 25 to 29.9, and "obese" as a person with a BMI of 30 or more. BMI is a measure of weight in relation to height and correlates with body fatness.

Obese and overweight individuals almost always face chronic health issues like heart disease, stroke, diabetes, hypertension (high blood pressure), depression, and even cancer, all of which can cause premature death. Many of these health conditions arise as direct complications of being overweight and inactive; but, they can be prevented and sometimes reversed through surprisingly small, easy steps towards a

healthier lifestyle and weight control. By changing the way that we live, we can save ourselves the time, expense, and pain of serious illness caused by excess weight.

Weight control is a simple balancing act of consumption versus expenditure. In order to maintain an appropriate weight, you must burn the calories that you consume each day through exercise and routine activities. To go further and actually shed extra pounds, you must in fact burn more calories than you consume each day. Those calories that you do not burn each day are converted into fat and stored in your body. Most experts agree that reducing your current daily caloric intake by just 50-100 calories can prevent weight gain. To

(Please See **CHA/19**)

Making Sense of Bioethics

Issues 2008: Voting to make a difference

By Fr. Tad Pacholczyk

In the United States, only about half of those who were eligible to vote actually cast ballots during the last national election. I admit I have not always voted in the past. When I am tempted not to vote, however, I think back to a story I once heard about a certain Aunt Katherine who died a few years ago. She was blind during the last months of her life, but she had her daughter read the ballot to her and fill it out on her behalf. She was careful to sign the ballot and make sure it was mailed. It was one of the last things she did before she went to the Lord. She believed that voting was important, and it was one way she manifested her concern for others and for the society she was a part of.

We face the daunting task of evaluating many hot-button issues and sorting through various candidates' positions whenever we vote. We may have to consider energy policy, access to health care, education, social security, the problem of homelessness, taxes, farm subsidies, and inner city violence, to mention just a few. Some issues, however, merit greater attention than others. The life issues - extending from abortion to embryonic stem cell research to euthanasia - are objectively speaking, the most critical issues to weigh in on as we cast our



Pacholczyk

vote, because they address the basic good of life itself.

Even if we strongly approve of a candidate's position on social security and taxation, would that ever allow us to vote for him if we knew that he condoned and promoted human slavery? Even if we strongly agreed with a candidate's position on health care and education, would that allow us to vote for him if we knew he supported the genocide of Jewish people? Certain kinds of evils, known as "intrinsic" evils, can never be permitted in a society, and candidates who promote such evils need to be shown the door by our votes, regardless of their positions on other, lesser issues. In the words of Fr. Brian Bransfield, a truthful conscience will wince whenever it "hears a candidate claim that he can fix health care, but still agree that a child in the womb can be killed. Conscience knows that if a candidate favors human embryonic stem cell research, which always includes the killing of a human person, then our neighborhoods can never be free of violence - because we just voted for violence."

When casting our vote, then, we ought to begin from a key and unmovable position - that every human being has a right to life, and that fundamental right makes all other rights possible. Absolute protection for the gift of life is the foundation of all the other goods we hope to promote and enjoy within our society.

While certain kinds of violence like abortion and embryo destruction can never be directly supported under any circum-

stances, other forms of violence like war and the death penalty may be morally tolerated in very limited circumstances. The difference lies in the fact that human life in the womb is, by definition, completely innocent, while the criminal in the electric chair (or the unjust wartime aggressor threatening a sovereign state) is no longer innocent, but is guilty of serious wrongdoing beyond any reasonable doubt. Inasmuch as an accused criminal or a wartime aggressor is guilty of radical evil, war and the death penalty may at times, and in limited circumstances, represent a legitimate societal response. War and capital punishment, then, cannot be deemed intrinsically immoral. Any direct attack on innocent human life - whether through abortion, embryonic stem cell research, or euthanasia - will always remain intrinsically immoral.

Voting for a candidate who supports war or capital punishment in very limited circumstances is not the moral equivalent of voting for a candidate who supports the killing of innocent human life in the womb or in the research laboratory.

Would it ever be morally justifiable to vote for a candidate who supports abortion or other intrinsic evils? Possibly. To vote this way, however, would require a proportionate reason for doing so. We can begin to understand what is meant by a "proportionate reason" if we consider a hypothetical case of two candidates running for president of the United States, one of whom

(Please See TAD/20)

'Nun Run' introduces young people to vocations

In a time when fewer Catholic women are choosing the religious life, the Vocation Office of the Diocese of San Angelo sponsored a Nun Run on August 16-17. At Vocations BBQs held throughout the Diocese of San Angelo, the young women who attended expressed an interest in visiting convents to experience the religious life. The Nun Run took place as a result of their interest.

Five young women from throughout the Diocese of San Angelo participated in the Nun Run. The young women visited three religious communities in San Antonio: The Congregation of Divine Providence, the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word and the Salesian Sisters.

Participating in the Nun Run were: Lexie Rodriguez from Sacred Heart Church in Abilene, Cassie Reyes from Immaculate Heart of Mary in Sweetwater, and Melisa Tercero, Alexis Cortez and Cristina Aguirre from St. Joseph Church in Odessa. Accompanying the young women were sponsors Debra Loven from Sweetwater, Adele and Larry Cortez from Odessa and Fr. Barry McLean, Director of Vocations for the Diocese of San Angelo.

During the weekend, the young women participated in the various ministries that are a part of the life of each religious community.

They also participated in prayer and other liturgical celebrations with each community.

Melisa wrote about her experience that, "I was able to look deeper into the religious life. I went to San Antonio to visit three orders and learned that, in the religious life, everything is done in love. The sisters we met were very helpful to me. They are just like us; the only difference is they devote their life to Jesus and his people. They taught me how happy you can be when you do the will of God."

Alexis said that, "going to San Antonio really opened my eyes and answered many of my questions about the Religious Life. All my life, I've always thought that sisters were the Catholic Robots. I believed that they couldn't have fun, go anywhere or do anything other than pray. Boy, was I wrong! After talking with many sisters, they reassured me that they have fun and are humans. What I realized in San Antonio" she said, "was that it's...about living your life the way God wants you to, and that includes being open to the "Call."

(Please See NUN RUN/19)



Five young women attended the "Nun Run," receiving encouragement to enter vocations during visits to three religious communities in San Antonio.

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Father Bhaskar: 'So long, see you later'



Fr. Bhaskar
Morugudi

ROWENA -- Parishioners of St. Joseph, Rowena; St. Thomas, Miles and St. Boniface, Olfen, hosted a lunch in honor of their pastor, Father Bhaskar, who will soon be returning to India. The event, which included an auction, was held September 14 in St. Joseph Parish Hall. Over 600 meals were served and over 200 items were donated to the auction by parishioners and friends. The variety of articles donated ranged from gift cards, needle work, quilts, afghans, jewelry, home decor and home baked goods to sports equipment, metal art and puppies, one of them named Box Car. One of the more popular auction items was a Home Cooked Indian Meal for 4 to be prepared by Father Bhaskar.

For several weeks, CCD students of the clus-

ter parishes had been selling paper links for a "Chain of Change". By the end of the day, over 1,400 links had been sold and the paper chain stretched entirely around the parish hall.

Parishioners submitted hundreds of pictures taken during Father Bhaskar's stay. They were included in a power point program put together by Matt Jost.

All proceeds from the benefit go to Father Bhaskar to help him continue his special project, which is the education of less fortunate children in India. While all who know him are very sad to see him go, we know that the Lord will continue to use him in awesome and exciting ways and our thoughts and prayers go with him.



Fr. Bhaskar, known in part for his cooking ability, helps in the kitchen at his going-away picnic.

RESPONSIBILITY: Using the light of both faith and reason

(From 9)

nation in a divided world, confronting terror and trying to build a safer, more just, more peaceful world. We are an affluent society where too many live in poverty and lack health care and other necessities of life. We are part of a global community facing continuing threats to the environment that must sustain us. These challenges are at the center of our political life, and they require urgent moral choices to achieve the common good. They call us to political responsibility.

As we enter into this important election year, we need to carefully study and evaluate policy positions, party platforms and candidates' promises and actions in the light of the Gospel and the moral and social background flowing from our Judeo-Christian principles.

To be politically responsible and faithful citizens, we need to use the light of both faith and reason, so that we may participate in politics in a morally responsible manner that promotes the common good of our society.

Building a world of respect for human life and dignity where justice and peace prevail requires more than just political commitment. Individuals, families, businesses, non-profit and community organizations, churches, schools, and government all have a role to play. Participation in political life in light of fundamental moral principles is an essential duty for everyone who is a citizen of this country and calls oneself a believer in God.

We need a renewed kind of politics focused:

- ▶ more on moral principles than the latest polls;
- ▶ more on the needs of the weak than benefits for the strong;
- ▶ more on the pursuit of the common good than the demands of narrow interests.

CITIZENSHIP: Conscience sees broadly

(From 9)

in Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, a guide for Catholics as they prepare for the 2008 elections.

What does conscience look like? It is that part of me that is bigger than me. Many issues volley for attention: immigration; affordable education; war; neighborhood violence; health care; abortion; the hungry and homeless; the environment; human embryonic stem cell research; the dignity of marriage between one man and one woman as the most commonly recognized institution in history; economic inequality; gas prices; and the beat goes on.

The common misunderstanding is that conscience amounts to "what I think" on an issue. Conscience is not just "what I think," but it is me "thinking about what is just" and true. It is not a partial appraisal based on the words of a preacher, politician or passions. The inner moral sense is not built on a sum total of what I think, but is a manifestation linked with truth itself regardless of my preferences.

Conscience does not allow a citizen to forget he is first a person. It tells me I am a person, and, as such, I must look at a quandary according to a certain order: How does this act here and now, in and of itself, fit with being human, and not simply lower prices? Conscience insists that human dilemmas are moral concerns long before they are political points of view. Conscience tells me that to be free I

must admit the truth that some acts are inescapably evil and no manner of circumstances or intentions can make them somehow good. Conscience bursts all other bubbles: It tells me the difference between right and wrong, good and evil, based not on the truth of circumstances or best intentions, but first and foremost on the truth of things in themselves.

