

Vocation Circle, p. 3

Call to Spiritual Renewal, p. 4

"Souper" Bowl Gears Up, p. 5

"River of Life" National Catholic Youth Conference, p. 6

Following Saints: Don Hellinghausen, p. 8

Religious Retirement Collection, p. 9

Movie Ratings, p. 12



VOLUME XXIV
NUMBER 12

DEC
2003

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NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF SAN ANGELO

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Cable, Public Broadcasters Prepare Christmas Programming Highlights

by Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON(CNS)—Christmas-themed programming will again return to the airwaves in force throughout the rest of December and into January.

In a review of "Arthur's Perfect Christmas," to be shown 8-9 p.m. EST Christmas Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 24, on PBS, Gerri Pare, director of the U.S.

bishops' Office for Film & Broadcasting, said the show featuring the animated aardvark-child and his buddies is "clearly meant to be inclusive to children who are not Christian or whose families do not practice any religion."

"Somehow, the secular 'Baxter Day' (holiday) doesn't seem very inviting, just sleeping in and snacking,

but the family Hanukkah celebration is a lovely scene." Pare added, "There are a couple of musical numbers and overall the youngsters learn lessons about caring, tolerance and unselfishness."

PBS affiliates will also show "The Face: Jesus in Art" throughout the month of December (check local listings). Pare, in her review, called "The Face" "a splendid blending of words and images with state-of-the-art cin-

ematography," adding it was "cause for celebration and is highly recommended."

The two-hour special, produced by Thirteen/WNET New York and Voyager Productions in conjunction with the U.S. bishops' Catholic Communication Campaign, looks at how artists have represented the face of Jesus through the centuries and cultures. Pare said the program is "an unforgettable tribute to the power of Christ's image to inspire the people of the world."

The CCC-sponsored "A Storybook Christmas" will be fed by ABC to its affiliates 1-2 a.m. Christmas Day, Thursday Dec. 25 (again, check local listings). It features the biblical story "The First Christmas" and an animated version of Leo Tolstoy's "Martin the Cobbler."

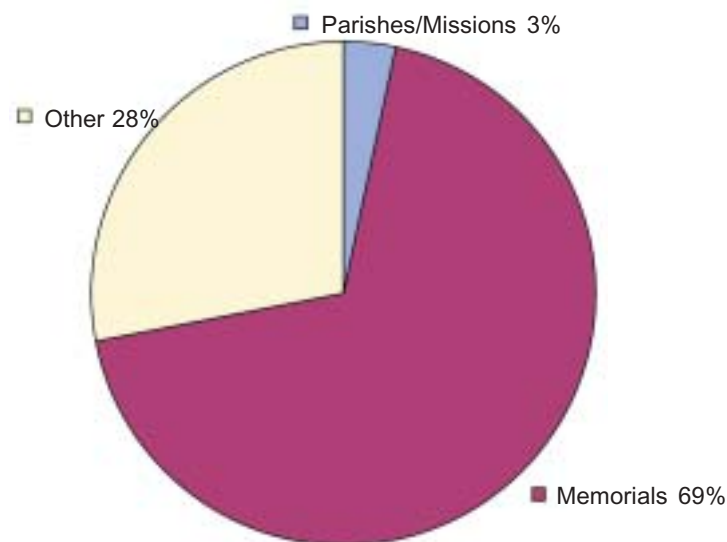
New Christmas programming on the EWTN cable channel includes (all times EST):

- Live Mass for the feast of the Immaculate Conception from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, noon-1:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8 (repeated midnight-1:30 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9).

see "HIGHLIGHTS," page nine

Pope John Paul II prays under a Nativity tapestry during the 2002 Christmas midnight Mass at St. Peter's Basilica. This year's Mass will air live on EWTN from 6 to 8 p.m. EST on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, and will be repeated Christmas Day, 8-10 a.m. EST. (CNS file photo from Reuters)

Diocese of San Angelo Seminarian Burse Funds



Diocesan Seminarian Burse Report

by Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI,
Bishop of San Angelo

I am presenting to you a list (see pie chart above) of the Seminary Burses of our Diocese which contain a total of \$1,202,720.56. The interest from these burses has, in recent years, been able to provide most of the funding for the education and training of the seminarians of the Diocese. This past year, these burses produced \$15,133.66 in interest.

This coming year, we will "run out" of accumulated interest as we have the joyful "problem" of supporting an increasing number of seminarians for our Diocese. I strongly encourage all the parishes of our Diocese to set up a burse in the name of each parish, or to contribute to the existing burses.

I ask all to consider leaving something in your wills for the burses. This would be a splendid way of assuring support for future priests of our Diocese.

I thank all those who have contributed to these burses, and I ask that we all strive to pray and work for more vocations for priesthood and religious life.





Christmas Celebrates when Time was Touched by Eternity

[Who is this Jesus Christ?]

By Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

In the marvelous gospel for the Christmas midnight mass, St. Luke tells us about that special moment in history when the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us: "For today in The city of David, a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord." The Jesus who was born on that first Christmas "became flesh" to teach us how to live in time here on this earth so that One day we could be forever happy with our God in heaven.