Conscience must be formed, and, as such, it looks in three directions at once: It looks at me, looks at the moral dilemma at hand, and it sees the truth of both without favor. So often the voter makes appeal to only to the first two categories, me and the dilemma. Mere opinion then substitutes for conscience. To make a decision in conscience is to consult the truth of the nature of things in themselves. Conscience begins "outside-in." The objective reality summons accountability from me and forms the central coordinate of conscience. Conscience must begin with the true good. This starting point ensures that freedom and truth are not enemies.

There is a faculty deep within that I do not create. It is not programmed. This region is more than super ego or social convention. It is however, formed. The moral sense of conscience must be molded, not developed simply by feelings, opinions, circumstance, intentions or movements, but by the deep moral sense in which we participate by being human and capable of reason. Conscience does not simply decide for happy or sad,

but for good or evil. Conscience lines up the quandaries in size order and sees the resemblance. Marriage, racism, the environment, hunger, and abortion are not competing events. They are cousins, if not siblings. Conscience refuses to let one of these become an "issue."

Conscience winces when it hears a candidate claim that he can fix health care, but still agree that a child in the womb can be killed. Conscience knows that if a candidate favors human embryonic stem cell research, which always includes the killing of a human person, then our neighborhoods can never be free of violence — because we just voted for violence. The moral sense knows that if you treat the environment any way you like, sooner or later you will need treatment because of the environment. Conscience realizes that if you support torture you have just paid the deposit for a war twenty years from now.

Conscience sees broadly. It breaks the bubble, brushes back the curtain, pries down the lever, and by the leverage of honest truth can not simply change, but can transform, the world.

Father Brian Bransfield is in the Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Catholic Voices

Pope Benedict's transforming message of hope



Kmiec

By Douglas W. Kmiec
Catholic News Service

It has been noted that Pope Benedict XVI has profound respect for the American order. Here's a country that is widely religious and yet respectful of the separation of church and state.

But he also sees a shortcoming: "Perhaps America's brand of secularism poses a particular problem: It allows for professing belief in God and respects the public role of religion and the churches, but at the same time it can subtly reduce religious belief to a lowest common denominator. Faith becomes a passive acceptance that certain things 'out there' are true, but without practical relevance for everyday life."

The antidote is not to have religion just be a generalized bromide but to be premised upon a full understanding of how nothing in life can be truly divorced from God the Creator and his saving plan.

In other words, faith is not an irrelevancy. It is life itself. What does that practically mean?

1. Being Catholic requires an interior conversion, a submission to Christ. To "think with the church" is neither to memorize dogma in a superficial way nor pick and choose among Catholic beliefs as if they were a political party platform.

Here, the church must be a more regular and engaging teacher proposing with charity a fuller understanding of the magisterium. More than a 15-

minute homiletic reflection upon the Scripture reading is required. Reading groups, a vibrant parish lecture series and parish-based social outreach could all help.

2. While it's always important for a culture to try to have its civil law reflect natural law principles, Catholics for too long have directed their efforts toward changing the membership on the Supreme Court or amending this statute or another as its primary mission.

Overruling *Roe v. Wade*, while fully warranted under the law of the original Constitution, saves not a single life. Lives are saved when the beauty of sexual intimacy within marriage is taught, when motherhood is affirmed, when parishes are prepared to openly

and warmly support a woman facing the still real cultural stigma of giving birth without marriage, or when the economic needs of a single mother are addressed generously.

When the Gospel is really put into choosing life in a concrete and personal sense, the "dictatorship of relativism" -- that argues that men have the power to redefine life -- is proven false.

3. "Much remains to be done, particularly on the level of preaching and catechesis in parishes and schools, if the new evangelization is to bear fruit for the renewal of ecclesial life in America." Yes, yes, yes. Catholic elementary schools still remain the best hope for extending the teaching of the

(Please See **KMIEC/19**)

Joy: An emotion not to be postponed

By Father John Catoir
Catholic News Service

My sister Cathy had a best friend named Mary who remained close to her right up to Cathy's death in 1999. Mary came to see me recently because she had been given a shocking diagnosis: She had an inoperable, cancerous brain tumor.

Understandably afraid and dejected, she reached out to pray for a miracle. Before I said a word, we prayed together, asking for the grace to look at this from God's point of view. I wasn't exactly sure of what to say, or how to say it, but what I did say seemed to change her outlook.

I told her that it isn't what happens to us in life that really counts; rather, it's how we react to it. Either we allow ourselves to sink deeper into despair or we can decide to live joyfully right up to the end.

I wanted to help Mary prepare her soul for God by making the most of the time remaining to her. She could

either go to bed and turn into a dying patient, miserable to the end, or make up her mind to glorify God's gift of life by celebrating her remaining time on earth.

Mary took my advice seriously. The next week she called me to say that she and her husband booked a transatlantic cruise to Europe on the Queen Mary II. They planned to visit the countries of their ancestors. Later I learned that they had a wonderful time.

Then they planned a trip around America to visit their transplanted children and grandchildren. They had a ball, she said.

Then they took a trip to Tahiti, enjoying a week of tropical relaxation.

I asked Mary, "Where did all this energy come from?"

She gave God the glory and praised her husband for his willingness to help make her last days on earth a little happier.

It has been over a year since Mary's sad diagnosis. Only now is she beginning to lose her strength as she looks forward to sharing fully in God's eternal joy.

Pope Benedict XVI spoke in favor of joy and optimism when he said, "I

would like to show them how beautiful it is to be a Christian because the widespread idea which continues to exist is that Christianity is composed of laws and bans which one has to keep and, hence, is something toil-some and burdensome."

Instead, we learn that Christianity allows us to live in hope by putting the emphasis on joy, our ultimate goal, and by doing what we can to attain it here on earth according to God's will.

Jesus came from the overflowing joy of God in order to bring joy to the world. In his public ministry, he first went to the outcasts of his world, not to the scribes and high priests.

Why?

Because he wanted to strike up friendships with the sinners and tax collectors in order to bring them God's joy. He told them they were not doomed to suffer but were in fact blessed (Mt 5). Jesus challenged them to live joyfully.

At the Last Supper Jesus said, "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete."

Life is a wonderful adventure! Don't postpone joy!

Catholic Q&A

Should this man receive Holy Communion?

Q. Since becoming Catholic 35 years ago, I've understood that certain conditions should be met when we receive Communion. This young man, a relative, makes no pretense of living a Catholic life. He is married out of the church, seems to have no prayer life, ignores the religious education of his children either at home or in school, and attends Mass only at weddings and funerals or big feasts. On these few occasions he receives Communion. He doesn't see anything wrong, but it's created a serious challenge for our family. I find it impossible to deal with. Do you have any insights that will help? (Illinois)

A. Before answering further, let's be clear that, if you describe the situation correctly, what he is doing is wrong. It seriously violates the reverence due to the sacraments. Neither I nor any other knowledgeable Catholic could condone what is happening.

What can you do? First, he needs to realize that what he is doing is spiritually hurtful to his family and terribly confusing to his children and others. If he has any smarts he must know that already; if not, he needs to be told.

Whether that fact means much or little to him will be determined by whatever faith he still possesses. In these painful circumstances, some seem to feel that continuously restating Catholic rules will change what is happening. That is not likely.

It seems clear that, whatever his problem is, it is not lack of knowledge or a need to be "straightened out." It is a problem of faith which somewhere along the way for him has been badly damaged.

That places the problem at a much more spiritual and difficult level to deal with. But this is where any hopeful efforts lie -- in prayer, giving him something to hope for and a genuine experience of unconditional love to which he may someday be attracted to respond.

I urge you to explain the situation this way to your children and family. Sometimes we betray our own weakness of faith by insisting there must always be a quick fix and just shout louder and longer and hope something good will happen.



Catoir



A pullout reference for Catholics in the Diocese of San Angelo this election season



The Time Has Come



Political responsibility and faithful citizenship

By Bishop Michael Pfeifer

As a nation, we share many blessings and strengths, including a tradition of religious freedom and political participation. However, as a people, we face serious challenges which are clearly political and also profoundly moral. As we prepare for the upcoming Presidential and other major elections in 2008, serious consideration must be given to political responsibility and faithful citizenship.

We are a nation where the right to life is not fully respected nor protected, including for unborn children, the most vulnera-

ble members of the American family. We are a nation at war, facing questions about the human cost of war and how to wage and end the war in Iraq. We are a country too often divided across the lines of race, ethnicity, and economic inequality, seeking to assure "liberty and justice for all." We are a nation of immigrants struggling to address the challenges of the many new immigrants in our midst. We are a society built on the strength of our families, called to defend marriage and offer moral and economic support for family life. We are a powerful

(Please See **RESPONSIBILITY/7**)

Voting by conscience: how we can best exercise faithful citizenship

By Father Brian Bransfield

The only difference between the voting booth and the conscience is we usually have to wait in line to get into one of them. Apart from that, the same thing is supposed to happen in each place as that small cubicle reveals me to myself.

You and I can only vote once in the election this

fall. But before we do, hopefully we have repeatedly visited our own conscience. My conscience is what separates the voting machine from a slot machine, and only the human conscience can ensure that the ballot lever is not pulled on a gamble.

The U.S. bishops emphasize the role of conscience

(Please See **CITIZENSHIP/7**)



Fr. Brian Bransfield



Inside this Section:

What Obama Believes	10
The candidates & the economy ..	10
The election and abortion	10
The candidates & education.....	11
What McCain Believes	11

Other election items in *The Angelus*:

Rep. Nancy Pelosi crosses a sacred line	1
Making up our own minds	3
Voting to make a difference	6
Dear Mr. New President	15

What Obama Stands For

The following position statements on issues were taken directly from the candidate's official campaign web site:

Defense

"Our country's greatest military asset is the men and women who wear the uniform of the United States. When we do send our men and women into harm's way, we must also clearly define the mission, prescribe concrete political and military objectives, seek out advice of our military commanders, evaluate the intelligence, plan accordingly, and ensure that our troops have the resources, support, and equipment they need to protect themselves and fulfill their mission." -Barack Obama, Chicago Foreign Affairs Council, April 23, 2007

Energy & Environment

Senator Obama has been a leader in the Senate in pushing for a comprehensive national energy policy and has introduced a number of bills to get us closer to the goal of energy independence. By putting aside partisan battles, he has found common ground on CAFE, renewable fuels, and clean coal.

Faith

In June of 2006, Senator Obama delivered what was called the most important speech on religion and politics in 40 years. Speaking before an evangelical audience, Senator Obama candidly discussed his own religious conversion and doubts, and the need for a deeper, more substantive discussion about the role of faith in American life.

Family

Strong families raise successful children and keep communities together. While Senator Obama does not believe that we can simply legislate healthy families, good parenting skills or economic success, he does believe we can eliminate roadblocks that parents face and provide tools to help them succeed. A husband and father of two, Senator Obama has promoted strong families in the Senate.

Healthcare

"I...believe that every American has the right to affordable health care. I believe that the millions of Americans who can't take their children to a doctor when they get sick have that right...We now face an opportunity - and an obligation - to turn the page on the failed politics of yesterday's health care debates. It's time to bring together businesses, the medical community, and members of both parties around a comprehensive solution to this crisis, and it's time to let the drug and insurance industries know that while they'll get a seat at the table, they don't get to buy every chair." - Barack Obama, Speech in Iowa City, IA

issues
election 2008

Economy seen as prominent factor in November election

By Chaz Muth
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON -- The economy will be a key factor in choosing a president this fall for Ithaca, N.Y., resident Kathryn Hughes and her husband, who are struggling financially to send two children to college and assist another daughter who is a single mother with three young children.

As a faithful parishioner of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Ithaca, the 43-year-old mother, grandmother and recently naturalized U.S. citizen has followed her pastor's call to exercise political responsibility in November's national elections, the first time she will cast a ballot in a presidential race.

"The economy has affected us in every way," said Hughes, a native of Great Britain who became a U.S. citizen in 2006. "We are the middle class and feel the pressure."

In her view, the economic policies

of President George W. Bush have been helpful to the wealthy, and in some ways beneficial to the desperately poor, but have ignored the struggles of middle-class Americans.

For years Hughes felt blessed by the good fortune she and her husband found after immigrating to the U.S. in the 1990s. Both found decent-paying jobs and they were able to buy a home in a safe community, where they raised their three children.

However, as the economy soured in recent years and their children entered college, the couple discovered their incomes wouldn't pay the tuition bills, but they made too much money for government assistance.

"So now we and our children must throw ourselves into debt," Hughes said. "I also have had to bridge the gap for my daughter, a single mother of three children, because she is a

(Please See **ECONOMY**/12)

USCCB: Abortion and faithful citizenship this election year

By Deirdre A. McQuade

Abortion is the most widespread direct attack on innocent human life in the United States. Today, nearly one in four pregnancies ends violently in abortion. As a preeminent threat to human dignity with far-ranging social and political consequences, abortion warrants sober consideration as we head to the polls this fall.

Catholics are called in a special way to examine candidates' positions on the issue against their own conscience, a conscience which is well-formed by Church teaching. Far from being simply the sole choice of a mother, the question of

having an abortion involves matters of justice and compassion for all involved: For unborn children and their mothers, but also their fathers, siblings, and grandparents, and the character of our society.

Over 35 years have passed since Roe v. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion for almost any reason throughout the nine months of pregnancy. Approximately 48 million defenseless lives have been lost. Countless women regret their abortions, many men grieve lost fatherhood, and others involved often suffer in silence.

The U.S. Catholic bishops are unequivocal in their defense of human life from its earliest stages

to natural death. In Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, they state that abortion is intrinsically evil, which means that abortion is "always opposed to the authentic good of persons" and is never justified by circumstances. Abortion "must always be rejected and opposed and must never be supported or condoned" (Faithful Citizenship, no. 22).

"... we await the day when U.S. law protects human life from conception to natural death, parents welcome children whether "planned" or "unplanned," and the wounds of abortion have healed. A culture in which abortion is unthinkable is one in which all lives will be honored."

The Time Has Come



Two candidates mostly show many differences on education platforms

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON -- Even though the economy and the war in Iraq often take the front seat in presidential campaign discussions, occasionally the two major parties' candidates get the chance to outline their plans for the preschool-to-college set.

Their educational agendas, emerging in speeches, party platforms and the candidates' campaign Web sites, reveal similarities and plenty of differences. And while they tend to speak primarily of public schools, Catholic school officials are paying attention to their promises, looking for what a future administration may emphasize.

Republican Sen. John McCain and Democratic Sen. Barack Obama agree on the importance of having qualified teachers in the classroom and the need to make college tuition more affordable. They disagree on school

choice, how to improve teacher quality and how to fund public education.

In tackling educational reform, they plan to keep in place, although in a changed form, the No Child Left Behind Act, which was enacted in 2002 and is currently up for reauthorization. The candidates see weaknesses in the legislation requiring states to hold schools and districts accountable for improving student achievement, but they propose different ways to fix it.

Marie Powell, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Office of Catholic Education, told Catholic News Service she will be closely following the reauthorization, which was originally slated for this year.

She said she realizes the reauthorization won't be the top priority of a new administration, but she hopes that when it resurfaces before Congress, it will be "restored to its

(Please See **EDUCATION**/12)

What McCain Stands For

The following position statements on issues were taken directly from the candidate's official campaign web site:

National Security

The most sacred responsibility vested in a president - the commander in chief - is to "preserve and protect" American citizens. John McCain has the necessary vision and unrivaled experience to command the United States armed forces and adapt our nation's defenses to the demands of a changing and dangerous world.

Energy

Our nation's future security and prosperity depends on the next President making the hard choices that will break our nation's strategic dependence on foreign sources of energy and will ensure our economic prosperity by meeting tomorrow's demands for a clean portfolio.

The Sanctity of Life

During more than five years as a POW in Vietnam, John McCain experienced the worst assaults on human dignity imaginable. Yet each day he also saw in his fellow prisoners the power of human compassion and the will to prevail against unimaginable evil. It is this experience, and a life dedicated to public service, that has imbued in John McCain a fundamental commitment to the protection of human dignity that will shape his presidency.

National Service

John McCain will create a Service to America initiative to strengthen the teaching and understanding of American history, culture and core ideas, and to inspire Americans to serve causes greater than their own self interest.

Immigration

John McCain has always believed that our border must be secure and that the federal government has utterly failed in its responsibility to ensure that it is secure. If we have learned anything from the recent immigration debate, it is that Americans have little trust that their government will honor a pledge to do the things necessary to make the border secure.

Health Care

John McCain is willing to address the fundamental problem: the rapidly rising cost of U.S. health care. Bringing costs under control is the only way to stop the erosion of affordable health insurance, save Medicare and Medicaid, protect private health benefits for retirees, and allow our companies to effectively compete around the world.

Candidate web sites:
www.barackobama.com
www.johnmccain.com

(Please See **ABORTION**/13)

ECONOMY: Impact economy has on millions is a moral issue facing voters

(From 10)

low-income working mother with few benefits that don't add up to enough to put gas in her car to get back and forth to work."

In their 2007 document, "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility," the U.S. Catholic bishops said, "We are called to bring together our principles and our political choices, our values and our votes, to help build a better world."

"The bishops urge Catholic voters to focus not on political questions such as 'Are you better off than you were two or four years ago?'" said Thomas Shellabarger, policy adviser for urban and economic issues in the Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. "Rather, each of us should enter the voting booth focusing on the ethical and moral dimensions of public policies that affect the entire community."

The impact the economy is having on the family life of the Hughes clan and millions

like them in the U.S. is a moral issue and a legitimate concern for voters, Shellabarger said.

"The Catholic Church recognizes the incredible busyness of family life and the demands of work that overwhelm families," he said. "Many pressing problems confronting family life are due to broad social forces, particularly economic strife. The decision of a man and woman to marry and raise a family is a significant one with many considerations involved. Yet today, without a job that pays a family wage, marriage and starting a family seem impossible."

Currently the minimum wage is \$6.55 an hour or \$13,624 a year, but for a family of two the poverty line is \$13,167, and for a parent and two children, the poverty line is \$16,079.

The annual income needed to pay for a national fair market rent for a studio apartment is \$19,320, while \$22,360 is needed for a one-bedroom and \$26,520 is needed for a two-bedroom, according to a study conducted by the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

"The study concludes, 'In no community in the U.S. today can someone who gets a full-time job at the minimum wage reasonably expect to find a modest rental unit he or she can afford,'" Shellabarger said. He noted that the study adds, "While planned increases in the minimum wage over the next two years may put affordable housing closer within reach for some households, they will not close the gap between full-time earnings at the federal minimum wage and the income needed to afford prevailing rents in most markets."

According to Democratic presidential nominee Sen. Barack Obama's campaign Web site, if elected president he would double funding for after-school programs, expand the Family Medical Leave Act, provide low-income families with a refundable tax credit to help with their child-care expenses and encourage flexible work schedules.

On his campaign Web site, Republican presidential nominee Sen. John McCain calls for a National Commission on Workplace Flexibility and Choice. This

commission would be a bipartisan group of workers, small and large employers, labor representatives and academics that would give the president recommendations on how to modernize the country's labor laws and training programs to help workers better balance the demands of their jobs with family life.

The current state of the economy also has caused Hughes to limit the donations she regularly makes to organizations that help feed and provide clothes for the needy, a practice that is highly encouraged by Catholic teaching.

"Unfortunately, debates about poverty often become polarized by ideological and partisan divisions," said John Carr, executive director of the bishops' justice and peace department. "This political season, campaigns needs to move beyond false ideological choices that often paralyze national discussion. Catholic teaching and experience insist that reducing poverty will require personal responsibility and social responsibility, better choices and behaviors by individuals, and better policies and investments by government."

EDUCATION: Affordable college tuition a plan of both candidates

(From 11)

original purpose of equitability," meaning it should benefit students and teachers from public and private schools and not bar those in private schools from getting the services they need.

Though both candidates say they would make changes to the No Child Left Behind legislation, they have not released specific plans. Although McCain voted for the law he has been critical of its effectiveness. One change he proposes would make it easier for students in failing schools to receive tutoring after school through private companies.

Obama, who also has been critical of the legislation, has described it as ineffective and inadequately funded. He faults it for using what he says are poorly designed tests to measure failing schools and said the schools that need improvement should get support, not the punishment currently set up by the law, which includes firing teachers and principals, closing schools or turning them over to a private firm, a charter operator or the state.

While educators across the country will be looking to see a new direction, if any, for No Child Left Behind, Catholic school officials also are keeping a keen eye on

school-choice initiatives -- an issue on which the candidates disagree. McCain has stated his support for school choice, but critics say he has failed to outline specifics of what he would do other than expand federally funded opportunity scholarships in Washington for low-income students.