Jesus, the son of God, assumed all that is human except sin. The incarnation is the fruit of God's immense love for us by sharing in our human condition in the fullest manner.

In becoming man, the word of God brought about a fundamental change in the very condition of time. We can say that in Jesus Christ, human time was filled with eternity. By his Incarnation, Jesus has in a certain way united himself with each person who has ever lived.

Jesus came to offer everyone participation in the divine life. The gift of this life of God includes sharing in eternity where we will live forever in peace with God.

Jesus assured us of eternal life when he taught as regards the eucharist: "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life." [Jn.6:54] the great result of the eucharistic banquet that we partake in this life assures us that we already possess this eternal life.

The life of grace that begins with Baptism and is nourished in the Eucharist reveals a dimension of eternity that lifts up our earthly existence and directs it, with true continuity, to our entrance into heavenly life.

see "CHRISTMAS" page eleven

Navidad Celebra Cuando el Tiempo fue Tocado por la Eternidad

[¿Quién es Jesucristo?]

Por el Obispo Miguel D. Pfeifer, OMI

En el Evangelio maravilloso para la Misa de Medianoche, San Lucas nos habla sobre ese momento especial en la historia cuando la palabra de Dios se hizo carne y hizo su morada entre nosotros: "Hoy les ha nacido en el pueblo de David un Salvador, que es el Mesías, el Señor." Jesús quien nació en esa primera Navidad "Se hizo en carne" para enseñarnos como vivir en tiempo aquí en esta tierra para que un día podríamos estar feliz con nuestro Dios en el Cielo.

Jesús, el Hijo de Dios, asumió todo lo que es humano excepto el pecado. La encarnación es el fruto del amor inmenso de Dios para nosotros por medio de compartir en nuestras condiciones humanas en la manera mas completa.

Haciendose hombre, la palabra de Dios ha traído un cambio fundamental en la condición del tiempo. Podemos decir que en Jesucristo, el tiempo humano fue llenado con la eternidad. Por medio de su encarnación, en un cierto modo Jesús se ha unido con cada persona que ha vivido.

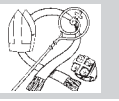
Jesús vino para ofrecernos participación en la vida divina. El don de esta vida de Dios incluye compartir en la eternidad donde viviremos siempre en la paz de Dios.

Jesús nos aseguró de la vida eterna cuando nos enseñó en cuanto a la eucaristía: "El que come mi cuerpo y bebe mi sangre, tiene vida eterna." (j. 6:54). El gran resultado del banquete de la eucaristía en la que participamos en esta vida, nos asegura que ya poseemos esta vida eterna.

see "NAVIDAD" page ten



The Bishop's Schedule



December 2003

- December 1: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Mass for World Aids Day at 12:00 Noon. Midland, First Presbyterian Church - Presentation on World Aids Day at 7:00 p.m.
- December 4: Dallas - Mass with Holy Spirit Circle.
- December 5: San Angelo, Bishop's Residence - Christmas Party for Staff at 6:00 p.m.
- December 6: San Angelo - Christmas Story Telling Orient - Santa Fe Depot
- December 7: San Angelo, Fort

- Concho - Mass at 11:00 a.m.
- December 8: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Feast of the Immaculate Conception - Mass at 8:30 a.m.
- December 8-10: Mexico City
- December 11: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Personnel Board Meeting at Diocesan Pastoral Center at 12:30 p.m. and Presbyteral Council meeting at 2:30 p.m. Christ the King Retreat Center - Christmas Party for Priests, Sisters, Deacons and Wives at 5:30 p.m.
- December 12: Eden, Detention Center - Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass at 1:00 p.m. Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day

- Mass at 6:30 p.m.
- December 13: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Deacon Installation for Acolyte and Lector Ministries at 10:00 a.m.
- December 14: San Angelo, St. Joseph - Mass at 11:00 a.m.
- December 15: San Angelo, San Angelo Community Hospital - Mass at 11:00 a.m. St. Joseph - Advent Night of Prayer for Priests, Sisters and Deacons of the San Angelo Deanery at 7:00 p.m.
- December 17: San Angelo - Baptist Memorial Hospital, Mass at 2:00 p.m. Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Christmas Penance Service at 7:00 p.m.
- December 19: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Christmas Mass for Students of Angelo Catholic School at 8:30 a.m.
- December 21: Sanderson, St. James - Mass at 11:00 a.m.
- December 23: San Angelo - Prayer for Tom Green County Commissioners Meeting at 8:30 a.m.
- December 24: San Angelo, Tom Green County Jail - Mass at 9:00 a.m. Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Midnight Christmas Mass.
- December 25: San Angelo, Mass

- at Goodfellow Air Force Base at 9:00 a.m.
- December 26-28: Rest and Prayer.
- January 2004**
- January 1: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Mass at 9:00 a.m.
- January 4-8: San Antonio - Retreat for Bishops of Region X
- January 9-11: Washington, DC - 100th Anniversary of NCEA