The Washington scholarship program, which provides vouchers to almost 2,000 students, many of whom attend Catholic schools, is in its final year and has an uncertain future unless it is reauthorized by Congress.

Obama favors limited school choice that gives students the option of attending a charter school. During a Sept. 9 speech at a public school in Ohio he said he would double the funding for charter schools to \$400 million a year.

Charter schools, publicly funded but privately operated, have been unpopular with teachers unions who say these schools take funds and students from public schools. Although national teachers unions have endorsed Obama, he has split with them on this issue and on his proposal of incentive payment for successful teachers, something McCain similarly endorses.

In their 2007 document, "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility," the U.S.

bishops emphasize that parents should be able to choose the best education for their children and that the government, through tax credits and scholarships, "should help provide resources for parents, especially those of modest means."

Sister Dale McDonald, a Sister of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the director of public policy and educational research for the National Catholic Educational Association, said her office is "not hoping for the (next) president to wave a magic wand" when it comes to school-choice initiatives. In previous years, she said, candidates "promised school choice and it never came to be."

She is slightly more optimistic about educational tax credits where individuals and corporations can donate funds to be used for school tuition or other educational expenses. But with the current state of the economy, she told CNS she also fears tax credits are "not shining brightly on the horizon."

In their higher education proposals, the candidates want to help students better afford college tuition, but they offer different ways to that end. Obama has proposed issuing a tax credit to offset \$4,000 in college tuition in exchange for 100 hours of community service. He has proposed over-

hauling the federal student loan program and expanding the Peace Corps, AmeriCorps and other national service programs.

McCain supports an increase in Pell grants -- federal scholarships based on family need -- and he also backs expanding low-interest college loans for middle-class families.

Sister McDonald noted that although "education is a small part of both parties' platforms" Catholic school officials want to be "on the radar screen" during the election year. That's why the NCEA submitted statements to the national platform committees of both parties stating their support for school choice and educational reform that helps all students and teachers.

"We are an important part of American education and we want fair treatment for our students and acknowledgement of what we do," said Sister McDonald, stressing the work Catholic schools do with lower-income and non-Catholic students.

Powell also said Catholic school officials will continue to promote themselves to political leaders as a reminder of everything that Catholic schools do.

"We're not just a fringe group," she added.

'Spiritual nourishment' of Bible to be a synod focus, says cardinal

Catholic News Service

SAN FRANCISCO -- A renewed appreciation for the "spiritual nourishment" available in sacred Scripture, a shot in the arm for ecumenical dialogue and enhanced preaching on "the word of God in Scripture" are among hopeful outcomes of the world Synod of Bishops on the Bible, a U.S. cardinal said. Cardinal William J. Levada, prefect of the

Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, made the comments in an interview in San Francisco with the newspaper of the archdiocese, Catholic San Francisco. The cardinal, who is the former archbishop of San Francisco, was in town to dedicate a replica of St. Francis of Assisi's tiny Porziuncola church that now graces a building adjoining the National Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi. "For all the rekindling of

the love for Scripture that the (Second) Vatican Council proposed, I would say that perhaps we have not integrated" the study and appreciation of the Bible into the daily lives of average Catholics as much as the church would hope, he said. Cardinal Levada is one of three delegate presidents who will take turns presiding over the synod's daily sessions Oct. 5-26 at the Vatican.

OBISPO: Domingo de respetar la vida

(Para 3)

Él, que aconsejan a sus hijas a tener un aborto. Hay cuidadores de ancianos que rechazan su dignidad humana, y hay hombres y mujeres en todo sector de sociedad, especialmente en los sistemas gubernamentales y de corte, que rechazan usar sus talentos para la promoción del Evangelio de Vida.

En abril de 2008, el Papa Benedicto XVI hizo su primera visita pastoral a los Estados Unidos de América. Trajo con él un mensaje de esperanza, que es la fundación para el programa de este año de Respetar la Vida--¡Tengan Esperanza y Confianza en la Vida! Dios nos envió el Papa Benedicto con un mensaje tocante la santidad de la vida y como debemos

ser gente de esperanza a través de promover una cultura de vida, y poner nuestra fe en acción.

En su reunión con los obispos Católicos de EE.UU., el Papa Benedicto afirmó que nuestro país "está marcado por un auténtico espíritu religioso", pero este espíritu con demasiada frecuencia se encuentra restringido a nuestros lugares y momentos de culto.

El Papa Benedicto nos alienta a ser gente de esperanza, gente que apoya la vida humana en cada etapa de la vida. Nos alienta que seamos claros en nuestras creencias, a actuar de manera coherente con ellas, y a sentirnos animados en nuestros esfuerzos para transformar nuestra cultura. Su Santidad indicó, "La proclamación de la vida, de la vida abundante, debe ser el centro

de la nueva evangelización".

Durante el año, así que vivimos el programa de Respeto a la Vida, animo a todos nuestros feligreses que primeramente recemos que todos tengamos una nueva apreciación de la vida humana desde el momento de concepción hasta su fin natural determinado por Dios. Pido a todo el pueblo que tomen mucha más acción directa al ser más proactivos en promover cada empeño para derrotar el aborto, y trabajar por todos los temas de vida que son presentados por la Iglesia para nuestra consideración. En modo especial, necesitamos examinar cuidadosamente la posición de cada candidato presidencial en cuanto a los temas de vida humana, antes de echar nuestro voto.

OSBORNE: Finding new categories of friends not always easy

(From 15)

Sometimes the memories of the past are the only things people can take along on their individual journeys.

I know that my friend and I definitely wish nothing but good things for one another. That's what friends do, no matter if they talk three times a day or once a year. I know the next time we meet, whenever that is, we'll have a great time talking about the memories.

After all, she taught me how not to be afraid of the dark, to roller-skate, to listen to great music and to swing dance when everyone else is gyrating around.

In the popular song "Graduation (Friends Forever)," artist Vitamin C sings, "As our lives change, come whatever, we will still be friends forever."

That promise hasn't always worked out the way I imagined it would, but that promise hasn't really been completely broken, either. We might not be

best friends anymore, but maybe there are new categories of friendship out there to explore, if people still care about each other.

Good friendships never really leave. They linger for a long time after the last words have been said, in deeds and memories and the legacy of kindness.

Maybe my definition of friendship needs to expand. Maybe that's part of growing up, too.

Maybe it's my turn to pick up the phone.

ABORTION: Voters deserve to know all candidates positions on pro-life issues

(From 11)

the unborn and their mothers from abortion. When they fail to honor the basic right to life -- and even abandon it in the name of "choice" -- they undermine the foundation for all other human rights.

Citizens deserve to know candidates' positions on abortion so they can vote with fully informed consciences. The bishops say that a

well-formed conscience will recognize "that all issues do not carry the same moral weight and that the moral obligation to oppose intrinsically evil acts has a special claim on our consciences and our actions" (Faithful Citizenship, no. 37).

Abortion is a pivotal issue as we approach the upcoming state and federal elections. Longer-range, we await the day when U.S. law protects human life from conception to natural death, parents welcome children whether

"planned" or "unplanned," and the wounds of abortion have healed. A culture in which abortion is unthinkable is one in which all lives will be honored.

Deirdre A. McQuade is assistant director for Policy and Communications at the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

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?

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Family

How young parents today name their newborns

By Dan Morris
Catholic News Service

Those of you who know me well (my IRS auditor and my dentist) know I have reservations about how young parents today name their newborns.



Morris

I do have tolerance for geography-based names that have flair -- like Dover, Athens, Genoa, Denver, Cabo, Pokipsy.

Sure, those monikers can clink a little when paired with last names like Murphy or Gerber, but that is beside the point.

Honestly, Montana, Tacoma or even Genoa would have gone well with our own family surname "Morris." (Sidenote: There is little truth to the rumor that I nearly gave into the temptation to name our own four kids Doris,

Horace, Boris and Norris. But it could have been entertaining to introduce the tribe as Horace, Doris, Boris and Norris Morris. Think what we could have done if we had thrown in middle names like Taurus, Forrest, Dolores and even Morris

too! Yes, in times of frustration there have been days I have called my oldest Doris Dolores Morris.)

Speaking of one's own children: One of mine (I will avoid mentioning it was Michael) and his wife (Tanya deserves anonymity) caved into the trend to combine the names of grandparents (or stars of "American Idol") for their newborn. They have named my beautiful newest granddaughter Emmaly -- a merger of grandmothers' names Emma Jo and Eileen.

I am thankful the grandmothers' names were not Penny and Nancy, which could have led to Penance, or were not Sally and Olivia, which could have morphed into Saliva.

On another baby name front, it is hard to judge the ebb and flow of the trend to pull names out the Bible.

"We certainly have had a decade or two of Joshuas, Lukes, Ruths, Aarons, Adams and Sarahs," pointed out Marlene at our recent Roadkill Theological Roundtable meeting.

"There were a few Zeeks and Esthers out there too," nodded her husband, Bud.

"We will definitely know something is up if names like Epistle, Lamentation or Psalm XVI start showing up,"

Marlene observed.

That made me curious. Does the church still insist that baptismal names have roots in saints' names or be a virtue like Prudence, Hope or Faith?

From what I could Google, it appears things have indeed changed. The current church teaching is: "Parents, sponsors and the pastor are to take care that a name foreign to Christian sensibilities is not given" (Canon 855).

Clearly the potential rub here is that the Christian sensibilities of my generation and the Christian sensibilities of my children's freewheeling, high-tech, high-speed, hyped-up, oscillating, Internet-addicted world could be different.

Maybe not. But it is possible.

Regardless, young parents seem focused on providing their new living soul-bearers with names as unique as they are. So I guess I can live with names that have entered our lives recently: Fisher, Diver, Hunter, Green and Melody. Welcome. You are beloved.

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

Bill & Monica Dodds

The joy of music -- even if you can't sing

By Bill and Monica Dodds
Catholic News Service

Let's start with a slightly revised quote commonly attributed to St. Augustine: "He who sings prays twice ... even if he who is singing can't carry a tune in a bucket."

The good news -- music to a parent's ears -- is that there are a variety of ways they can help their children develop a true love of music even if the parents' own talents in that area are limited. For example, parents can:

1. Sing those lullabies when cuddling an infant. (And just hum if you can't remember the words -- or the melodies.) Not a great voice? Not a problem. No little one ever opened her tiny eyes wide and said, "Please. Stop. All right? Seriously."