- January 12: Brady, St. Patrick's - Meet with Pastoral and Finance Councils at 7:00 p.m.
- January 13: San Angelo - Bless New Catholic Outreach Services Building at 11:00 a.m.
- January 14-15: Austin - Texas Conference of Churches Meeting
- January 16: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Mass for Staff at 8:30 a.m. and Staff meeting at

see "SCHEDULE" page ten

West Texas Angelus

Printing Schedule For 2004

by Peter N. Micale, Editor, WTA

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:	PRINTING DATE:
Dec 31, 2003	Jan 6, 2004
Feb 4, 2004	Feb 10
Mar 3	Mar 9
Mar 31	Apr 6
Apr 28	May 4
Jun 2	Jun 8
Jun 30	Jul 7
Aug 4	Aug 10
Sep 1	Sep 7
Sep 29	Oct 5
Nov 3	Nov 9
Dec 1	Dec 7

MEMBER

CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

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

Publisher: Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI
 Editor: Peter N. Micale (PMangelus@aol.com)
 Layout: The Talley Press
 Production: Kenneth Grimm

Published with automatic circulation to parishioners in the Diocese of San Angelo
 Subscription rate for all others: \$10.00 per year
THIRD CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT SAN ANGELO, TEXAS
 Printed by the San Angelo Standard-Times
 A Scripps-Howard Company

Vocation Circle

Vocations – A Positive Spirit

by Fr. Tom Barley, Director of Vocations and Seminarians

Over the past few months I have been at several vocation related meetings.

At the Texas Catholic Conference General Assembly in Austin Vocation Directors and Seminary Rectors gathered to discuss what we could do to promote vocations in Texas. Our focus was on cooperation, praying for one another, and sharing ideas. A main point was to develop a “culture of vocation” within our families and parishes.

At the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors in Biloxi, Mississippi Vocation Directors from around the U.S.A. met to explore the topic – Evangelizing a New Generation. Presentations in-

cluded – Assessing and Fostering Psychosexual Development and Integration; Ethical and Legal Considerations in Vocations Ministry; Holiness as Evangelization; Vocation Director’s Call to Holiness; and Discernment with Young Adults. The conference focused on trying to get a better understanding of young adults in our dioceses and to appreciate their faith and their desire to serve God and the Church while respecting the differences in our generations as gift from God.

At the annual Texas Catholic Conference Scripture Conference in Austin Sr. Sarah Ann Sharkey, OP, on the faculty at Oblate School of Theology, presented Acts of the Apostles and Fr. Frank J. Matera, on the faculty at Catholic University of

America, presented Galatians and Hebrews. They presented the call to mission and the presence of the Holy Spirit in the Church even in times of difficulty. These annual Scripture conferences remind me how our lives and our Church are intricately entwined with Sacred Scripture.

At the Diocesan Youth Conference in San Angelo Sr. Mary Fagan, SHSP, from the Archdiocese of San Antonio Vocation Office presented on the theme of the River of Life. She reminded the youth of God’s invitation to participation in the evangelizing ministry of the Church. Some of our youth shared their experience and enthusiasm about a summer missionary program in El Paso and Juarez.

see “VOCATIONS” page ten

My Journey to the Catholic Priesthood

by Rev. Fr. Romanus Arinze Akamike

A journey to the Catholic priesthood, like other journeys located within time and space, has a beginning and an end. In Nigeria, (West Africa), the journey to the priesthood lasts for at least 14 years. It ranges from secondary school (high school) to the university level. Financially, one is responsible for his priestly training all these years. The church only subsidizes the cost to some extent. In spite of all this, vocations to the priesthood still boom in my country. Very often, ones’ training to the priesthood terminates due to financial constraint. But, in some cases, one may be fortunate enough (like myself) to receive assistance either within or outside Nigeria.

My journey to the priesthood began in 1976, six years after the Nigerian Civil War. This war destroyed lives and rendered many very poor. During this war, I lost two of my brothers who were older than me. Prior to this, my brothers and I had lost our parents. So, being orphans, survival in life was very questionable for my younger brother and I because of the horrific effects of the war. At this time, I began to desire to serve God in a special way, but I had



Bishop Pfeifer celebrated Mass with Fr. Romanus in honor of Mrs. Amy Quinn. (Photo courtesy Fr. Romanus Akamike.)

no means of going to the Seminary. However, I was convinced that God might intervene in my life. So, I continued to “disturb” Him in my prayers through Our Blessed Lady and Her Son, Jesus Christ. I nearly lost my faith because I could not imagine why the day could be bright for some people and dark for others like myself. I did not know that my prayers would only be answered in God’s time. What kept me on track through these dark periods were the religious instructions I received from my beloved mother coupled with the moral instructions we were given in school.

As a Christian youth, I became more zealous with my religion and

joined some religious societies such as the: Marian Movement, The Legion of Mary, The Bible Society, and the Choir. All of these societies met on separate days every week and they helped to prepare me for the priesthood. I was always praying and asking Our Lady, the Blessed Virgin Mary, to intercede for me while questioning the portion of the Bible which says: “Ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you. . .” (Mathew 7:7-8) I continued to knock on the door for 5 years until God opened His door for me by answering my prayers through the instrumentality of Mrs. Amy Quinn.

see “JOURNEY” page eight

Obituary Rev. Patrick Daniel Columba Mulligan



Fr. Patrick Daniel Columba Mulligan died peacefully at the Heart of Texas Memorial Hospital in Brady at 5:30 a.m. on November 24, 2003. He was the Pastor of St. Patrick’s Roman Catholic Church in Brady and St. Francis Xavier Mission in Melvin.

Fr. Mulligan was born in Ballybofey, County Donegal, Ireland, on May 31, 1934. He entered the Postulancy of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart at Myross Wood, Leap, County Cork on August 20, 1952. After several years of study, he was Finally Professed as a Missionary of the Sacred Heart within the Irish Province of that Society on September 21, 1956. Fr. Mulligan was ordained a priest on September 24, 1958 and completed his Theological Studies in June 1959.

He sailed from Southhampton on October 15, 1959 with several other priests for Capetown, South Africa and remained serving in South Africa until 1983. Fr. Mulligan then pursued a Liturgical Course at the International Institute for Liturgy, Carlow, Ireland in the academic year of 1983-1984. In 1984 he was assigned to the Ministry of Missions and Retreats, which took him all over Ireland giving Parish Missions with members of the Missionaries for the Sacred Heart Parish Mission Team. Fr. Mulligan worked in this ministry for six years, until 1990 at which time he pursued selected courses in the United States during the academic year of 1990-1991.

On June 17, 1991, Fr. Mulligan became Pastor of St. Henry’s Parish in San

see “MULLIGAN” page five

Obituary Brother Stephen Cyr, SCJ

Brother Steve was born on February 5, 1919 in Fowler, Indiana, the eleventh child of Stephen & Melanese Cyr. He was given the name of Richard at his baptism. He died November 22, 2003 in the St. Camillus Health Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Only two children remain, Sister Jeanette Cyr, P.H.J.C., aged 89 and Fr. Lawrence Cyr, C.P.P.S., aged 85.

Brother Steve entered the military and served in the army in World War II. After leaving the military, he worked as a barber a short time, then at the Ave Maria Press at Notre Dame.

He entered the Society of the Priests of the Sacred Heart and was professed in 1950, taking the name of Stephen, his father’s name. His first and only assignment was to St. Joseph Indian School in Chamberlain, South Dakota, where he served as a mentor for the older boys.

He retired in 1994 and lived at Villa Maria, adjacent to Sacred Heart Monastery in Hales Corners, Wisconsin.

After collapsing at the Villa with a heart attack, he was taken to the hospital and then the nursing home, where he remained about a month before he died on November 22, 2003.

Father Cyr, his brother, offered the funeral Mass and preached the homily, at Sacred Heart Monastery, where he was buried on November 28, 2003.



A Call to Spiritual Renewal

[The Sexual Abuse Crisis Can Be A Catalyst for Change]

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

The main solution for the sexual abuse crisis that the Church has been dealing with for the past two years is found in spiritual renewal – in prayer and living the call to holiness. When lived in a Christ-like spirit of truth, vulnerability, and forgiveness, this crisis can act as a catalyst for change.

To deal with this unique crisis, the spiritual and moral authority of the Church had to be protected, abuse victims had to be dealt with justly and equitably, more efforts and programs had to be initiated to provide a safe, secure, and sacred environment for all, especially children, and much time had to be given to the legal side of this whole question. However, the administrative and legal means will not bring about the final solution to this critical problem. Both at a national and diocesan level, a new bureaucracy has been set up to deal with this problem, but now much more emphasis needs to be given to the spiritual and prayer life of priests, deacons, religious, and all members of the Church, and much more needs to be said about our baptismal call to holiness. This situation calls for greater courage and honesty to acknowledge and face up to our sins, to the need for conversion.

More and more, this problem needs to be cast in religious terms rather than in terms of tort law and public relations. Much more em-

phasis needs to be given toward reconciliation between victims and perpetrators, where this can be done, to moral and spiritual healing. Simply put, much more time and effort need to be given to the religious dimension, to the spiritual renewal of the Church nationally and in each community. The present crisis in the Church is a cry for help and healing for those who have not had a way of being heard.

At the core of the problem of sexual abuse is a failure to live out our covenant relationship that goes back to the Ten Commandments, and was ratified in a new way with the sacrifice, the death and resurrection of Christ that we celebrate in each Eucharist. The courts and the media do not focus on this important dimension, but the Church must. In this appalling context, reflection on Scripture is at its best when the Word of God tears not our shirts, but our hearts and impels us to humbly admit our sins and failures, to mourn, to seek forgiveness and to forgive, and to change our hearts. This is conversion.