2. Share those nursery rhymes. Help toddlers and preschoolers learn about the itty-bitsy spider, Jack and Jill, the cat and fiddle, the wheels on the bus and more. Sing together. With gusto! If you play an instrument, play it with them and for them. Let your

child or grandchild strum those guitar strings or tap those piano keys.

3. Pull off the earphones and play your favorite music on a speaker system so the kids (but not the neighbors) hear it too, whatever that favorite might be -- spiritual, pop, rock, folk, blues, jazz, classical, opera. While the children might not grow up liking the same type of music, odds are they'll grow up loving music. (Yes, they may choose a style that makes you shake your head and shudder. Just as your generation did to your own parents. And your parents did to their parents.)

4. Take the family to a concert. Some performances can have high ticket prices but check around and you'll probably find some low-cost or no-cost shows too.

5. Encourage your children to learn to play an instrument. If cost becomes a factor, there are many good how-to videos on the Web these days. (It's true, there's no substitute for being with a teacher, but it can help your child learn more about the instrument and how to play it.)

Then, too, you could take a few lessons that way, couldn't you, since you "always wanted to learn to play the piano." So learn. You'll be setting a great example.

6. Remind the kids that school band and choir are an option too. So are singing or

playing an instrument for Mass. (So is starting a garage band, but most kids figure that out on their own.)

A Pitch for Music From a Doctor of the Church

"Music rouses the emotions, it calls the senses to a different quality. ... Music also comforts the mind in the enduring of labors, and singing lightens weariness in solitary tasks. Music also calms overwrought minds. ... Whatever we say or whatever emotions we feel within from the beating of our impulses, it is proven that they are brought into communion with the virtues through the musical rhythms of harmony." -- St. Isidore (560-636), *Etymologies*, 3, 17.

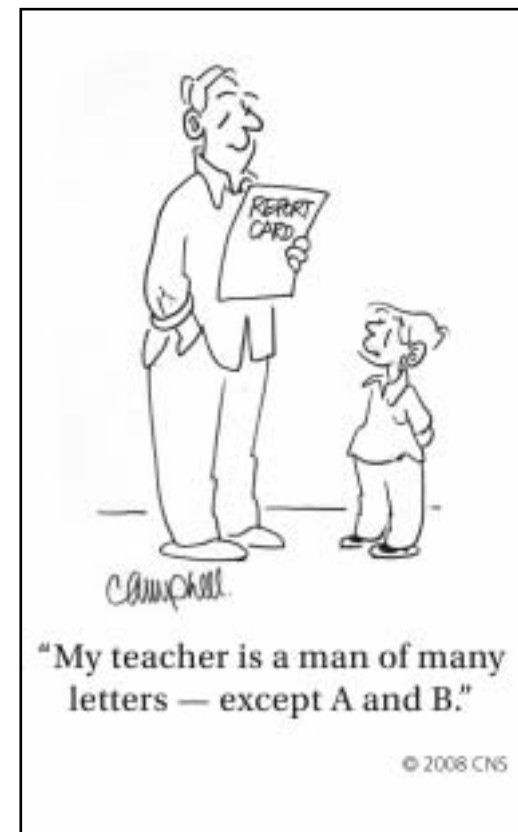
On the Web: Free Music Appreciation Class

"Sound Reasoning" is available at a site sponsored by Rice University. Read, listen and learn at: cnx.org/content/col110214/1.16.

Bill and Monica Dodds are the founders of the Friends of St. John the Caregiver and editors of My Daily Visitor magazine. Their Web site is www.FSJC.org. They can be contacted at MonicaDodds@YourAgingParent.com.



Monica and Bill Dodds



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ANSWERS

The Just 4 Kids page with puzzle will return in the November Angelus.

'I hope he can put in a good word to the Congress for healthier foods, so kids can participate in sports. Maybe he can let public schools bring in prayer into the classroom.'

-- Baylee DeHoyos
Angelo Catholic School

Better books and computers may help our learning. Healthier food choices in cafeterias could help our brains and bodies. New sports fields will help us exercise and be energized for class.

-- Natalie Dominguez
Angelo Catholic School

The new president of the USA can provide security, sports, better facilities and healthy food for all schools. People attend schools should always be safe.

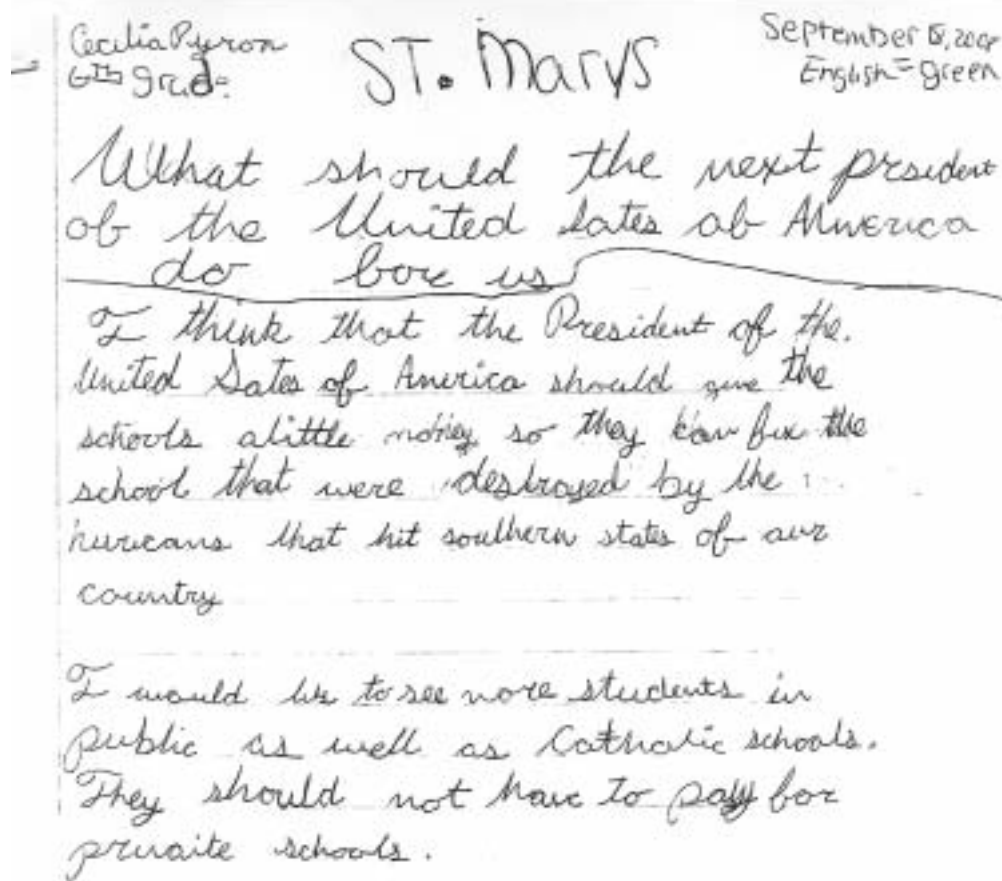
-- Jessica Rios
Angelo Catholic School

I believe the next president should give extra money to schools to fund extra equipment, better laws against abortions, more money to fund literacy programs in the homes and schools and more money for transportation in the schools for gasoline and bus expenses.

-- Jeremy Reyes, St. Mary's

Dear Mr. New President

Students from Angelo Catholic, St. Mary School in Odessa tell the new president what is needed to fix the country, schools and kids.



The next president should give more money to low-income families so kids can go to school and learn and be successful in life, but sadly now because they don't have the money.

What I really want to see from the president is to have Bible Study in the public schools because some kids don't know what God and Jesus means, that we adore him and praise him. With all my heart I believe we should have Bible study in school again.

-- Alexandrya

Struggling kids should get extra help. And after-school programs should be improved. The government could pay some of the tuition for some college kids so everyone could get a college education.

-- Nina Soza
St. Mary's

Violence is an issue I want to address. Many students in school are thinking they can solve their problems with physical violence. I want this to stop. This is hurting many of the students. We need more security to stop this from happening.

-- Jfe Ominiji, St. Mary's

Coming of Age

Finding new categories of friendship to explore

By Karen Osborne
Catholic News Service

I still hope she'll call.

I still remember playing old-school video games in her living room. We stood in her front yard with a book of constellations in the middle of the night, waking up the neighbors with our cheering when we identified Orion or Cassiopeia.

Who could forget the epic snowball fight in the front yard at the post-Christmas



Borhcard

bash or the times we'd get ready for dances together, slathering glitter on our eyelids? She was my best friend.

We thought it would never end, but it did. These days, though, she's just a face on my Facebook.

The last time we had a long conversation, it was the winter of our freshman year of college.

We chatted about the old times over coffees we'd never needed before that first semester, both knowing something was missing: We no longer had anything in common except our past.

We felt like we were losing one another. Losing a close friendship is a traumatic experience -- whether the cause can be

pinned to rumors, other social circles or just to the passage of time. It happens to everyone.

Even among good friends, people can grow apart because of misunderstandings or lack of communication. For my friend and I, the end came after we no longer had shared experiences. This is normal.

Growing up means moving through constantly changing and shifting social circles. In elementary school, my friends were often dictated by the distance from home or the kids in my class, but rarely can a high school student say such things are their only criteria.

Freshmen arrive, seniors leave. High school is a constantly changing social environment, starting the day a student walks in

the door. Everything changes.

Knowing this doesn't make the process hurt any less, though.

That's why it's comforting to know that good friendships can still work outside the typical framework, when each party helps the other person simply because they want the other to grow and prosper.

Those relationships don't end when the "hanging out" does. By no means was the time I spent with my friend worthless; I learned a lot from her, and I hope that she learned a lot from me.

Sometimes friends grow older together, sharing good times, phone calls, road trips, wedding toasts and yearly retreats.

(Please See OSBORNE/13)

Facing a family member's incarceration

(Editor's Note: Bob and Eva Lopez are parishioners at St. Stephen's in Midland.