To deal with this situation, there is the need to develop a vision of how things should be, versus how things shouldn't be. The vision of how the Church should be and the desire and means to implement that vision will not come simply from new administrative or legal structures. More time and effort need to be given to the core religious prob-

lem that is involved here – how we should live our discipleship of Christ in prayer, service and sacrifice; how we receive the grace of a loving God in the celebration of the Sacraments; and how we form communities based on the Gospel where there is a strong sense of mutual responsibility and accountability.

Clerical sexual scandals have deeply wounded the Church. If the never-ending saga teaches us anything at all, it is that a transparent and accountable leadership is in the long run the best witness. The current crisis ought to be embraced as an invitation from God to do the right thing – to move from a season of crisis, trial and of tribulation – to a season of peace, joy and well being. Purification must first occur. There can be no breakthrough before breakdown, no hope or joy before grief and suffering. We are called as a Church – nationally and locally – to learn a ministry after the style of a crucified Lord – a ministry of vulnerability, humility, forgiveness and the cross.

While the bureaucratic work has been necessary initially to deal with this situation, now much more time needs to be given to spiritual renewal that is so necessary for priesthood and religious life, as well as in the entire Church. I thank God that our diocese has initiated the RENEW Program which provides a strong spiritual base to help all of us focus our lives on our basic call which is the call to holiness.

I strongly encourage all of our priests and religious and all of our people to deepen our prayer life in

Ethics and Integrity Workshop Dates

Deanery	Place	Date	Time
Abilene	Holy Family, Abilene	Dec. 13, 2003	10:00am-1:00pm (Eng/Span)
	Holy Family, Abilene	Jan. 24, 2004	10:00am-1:00pm (Eng)
	Holy Family, Sweetwater	Jan 29, 2004	7:00-10:00pm (Eng/Span)
	Holy Family, Sweetwater	Feb 19, 2004	7:00-10:00pm (Eng)
	Holy Family, Abilene	Feb 23, 2004	7:00-10:00pm (Eng/Span)
	Holy Family, Sweetwater	Mar 18, 2004	7:00-10:00pm (Eng)
Midland/Odessa	Holy Family, Abilene	Mar 27, 2004	9:00am-12:00pm (Eng/Span)
	Our Lady of Guadalupe, Midland	Dec. 11, 2003	7:00-10:00pm (Eng/Span)
San Angelo	St. Mary, Odessa	Jan. 10, 2004	10:00am-1:00pm (Eng/Span)
	Our Lady of Guadalupe, Eldorado	Dec. 16, 2003	7:00-10:00pm (Eng)
	St. Joseph, San Angelo	Jan. 5, 2004	6:30-9:30pm (Eng/Span)
	St. Ann, Sonora	Jan 12, 2004	7:00-10:00pm (Eng)
	Holy Angels, San Angelo	Feb. 16, 2004	6:30-9:30pm (Eng/Span)
Sacred Heart, San Angelo	Mar. 8, 2004	6:30-9:30pm (Eng/Span)	

Diocesan Employee Insurance Guidelines

Dear Employees of the Parishes, Schools, and Diocese:

In accord with the Presbyteral Council's recommendation to me of August 20th, I have accepted certain clarifications of our "Guidelines For Administering Group Insurance" as official policy of the Diocese of San Angelo. As a way of background, this policy revision is to help alleviate confusion which has arisen from time to time in some of our parish and school locations. Underlying this policy statement is our desire to match private sector practices and honor our moral, canonical, contractual and civil requirements for qualifying employees' insurance benefits. The highlights of the guidelines are as follows:

1. An employee "regularly" working 20 hours or more must be enrolled in the LIFE & LTD insurance portion of the group insurance policy - all at employER cost;
2. An employee "regularly" working 20 hours or more (but less than 35 hours) must also be offered participation in the MEDICAL insurance program - 100% at the employEE's own expense and thus the employee can, of course, refuse to participate in such offered MEDICAL coverage; and
3. An employee "regularly" working 35 hours or more must be covered by the employER for MEDICAL insurance in accord with the local parish policy for that class of employee (e.g. if the parish covers one employee at a total employEE "participation cost" of \$5 per month with the balance being paid for by the employER, then all employees within that class must be offered the same "deal."). As NO employER is to cover 100% of the cost of Medical insurance (e.g. the employEE is to pay at least some cost of the MEDICAL insurance as his/her "participation cost"), the employee can, of course, refuse to participate in such offered MEDICAL coverage.

Please feel free to contact the diocesan business office for any clarifications or questions which you might have. I sincerely thank you for your service to our Church.

Your servant in Christ and Mary,
 Most Reverend Michael D. Pfeifer, O.M.I. Bishop of San Angelo

Ethics and Integrity for Church Personnel



Diocese of San Angelo

www.san-angelo-diocese.org

Report concerns or questions to Victim Assistance Coordinator:

Confidential: 325-651-7500 FAX: 325-651-6688

mikedosa@aol.com

Report abuse of minors to: State of Texas 800-252-5400

see "CALL" page ten



Same Sex Unions Contradict the Meaning of Marriage

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

A growing movement today favors making same-sex unions the legal equivalent of marriage. This situation challenges all – all who seek the truth – to think deeply about the meaning of marriage, its purposes, and its values to individuals, families and society. This kind of reflection, using reason and faith, is the proper starting point and framework for the current debate.

Marriage has always been seen as a faithful, exclusive, lifelong union of a man and woman joined in an intimate community of life and love. The call to marriage is woven deeply into the human spirit. Man and woman are different from, yet

created for, each other in all aspects of their being. This complementarity, including sexual difference, draws them together in a mutually loving union that is open to children.

These truths are present in nature and confirmed by divine Revelation in the Bible. Marriage comes from the loving hand of God, who fashioned both male and female in the divine image. Marriage is an intimate union in which a man and a woman give themselves, as equal persons, completely in love to one another. By their mutual gift of self, they cooperate with God in bringing new persons to life and in caring for them. Marriage is both a natural institution and a sacred union be-

cause it is rooted in the divine plan for creation.

Only a union of male and female can express the full sexual complementarity willed by God for marriage. Man and woman give to each other their entire being in their masculinity and femininity. They are equal as human beings, but different as man and woman, fulfilling each other through this difference.

A same-sex union contradicts the nature of marriage. A same-sex union cannot be the uniquely complementary, mutually loving and procreative relationship that God intends marriage to be. Because homosexual persons cannot enter into a true conjugal union with each other, it would

be wrong to act as if their relationship were a marriage. When a society tries to redefine marriage so as to make other relationships equivalent to it, marriage is devalued.

Marriage is the foundation of the family. The family, in turn, is the basic unit of society. Thus, marriage is a personal relationship with public significance. Society needs the presence and contribution of males and females. Marriage is the primary pattern for male/female relationships. The marital union also provides the best conditions for raising children: mainly the stable, loving relationship of a mother and father, present only in a marriage. The state rightly recognizes this relationship as a pub-

lic institution in its laws, because the relationship makes a unique and essential contribution to the common good. The legal recognition of marriage, including the benefits associated with it, is not only about personal commitment, but also about the social commitment.

The marriage of a man and woman expresses, in a way other relations do not, the profound truth that God loves the world and wishes to express God's love in human terms. The interpersonal communion of a man and woman, based on their complementarity, helps show how God loves the world.

“Souper” Bowl Gears Up for Annual Football-Themed Charity Drive

by Mark Pattison

Catholic News Service and Peter N. Micale, WT Angelus

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Come Feb. 1, millions of Americans will be glued to the television, watching the Super Bowl.

That same day, 60 teenagers, high school age and up, will be answering phones in Columbia, S.C., taking down information from church youth groups around the country about how much money they have collected to benefit their local food banks. On December 1, 2003, Bishop Pfeifer asked all the parishes in the Diocese to join in this national effort. In a press release to the media, the Bishop also encouraged all people – Christians, Jews, and Muslims – to take part in the “Souper” Bowl.

Now known officially as the “Souper” Bowl of Caring – the last two words were tacked on by organizers after the National Football

League expressed some discomfort with the original name – the fundraiser is one of those rare endeavors where 100 percent of the money collected goes to charity.

The drive has youth groups ask churchgoers for a dollar and/or a canned good as they leave church on Super Bowl Sunday.

The Rev. Brad Smith, a Presbyterian minister and “Souper” Bowl founder, has been crisscrossing the country this fall touting the “Souper” Bowl. His travels included a stop in November at the National Catholic Youth Conference in Houston – coincidentally, the site of this year’s NFL championship game – to encourage participation.

Rev. Smith said he passed out plastic footballs at the conference. While the footballs cost less than a dollar each, he told the youths they were “\$500 footballs” because each Catholic youth group that took part in last year’s “Souper” Bowl cam-

paign averaged \$500 in contributions. The donations were turned over to their local food banks or feeding programs.

One Catholic youth group’s experience is highlighted in “Souper” Bowl promotional literature. “We had fun,” read the report from parish youths at St. Christopher Church in Galt, Calif., who delivered nearly 500 food items and prizes to a women’s shelter. The group spent four hours at the shelter eating lunch, playing games and singing songs using both voices and sign language.

Last year’s “Souper” Bowl reported \$3.53 million in donations collected by 11,095 organizations. That brings the total to \$20 million collected since the campaign’s start in 1990, when only 20 South Carolina churches took part.

In an interview with Catholic News Service, Rev. Smith said he wants to get 20,000 church youth groups from all denominations to

take part in the 2004 “Souper” Bowl. Lest the teenage “Souper” Bowl phone operators get swamped, youth groups can also visit the Web site, www.souperbowl.org, to record how much they’ve collected and will donate to their local charities.

“We’ve hit Lutheran, Methodist, AME (African Methodist Episcopal) and Catholic youth conferences” this year, Rev. Smith said. “I have been impressed with the depth, the compassion, and the willingness to move beyond themselves and do for others.”

The pro football community has been involved with the “Souper” Bowl effort. Houston Texans co-owners Bob and Janice McNair are honorary national chairs of the “Souper” Bowl. Onetime NFL quarterback, coach and broadcaster Sam Wyche asked each of the 32 NFL coaches to consider signing on as honorary co-chairmen of the 2004 “Souper” Bowl effort; 28 said yes.