By Bob & Eva Lopez

Where do we begin? It probably started when our child was in the 6th grade, but we were too naive to know what was going on or didn't want to believe he could be involved with drugs. And as time progressed and we started going crazy, we looked for ways to help our son but to no avail. We tried to handle our problem as best we could by ourselves because we were too angry to get help ourselves, or to admit that we had a drug abuser in our home. We tried to hide the fact from most people; even today we still have a hard time admitting that our son is in prison for dealing or using drugs.

We went to drug abuse programs, rehab centers, and I can't remember how many times he went to jail. Regardless of what we did we could not make our son understand the hurt he was causing himself or the pain he was putting us through. Countless times we kicked him out of the house only to allow him back in. You see he always has had an uncanny ability to

► Criminal Justice Ministry

play on our emotions. The little boy that cried wolf had nothing on our son. We accepted him back each and every time only to be disappointed one more time! We became so angry, mad, and psychotic that it was almost a relief when our son was sent to prison.

The first time he was sent to jail, my wife had such a bad experience with the way the law enforcement officers treated her and the way they made her feel she never wanted to go see our son again. I just didn't want to see him in jail again period. We had been hurt so many times for so long that we almost lost all hope. For a very long time we even dreaded having him come out because we knew he would only mess up again. He is now serving a 10 year federal sentence for being involved in the manufacture of an illegal substance.

One evening my wife managed to sit me down long enough to suggest we go to a church function on a Thursday night. She had read an article in the church bulletin about a meeting concerning people with loved ones in jail and wanted to learn more

about it. The deacon in our parish was starting a new ministry that had to do with families that had relatives incarcerated. Its intent, as I understood it, was to help people cope with their pain and suffering by sharing one's experience. I chose to stay home the first time.

My wife came home that evening and I could not believe her attitude. All she could talk about was how nice everyone was and how they had all treated her with so much love and kindness, she couldn't stop crying. She managed to play on my guilt enough that I went with her the next Thursday night although I was still a little skeptical. I sat, I listened, and I remained silent. It wasn't until another man shared his experience and opened his heart and I saw tears in his eyes that it finally reached me. You see, he was telling my story! I too have cried, I too have felt the pain others have suffered and by sharing that, it has helped me heal.

We made our first trip to the federal prison this summer. It had been over six long years since we had seen our son. We hugged, we cried, we laughed and we apologized to each other. We became human again.

New Life Ministry – Support Groups

In February 2008, a New Life Ministry (NLM) support group was established in Midland. The group meets every Thursday at 7p.m. in Rooms 1&2 of the parish hall at St. Stephen's, 4601 Neely Ave., in Midland. The NLM support group is for families with a loved one in prison or jail. Also, those who recently returned home from prison are encouraged to attend so they can be offered love and support which is so desperately needed during the difficult transition period following incarceration. In addition, children are welcome as a separate program is offered for them.

An eight week program which concluding with a healing Mass is the focus with a different topic for reflection presented each week. This is a community wide support group; open to all, Catholic and non-Catholics. There is time devoted to listen to others and share, if one desires. Everything shared will be held in strict confidence. Prayer will be an important part of our time together, calling on the Holy Spirit for strength, understanding and healing in the midst of our struggles. As a Church, we are to be Christ's hands and feet, offering love and compassion to others, so that they

might experience peace and a renewed sense of hope, a New Life in Christ.

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 Deacon Leibrecht 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.



Our Holy Father's Monthly Intentions 2008

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.

November

Love of God and Neighbor. That the testimony of love offered by the saints may fortify Christians in their devotion to God and neighbor, imitating Christ, who came to serve and not to be served.

The Church in Asia. That the Christian communities of Asia, contemplating the face of Christ, may find the most suitable ways to announce him, in full faithfulness to the Gospel.

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



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PELOSI: Church's teaching on abortion has been unchanging through the ages

(From 1)

U.S. Catholic Bishops teach about forming good value-based consciences, the Bishops avoid taking political party positions and do not mention the views of specific politicians nor political party affiliation. In that document, as in many other social justice teachings, the bishops address all life issues not just abortion, and point out principles, values and the Church teaching to guide Catholic voters—and others—as they prepare to cast their vote for the new President. But since Nancy Pelosi, while claiming to be an “ardent Catholic,” on national TV presented a false view on Catholic moral teaching on abortion and the beginning of human life, the bishops, as moral teachers, were bound in a public manner to correct her misrepresentation of Catholic teaching, on the beginning of human life and the defined teaching of the Church on abortion.

Representatives of the Conference of U.S. Catholic Bishops and many other individual bishops, responded to correct Pelosi's twisted understanding of the official Catholic Church. An “ardent Catholic” must accept and practice the defined teaching of the Church even if that person claims to not fully agree with or completely understand the teaching of the Church. In rejecting the teaching of the highest authority of our Catholic Church, Pelosi is putting her personal opinion on a grave moral matter over the official teaching of the Pope and Bishops and is causing a scandal. Pelosi must realize that her first responsibility as an “ardent Catholic” is not to support an immoral human law on abortion but first to uphold the law of God, and the defined teaching of her Catholic Church as she was baptized a Catholic long before she was a politician.

Besides the clear teaching of the Church on the sacredness of the unborn, it is clearly obvious from modern technology of the 21st century that gives us crystal-clear photographs and accurate films of the unborn living reality that the marvelous little ones in their mothers wombs are human beings with inalienable rights to life. This is a right that the Speaker of the House, an “ardent Catholic,” is bound to defend at all costs for the most basic ethical reasons. They are not parts of their mother, and what they are should not depend on the opinion of a politician. It is shocking to learn that a Catholic government leader of the stature of Pelosi, would propose a false misrepresentation of our Catholic faith, to defend the killing of the unborn.

Two committees of the U.S. Catholic Bishops Conference, as well as many other U.S. Bishops, have strongly responded to the immoral position of Nancy Pelosi about the beginning of human life and her support of

abortion, which goes against the defined teaching of the Church. In doing so, as moral teachers, the Bishops are clearly pointing out how central the right to life is to Catholic morality, and it is no exaggeration to say that the inviolability and sacredness of human life is to Catholic morality what the belief in the Trinity is to Catholic dogma. Being a Catholic presumes the acceptance of a whole string of basic beliefs that have been outlined for all Catholics from the time of Christ until the present moment through the teaching of the Catholic Church. Nancy Pelosi's position goes directly against a defined teaching of the Catholic Church, and even though she has been corrected about this teaching, she still holds firmly to it. Is this an “ardent Catholic?”

The Church's official teaching on abortion has been constant down through the ages. The earliest known work of Christian antiquity outside the New Testament is called the Teaching of the Twelve Apostles, commonly known as the Didache, dated around the year 90. This catechetical manual clearly points out what it meant and means to be a Catholic Christian. It begins with the strong admonition, “Two Ways there are: one of life and one of death, and there is a great difference between the Two Ways.” And included in the explanation of what it means to love one's neighbor as part of a way of life, the first Catholic Christians read the words, “Do not kill a fetus by abortion.”

A most disturbing element of Pelosi's comments was not only her false presentation of the historical teaching of the Catholic Church on abortion, but it was especially in her shocking dismissal of the moral significance of abortion. She said that in the end, it didn't matter when life begins anyway. She stated, “The point is that when life begins shouldn't have an impact on a woman's right to choose.” What she was saying was that a woman's right trumps a baby's right, and that this right includes the choice to destroy the child. This is totally irreconcilable with Catholic morality and with the most basic ethical standards. An “ardent Catholic” cannot in good faith hold such a distorted position. Thank God Pelosi has recently accepted the invitation of her local bishop to dialogue about this critical issue which has caused consternation among Catholics.

In their document, Faithful Citizenship, the U.S. Catholic Bishops clearly state that the right to life is the preeminent life issue in the presidential election year. The Bishops are concerned about all human rights issues as they point out in their teaching, but make it clear that the right of rights is the right to life. If this right is taken away, all the other rights are destroyed. In preparing for the presidential election year, the U.S. Bishops ask Catholics to study all life issues, and to

base their choice for the new President not primarily on political party or platform, but on the principles and values that underlie all life issues. Representatives of the Conference of U.S. Catholic Bishops recently stated: “As teachers of the faith, we also point out the connectedness between the evil of abortion and political support of abortion.”

Shortly after the U.S. Catholic Bishops clarified the constant teaching against abortion to correct this serious misrepresentation of teaching by the House Speaker, Nancy Pelosi, the Bishops again had to point out in a public manner the Catholic teaching to counteract the views made on national TV of another Catholic politician, Senator Joseph Biden, a candidate for the vice presidency, who made statements as a Catholic that are not in accord with the teaching of the Church. Biden, unlike Pelosi, did not claim that the Catholic teaching allows abortion, and he rightly stated that human life begins “at the moment of conception,” and that Catholics and others should recognize this and should not be required by others to pay for abortion with their taxes.

However, the Senator went on to state that the beginning of human life is a “personal and private” matter of religious faith, “which cannot be imposed on others.” This statement does not reflect the true teaching of the Catholic Church and Biden constantly violates his own belief—“not imposing private belief on others” by often supporting in a public manner, against what he says he holds privately, pro-abortion policies and voting in favor of abortion legislation. There is a serious moral contradiction here. To be honest, at the very least, Biden should abstain from voting on such issues. Biden, who has voted for some limitations on abortion, has remained a supporter of Roe v. Wade and the abortion industry's view on abortion, especially the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL). Biden has a strong pro-abortion record going back decades. The Church recognizes that the obligation to protect unborn human life rests on the answer to two basic fundamental questions, neither of which is private or specifically religious, as pointed out recently in a public statement to Biden by Cardinal Rigali, head of the U.S. Catholic Bishops' Pro-Life Committee.

Cardinal Rigali points out that the first is a biological question; when does human life begin? It begins when there is a new living organism of the human species, distinct from the mother and father, and ready to develop and mature in a giving, nurturing environment. The Church not only teaches this, but acknowledges it as a matter of natural objective fact. In replying to Biden, the Church points out that there is a second moral ques-

tion, with strong legal and political consequences. Which living members of the human species should be seen as having fundamental human rights, such as the right not to be killed? The Catholic Church answers everybody—unborn and born. No human being should be treated as lacking human rights, and this is not solely a Catholic teaching, but a principle of natural law accessible to all people. The Declaration of Independence points out the same basic truth by speaking of inalienable rights, bestowed on all members of the human race by their Creator and not by any person. Senator Biden, by not accepting the full teaching of the Catholic Church on the question of human life and abortion, misrepresents in a serious way the teaching of the Catholic Church. This also causes a scandal.