“The National Football League’s been very helpful to us,” Rev. Smith said.

But don’t confuse the “Souper” Bowl effort with the Campbell Soup Co.’s “Click for Cans” online pro-

motion. In the Campbell campaign, football fans can visit a Web site and click on the helmet of their favorite NFL team. Campbell will then donate a can of its Chunky soup in the name of that team. As of Dec. 3, more than 2.16 million cans had been donated. Campbell said it will donate up to 5 million cans of Chunky soup to hunger relief charities across the country.

In the two weeks preceding Super Bowl Sunday, “Souper” Bowl organizers will visit 10 cities in the East and South – seven of them with NFL teams – in a specially marked recreational vehicle as part of a “Blitzathon” to inspire youths in those cities to take part in a Jan. 31 “service blitz” of involvement in anything from volunteering in food banks to giving other kinds of assistance to the poor and elderly.

“We want to have a very intentional, significant push in Houston,” with 2,000 youths of all faiths taking part, Rev. Smith said. With thousands of reporters in Houston looking for stories related to the Super Bowl, the “Souper” Bowl wants to give them “a real feel-good story,” he added.

MULLIGAN

from page three

Antonio, Texas, and remained there until May 31, 1995. He then spent three semesters from 1995 to November 1996 at the International Mariological Research Institute at Dayton University, Ohio. Fr. Mulligan amassed a considerable quantity of material on the

subject of Mariology and had hoped to have it published. He returned to St. Henry’s Parish from 1996 until 2001. On May 1st, 2001, Fr. Mulligan became Pastor St. Patrick Church in Brady and St. Francis Xavier Mission in Melvin – positions which he held at the time of his death.

Rosary service, led by Monsignor Benedict Zientek, was held at 7:00 p.m.

at St. Patrick Church in Brady on Tuesday, November 25th. Mass of Christian Burial was at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 26th, at St. Patrick Church with the Most Reverend Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI, Bishop of the Diocese of San Angelo, as the main celebrant. The Very Reverend James Dudley, Superior of the Sacred Heart Fathers from San Antonio,

preached the homily. Members of the St. Patrick Parish and Finance Councils were honorary Pallbearers. Burial was at Holy Cross Cemetery in San Antonio.

Father Mulligan was preceded in death by his parents, Patrick Daniel and Julia Mulligan as well as by a sister, Imelda. Surviving sisters are Mollie, Kate, Julianna and Celia. Surviving

brothers are Sean, Hugo, Eugene, Peadar, and his Missionary of the Sacred Heart Confreres.

Fr. Colm was a man of warmth, wit, and wisdom who helped people in any way he could. He was much loved by all who knew him and will be greatly missed.



River Of Life National Catholic Youth Conference

by Sr. Adelina Garcia, OSF

San Angelo Diocese was well represented in Houston at the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC), November 13-16. Sixteen parishes took part in this event. The theme, RIVER OF LIFE was well reflected in the stage set-up. A running stream and waterfall was the center decor at the Reliant Stadium. One youth, Michael Jochum, from Holy Angels in San Angelo was an animator and had several solos during the music segments. Four youth delegates (Natalee Rodriguez - Big Lake, Alex Figueroa-Crane, Doreen Aguirre Lenorah and Joe Arrendondo-St. Vincent/Abilene) represented our diocese at the Youth Congress on Social Justice. They reflected on their experiences and shared with the nation's bishops on their views on addressing the issues of poverty, unemployment, the environment and working conditions.

The opening ceremony was led by Bishop Joe Vasquez from the Diocese of Galveston/Houston. Thirty-five bishops joined him in blessing the crowd of 23,000. The music of some of the country's best known singers, composers and musicians flowed throughout the days in prayer, concerts, dances, and workshops. Speakers had the rapt attention of those present at their workshops. There was an air of excitement as one took the long walks going and coming to the different activities.

Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI also attended and met with other bishops and diocesan leaders at a luncheon. A representative from the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops, John Carr, addressed the group. As Secretary of Social Development and World Peace he commended the work of youth ministry in calling attention to social justice issues. The Youth Congress on Social Justice was being held during the NCYC and their input was valuable and challenging to the church. Our youth delegates will continue planning for the implementation of youth involvement in social justice issues around our diocese.

This conference was a source



Opening Ceremony with 35 bishops in attendance. (Photo by Lori Hines.)



Bishop Pfeifer with youngsters from various parishes of the Diocese. (Three photos courtesy of Sr. Hilda Marotta, OSF.)



of pride for the Church. Our young people are selfless, idealistic, gifted, and full of vision. There is truly cause for celebration today. The closing liturgy reflected the hope of a strong and faith-filled Church.



27 Diaconal Candidates Will Be Installed Into Formal Ministries.

by Peter Micale

On December 13, 2003 at 10:00 am, Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer will install 27 men into the formal ministries of Lector and Acolyte. This step in the process of formation is important for the candidates and the Diocese because it marks the inauguration of the first official, public ministry for the men who have been preparing to be ordained as Deacons for the past four years.