Catholic politicians of whatever party affiliation who freely and publicly reject the defined teaching of the Catholic Church with false public misrepresentations of the teaching of the Church, should honestly ask themselves about their status as regards being good Catholics. When these public officials speaking as Catholics falsely present in a public manner Catholic teaching, then the Bishops as moral teachers must address them in a public forum. Pope Benedict XVI, in his recent visit to the USA and at World Youth Day in Australia, often pointed out how Catholics must put their Catholic belief into practice in the home, the market square, in business, in the media, and in politics and in all areas of society. Pope Benedict XVI often stresses Eucharistic consistency, meaning that for one to be worthy to receive the Eucharist, one must, in a consistent manner, hold to the full teaching, especially defined, of the Catholic Church, and promote and live by the Church's moral principles and standards. If a Catholic does not accept the full meaning of consistent Communion on faith and moral issues as taught by the Catholic Church, then one violates Eucharistic Communion. Before receiving Communion, one must be in union with the Catholic Church in faith and morals, otherwise Communion is a mockery.

Pelosi and Biden, while claiming on national TV to be Catholics, but publicly oppose clear teaching of the Catholic Church, are causing a scandal. Scandal is an attitude or behavior which leads another to do evil. Pope Benedict constantly pleads with all Catholics—Put your faith into action. Have the courage to live what you believe. Jesus says: “If you love me keep my commandments.”

EMPEROR: Confronting the truth about who we are as women

(From 5)

while men sit back and breathe a sigh of relief. Where is the pill for men? The risk, for men, is probably not worth it.

The next step in our journey away from sexual oppression was the all too famous Roe vs. Wade ruling. Pro-choice activists everywhere rant and rave about the incredible feat achieved by this important court ruling. However...I would venture to bet a lifetime supply of condoms on the notion that most people are misled about what the ruling actually states. Roe vs. Wade has nothing to do with the protection of "our bodies." In fact, the ruling had more to do with the time a fetus could be considered a viable human being. In essence, abortion has served to dehumanize our most vulnerable members of

the human race, while exploiting the women whose vulnerability has ultimately led them to make such a "choice." The real mantra should be "our bodies, our BURDEN!"

After we have eliminated all means for becoming pregnant, is it time to proclaim autonomy in our quest for gender equality? Once the chains of society have been broken, are we truly on level ground with our male counterparts? I believe that we have fallen into the oxymoronic subculture of promiscuous feminism. Our own "if we can't beat 'em, join 'em" philosophy has done little to change the way men look at women. What it has done, however, is solidify the image of women as sexual objects. We have created this monster on our own! Pornography sales are at an all time high. Should we, as women, jump on this bandwagon as well?

Should I try to equalize myself on this level of sexuality by trying to feign sexual arousal upon the slightest hint of male nudity? Must I come to terms with the fact that there must be something wrong with me because my own personal arousal comes from attraction based on a connection with a person, rather than the exposure of random body parts? Is Samantha from the highly popularized television show, "Sex and the City," merely a hyperbolized character created for entertainment value, or is she really the hidden alter-sex-ego that resides within the depths of each one of us? Like the little boy in the old fable, "The Emperor's New Clothes," I vow to stand up and scream... "The Feminists are Naked!"

Why have we avoided the truth about who we are as women for so long? If we hon-

estly believe that we are equal to men, then why have we acquiesced and conformed to the male perspective of allowing ourselves to use and become used as mere objects of sex? Why not force men to "evolve" to the emotional level of (GASP!) intimacy that we, as women, innately crave? I do believe, that regardless of religious preference or lack thereof, that women must learn to embrace their femininity by realizing the harm we cause to ourselves and to our gender by engaging in gratuitous sex that neither empowers nor validates us or our position in any way. I think, as true feminists, the question begs: Have we freed ourselves, or have we succumbed to all the deviant requests of the oppressor himself? Or, dare I ask...is the oppressor even a HE after all?

SATAN: Downfall of the adversary based on hatred of mankind

(From 3)

The adversary will counterfeit any gift of God — not only to deceive some people, drawing them into error — but also to confuse other people so they do not embrace the truth for fear of being duped themselves. Over the ages the adversary has developed more and more subtle and effective counterfeits designed to rob the Christian of his heritage and dignity. Looking at his motivation for, and obsession with, the fall of man will aid us in understanding better his hatred for man.

God, in creating the heavens and the earth, first made angels and then made humanity. He made the angels true spirit-persons or individuals with free will and who are more powerful than man. However in the spirit realm time does not operate as it does in man's experience. God subjected the angels to a test of their free will. This test revolved around the Incarnation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The angels, whose free will was consumed with love for God, the Father, rejoiced at the prospect of loving and adoring God the Son, in whatever form He might take, including that of a lesser being, the human. As the angel hosts embraced the Incarnation, they were admitted to the ever-expanding beatific vision. Once the angels gazed upon the beatific vision, their choice to serve God in ALL his forms and to join their will to his will, resulted and still results in great exaltation. Lucifer, one of the princes of the angel host, was overcome with pride which then sought expression in rebellion against God. Lucifer, the prince of light, by his free will and act of rebellion, then became Satan, the adversary of God and all who serve God. Satan and his followers, a third of the heavenly hosts, sought to remain in heaven and retain their heavenly faculties without subjection to any authority. By his very nature, now changed forever by his act of free choice of rebellion against God, he made himself unfit for

the presence of God and the heavenly host. The archangel, St. Michael, by his very name "who can compare to God," challenges Satan in the name of God and in the name of the very Christ which Satan renounced, and with the heavenly host faithful to God expelled Satan from heaven. Satan's great sin was his unwillingness to serve a God who was willing to take a form "less" than himself.

Satan's eviction and elective loss of his heritage lie at the root of his hatred of man and his obsession for the ruin of all mankind. This choice of rebellion defined and continues to define Satan. He has become that hatred. Consumed with hatred and vengeance, he desires the destruction of all that is good. Satan's realm is one of chaos, hatred, and despair as contrasted with the Kingdom of God where order, love, and hope abound. Armed with this bit of knowledge, one can quickly sort counterfeits and camouflage using only this criteria. Ask the questions, "Does this television show, magazine, song, candidate, etc., promote the dignity of the human person?" "Is the 'love' espoused a Godly love for all humanity? Born or unborn? Rich or poor? White or black?" "Does the hope offered come at the expense of another?" "Is it a hope in material things? Or is it a hope in spiritual fulfillment through a relationship with Jesus Christ?"

Christ leaves us no gray area in our struggle with the adversary. Jesus himself said, "Whoever is not with me is against me" (Mt 12:30). Often we are content with our efforts to "avoid evil." This is not the same as pursuing Christ through a life of sanctity and devotion. Everything we do, every decision we make, takes us closer to or further from our Lord. The adversary relishes the opportunity to devour the lukewarm. They are easy prey, outside or at the edge of the mantle of protection of the Blessed Virgin. Our Mother Mary occupies a unique position in the cosmos. From the beginning, she and her seed have had dominion over

the adversary. Her presence causes him to flee. The more closely we model her, the more closely we follow her exultations, the more closely we obey the sweet Mother's statement to the wedding guests at Cana, "Do whatever he tells you" (Jn 2:5), the greater our protection against the snares of this adversary. The snares and methodology of the adversary may have grown more subtle over the ages, yet the motivating base sins (bait) and the mechanics of entrapment have not changed.

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus tells Peter, "Simon, Simon, behold Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed that your own faith may not fail" (Lk 21:31-32). Know that like the apostles, all who seek to follow Christ will be "sifted like wheat" by the adversary. Specifically, the sifting of wheat involves the separating of the kernel or grain from the chaff by various methods, all of which include some degree of violence or trauma. This adversary, a predatory opportunist, will not come in the light of day, or in a period of spiritual strength. He will strike a person in despair, or while engaged in sinful activities. In much of his methodology he tries to isolate a spiritually vulnerable person from those who would save the victim.

The adversary relies on a "turning away," however slight, from God on the part of the victim—turning away from commitment to, or sacrament of, the Kingdom of God. This turning away could be infidelity in a marriage, taking the Eucharist while not in a state of grace, neglecting the duties of one's state in life, whether Holy Orders, married or single, being unchaste or any desire to escape commitment. This turning away often takes the form of rebellion in children who seek their "independence." Jesus admonished those he healed from demonic possession to "return to your family" (Mk 5:19). Such a familial relationship, whether in an actual family or Church family, keeps one safe from the adversary. In today's world, the

adversary has perfected many ways to isolate his prey. Just like our relationship with Christ we have to nurture and pursue with other children of God, the seeking of sanctity and building up of the Kingdom of God. The adversary seeks to isolate us through the computer and television. Imagine the Blessed Virgin at your side. Would you expose her to the things to which you expose yourself? Would she be offended at the images you take in your mind—images which subtly erode the dignity of the human person, the family, the nation, the sanctity of life, and all those things which would build up the Kingdom of God?

Once you begin to discern the methodology of the adversary, it becomes more and more obvious the effects of his efforts. Throughout the generations, he has used all of the seven capital sins to ensnare humanity; particularly nefarious is his reliance upon certain sins within certain lines of creation (families, nations, races). For centuries, this adversary has probed the wounds of addiction in all its forms. If a line of creation exhibits vulnerability, why change methods? "Alcoholism has always been in our family;" "well, you know he was abused as a child;" "his grandfather always had a mistress;" "he comes from a long line of gamblers;" "certain cultures accept infidelities;" "well, he cheated on her, she was just getting even;" "well, you know his dad went to prison too." Every one of these examples does not simply destroy individuals but families, nations, and complete lines of creation. When we make statements like those above, we give substance to and affirm a curse on our families.

Understand that each one of us will come under attack by the adversary at some point in life—at a point of vulnerability or doubt. The adversary waits for one to be far enough away from God; then he can devour the person before he can return to God. Can the answer be that simple: do not stray from the safety of the Church?

(Please See **ADVERSARY/19**)

KMIEC: Benedict giving us hope

(From 8)

church as a way of life beyond the liturgy.

It is said that without a presence of religious sisters, our parochial schools cannot be sustained, but that overlooks resources both economic and human. The U. S. Supreme Court has long eliminated any constitutional objection to school vouchers.

Where is the nationwide Catholic movement to demand that public resources be allocated to parents directly rather than devoted to the monopoly support of the secularizing public school?

And in terms of human resource, we are

an aging population with many of us nearing retirement but still very much wanting to stay in service to our fellow man. How wonderful it would be if Catholic seniors were given multiple opportunities by their parishes to volunteer their time to teach in Catholic schools.

As I see it, this would give us one of the finest faculties in the land and in the process strengthen the intergenerational family.

Thank you, Holy Father, for coming to America, reawakening us to the possibilities -- no, the practical realities -- of a faith-filled hope.

ADVERSARY: Susceptibility to Satan on rise

(From 18)

Imagine the wolf lying on the edge of the meadow, flicking a white-tipped tail; the unschooled lamb or the lamb perhaps a little too far from its mother becomes curious. The first day the lamb has only a thought of leaving his mother to investigate. The next day the wolf comes four paces closer to the sheep herd, for he noticed the lamb looking. The lamb is a day older and a day "wiser," and approaches the flicking tail. He gets much closer than he imagined before his mother calls him back. He could almost smell the tail. The third day the wolf is 10 paces closer to the sheep herd. The lamb is another day "wiser" and the mother

thinks that a lamb should learn and experience some things on its own. The lamb approaches the tail. Today the tail does not seem to flick as urgently; rather it lies still, as if it needs the lamb's acknowledgement to animate it. The lamb goes to investigate. The discomfort in the ewe's full udder is the realization that this night the lamb is lost.

The three days above could well represent the last three generations of this nation. We are becoming more and more susceptible to the wiles of the adversary. The next article in this series will deal with the multi-generational aspect and impact of the predation of the adversary upon mankind and the rules of engagement.

CHA

(From 5)

lose weight, health professionals recommend reducing caloric intake by 500-800 calories per day, either through careful eating alone or a combination of diet and exercise. Reducing caloric intake by 250 calories per day plus burning 250 calories through moderate to vigorous activity each day constitutes a reduction of 500 calories.

Science has proven that the most effective tool to combat excess weight and chronic disease is exercise, and today, only 1 in 4 Texans are active enough to combat disease. Research shows that a minimum of 30 minutes of moderate activity each day, combined with a balanced diet, will keep us healthy. Moderate exercise includes brisk walking, swimming,

yoga, biking, etc. To get an idea of how many calories you burn, visit www.caloriesperhour.com for a list of dozens of activities and exercises with corresponding calories burned. To avoid frustration and increase likelihood for success, choose several moderate activities that you already enjoy and commit to doing one each day, gradually working up to 30 minutes or more at a time. If you suffer from any kind of health condition, consult with your doctor before beginning an exercise plan.

The origins of your caloric intake are also of the utmost importance. In order to satisfy your hunger and get the biggest bang for your caloric buck, eat a diet low in saturated fat and high in fiber. Reduce portions and make your meals as colorful as possible, loaded with a variety of vegeta-

bles and whole grains, with smaller portions of lean meat or fish (4 oz or less), and keep other fats like butter and oil to a bare minimum. When snacking, it is best to turn to nutrient-rich foods, such as fruits and nuts that will satiate your hunger and hold you over until the next meal. For healthy, delicious recipes, visit www.cookinglight.com or ask your healthcare provider for information.

Needless to say, we can live happier, healthier, more productive lives as individuals and in our communities if we make a small effort to make a big change for ourselves and for Texas. Dedication and commitment to a lifestyle of healthier eating and exercise are essential to success: remember that the quality and length of your life depend on it.

PATTERSON: Making up our own minds

(From 3)

Like many of you, I watched all four of the speeches. It seemed like a big production with Obama and coming-out party for Palin. They are both fine speakers and good people but they both supplied a lifetime of sound bites for the pundits, who will pick apart and tear down the process for us all in the coming days.

McCain's speech may not have been as polished as Barack's or as inspiring as Sarah Palin's, but it was heartfelt and sincere. America shouldn't elect a president based on his or her ability to give a great speech. Or based on how much Chris Matthews or Al Franken feel about it in the moments following. On the other hand, if our next president ends up to be a polished and passionate speaker, so be it. Just decide yourself.

I remember early on when Biden and Hillary called McCain a friend. And then last month from Hillary: "No way, no how, no McCain." I remember when he was a maverick, far away from Bush; he was called unelectable and undesirable by people from his own party because he was too far removed from the right. Now, listen to the Dems and the liberal pundits and he is nothing more than a continuation of Bush's failed policies.

So, which is he? He can't be both, can he?

You'll never know if you listen to those who rake in millions in cold cash because they have told people who can't make up their own minds: *Hey, I'll decide for you. Just listen to me. Trust me. I'll guide you. No problem. Don't like what I tell you? Fine, whatever. We don't need you anyway.*

So turn them off. Listen and decide for yourself. Well-grounded, rational thought and conversation is sorely needed. Not rancor, not screaming, not stand your ground at all costs and to heck with the rest of them. Is it asking too much to have civil and productive talk again? Probably. But at least take the first step and decide for yourself and turn the so-called experts off. Dent their ratings. Show them they're not needed anymore. You're intelligent enough to figure it out without them.

Doing so is essential to the future of American politics and its existence with any sort of integrity intact.

Don't let the showmen show you the way. Don't let hucksters who have far exceeded their 15 minutes alter the course of the country. Make up your own mind based on the words you hear from those who would govern our country. And between the two candidates, make the decision based on your judgment, not on someone else's.

Don't be distracted by the ground noise and the static.

NUN RUN: Fostering vocations

(From 6)

Cristina wrote that she was "surprised at how diverse the women religious we met were. They are intelligent, educated women that exuded confidence because of their deep knowledge of Christ's love for them." She said that "...this trip helped me see the religious life in a more positive light."

"This was my first time to experience being in a convent and interacting with sisters and their community," said Cassie. "It broke down my thoughts and stereotypes of what sisters are 'supposed' to be and allowed me to see that they are people too."

How can you foster vocations to the religious life? The primary reason people don't consider the religious life is that no one ever asks them to do so. It is up to each one of us to plant that seed. It is important to pray for those who are interested in the religious life. Pray for them to be able to discern God's call; pray that they have the faith to follow God's call and pray for them as they are in formation and in the seminary studying. And finally, pray for vocations to the religious life and priesthood. Prayer is vital to promoting vocations and to the life of the Church.

Visits to other convents are anticipated in the future. If you are interested in pursuing a vocation to the religious life, contact the Office of Vocations at (325) 651-7500 or send email to FrBarryMcClean@aol.com.

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San Angelo



Knight Don Piwonka presents Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI with a generous check in the amount of \$9,542.98 which has been donated by the Knights of Columbus State Council of Charities to the Diocese of San Angelo. The proceeds from the check will be utilized for Diocesan Pro-Life efforts, Lay Leaders Support and Development Programs, and for Seminarian Education and Training. Bishop Pfeifer commented that, "I truly appreciate the wonderful service that (the Knights) are giving to the dioceses of Texas through the State Council Charities. This means so much to the bishops and to so many other people".

San Angelo

Angelo Catholic School fourth grade students Adachi Wong, Bri-Anna Soliz, and Dylan Nunez accept a check for \$500 from Marsha Carroll, representing Desk and Derrick and PSI Wireline. The money will be used for school supplies and textbooks.



Diocce-Scenes



On Friday, August 22, Msgr. Robert Stern, third from right, spoke in San Angelo. Msgr. Stern, an expert on the Middle East, lunched with Peace Ambassadors, presented a program to the public on Christians, Muslims and Jews, and celebrated Mass and shared an evening meal with the Knights of Columbus and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre.

TAD: Voting an 'indispensible duty'

(From 6)

favors a law that would authorize the killing of all Muslims living within the country (because the candidate claims that a small percentage of them might pose a terrorist threat someday). The second candidate, meanwhile, opposes any such genocide, but supports and encourages the killing of the unborn through abortion. It might be permissible to vote for this pro-abortion candidate, not to support his pro-abortion agenda, but as a means to prevent the killing of Muslims. Roughly 1 million children are killed annually by abortion in the United States, while there are about 5 million citizens who are Muslims. Insofar as a vote for the pro-abortion candidate would help prevent the unjust killing of nearly 5 times as many Muslims as unborn humans, one could safely say that there was a "proportionate reason" to vote in this way. One might prefer to refrain from voting altogether

in these circumstances, considering that both candidates are supporting intrinsic evils in their platforms. We must exercise caution, however: abstaining from the voting booth can unintentionally lead to support for the more evil platform. We should probably refrain from voting only when the platforms of all candidates support intrinsic evils to a similar degree.

In sum, voting is an indispensable duty within our democracy. The attention we focus on protecting vulnerable and innocent human life when we cast our votes will determine, in large part, whether we promote a just or an unjust society for our children and grandchildren.

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PORNOGRAPHY: Most Americans say viewing sexual material unacceptable

(From 4)

and other anti-social behaviors, including adultery, bestiality, incest, child abuse, prostitution, teen promiscuity and the degradation, rape and torture of women.

A poll conducted by Harris Interactive in July, 2006 found that 73% of adult Americans think that viewing pornography websites and videos is morally unacceptable. WRAP Week is a time for all of us to express our voices against this deadly cancer, and to do all that we

can to eradicate it, beginning in our homes. Parents need to be more cautious about what their children watch, and each community should take a stand against this deadly cancer that is corrupting the moral fabric of our community.

BISHOP: Prayers requested for a 'new appreciation of human life'

(From 2)

the U.S., Pope Benedict affirmed that our country "is marked by a genuinely religious spirit," but this spirit is all too often confined to our places and times of worship.

Pope Benedict encourages us to be people of hope, people who support human life at every stage of life. He encourages us to be clear in our

beliefs, to act consistently with them, and be animated in our efforts to transform our culture. His Holiness pointed out, "The proclamation of life, life in abundance, must be the heart of the new evangelization."

Throughout the year, as we live out the program for Respect Life, I encourage all our people to first pray that we will all have a new appreciation of human life from the moment of

conception until its natural end as determined by God. I ask all of our people to take much more direct action and to be more proactive in promoting every effort to overcome abortion, and to work for all the life issues that are presented by the Church for our consideration. In a special way, we need to examine carefully the position of each presidential candidate on the issues of human life, before casting our vote.