A Lector, or reader, is called upon to read the word of God in the liturgical assembly. He proclaims the readings from Sacred Scripture, except for the gospel reading during the Mass. In addition, the Lector is charged with the special work of instructing the faithful, especially in their preparation for the reception of the sacraments.

An Acolyte is appointed in order to aid the Deacon and Priest. He participates in the liturgical celebrations at the altar with the clergy; and he also distributes communion as a special minister of the Eucharist.

The ordination date for these men is June 26, 2004. By that time, all the men will have completed studies in theology and pastoral practices taught by professors from the Oblate School of Theology from San Antonio, and from Priests, Deacons, religious

and laity from throughout the Diocese of San Angelo. While all of the men will have some parish duties after ordination, there are a significant number who will be placed in ministries in hospitals and prisons.

The Deacon has become familiar to many Catholics since that position was re-established by Vatican Council II. Deacons preach, conduct funeral services, baptize and witness at marriages for the Church, as well as officiating at other liturgical celebrations when a Priest is not available. They are dedicated to acts of service, charity and liturgy.

The marketplace is probably the most important ministerial "place" for the Deacon, since the majority of Deacons have secular jobs. The Deacons are empowered to give blessings, to teach, and to be the presence of Christ where otherwise there would be no witness to the gospel.

Bishop Pfeifer invites everyone to the celebration at the Cathedral on December 13, 2003.

The names of the candidates, their wives and parish affiliation follow:

Arguello, Juan & Connie, Sacred Heart, Big Spring. Belman, Victor & Sylvia, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Eldorado. Brady, Bill & Gloria, St. Mary, Brownwood. Butler, Bill & Margaret, Holy

Family, Sweetwater. Evans, Charlie & Carolyn, Holy Redeemer, Odessa. Fernandez, Abel & Mary, St. Joseph, San Angelo. Franco, Fly & Priscilla, St. Joseph, Odessa. Hinojos, Paul & Dorothy, St. Joseph/St. Anthony, Odessa. Kenny, Mike & Allyson, Holy Family, Abilene. Knox, Beck & Mary, Sacred Heart, Coleman. Lambert, Chuck & Nancy, Holy Family, Abilene. Leibrecht, Bob & Julie, St. Stephen, Midland. Lopez, Victor & Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Midland. Medina, Mike & Lady Ann, Our Lady of San Juan, Midland. Ortiz, Jesse & Celia, St. Mary, Odessa. Pelto, Harry & Cathy, Holy Angels, San Angelo. Perez, Alex & Maria, Our Lady of San Juan, Midland. Primera, Sal & Lupe, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Odessa. Ramirez, Reinaldo (Ray) & Frances, St. Joseph, San Angelo. Reeh, Mark & Linda, St. Lawrence, St. Lawrence. Reyes, Reuben & Minnie, Catholic Community of Ft. Stockton. Saldivar, Fidel & Alicia, St. Stephen, Midland. Segura, Felix & Margie, Sacred Heart, McCamey. Sosa, Alex, St. Joseph/St. Anthony, Odessa. Sotelo, Chano & Becky, Our Lady of San Juan, Midland. Villa, Clemente & Abby, St. Joseph, Stanton. Villa, Ignacio & Olga, Our Lady of San Juan, Midland.



Michael Jochum from Holy Angels as animator. (Photo by Lori Hines.)

Buses leave from San Angelo Diocese Chancery. (Photo by Pete Micale.)



Everyone ready to leave, with Joanne Turner (l) and Charlotte Sebesta in the front of the bus. (Photo by Pete Micale.)



Holy Angels Youth Group. (Photo by Lori Hines.)



Knights of Columbus from San Angelo and their wives celebrated their annual 'Pilgrimage' to Mount Carmel Hermitage in Christoval, Texas on the First Sunday of Advent together with the Hermits of Mt. Carmel. The new entrance building of the Hermitage is shown in the background. (Photo by Stephen Talley.)



Following Saints: Don Hellinghausen Serves Lord By Helping Poor

by: Ed Todd
reprinted from Midland Reporter Telegram with permission

Don Hellinghausen takes his life's work to heart: serving the poor people right here in Midland. It is with a joy and a passion and a duty that he lives under the Bible's Matthew 25 in which Jesus Christ said, "For I was hungered, and ye gave me meat. I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink. I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked and ye clothed me. I was sick, and ye visited me. I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

The Lord's message was this: If you have served the desperate needs of "the least of these my brethren," then you have served the Lord.

"It's not an option," Hellinghausen, now age 75 and still doing the Lord's work, told me years ago when my love and affection for this lovely man blossomed

into respect and admiration. He sought it not. What he does is basic, he will tell you. Simply, it is what Christians are commissioned by Christ to do.

Hellinghausen does these works and enlists other to do so. Even when society might be timid, he is bold.

And he does not seek glory on this Earth, although he is accorded worldly honors for his service to folks in need of food, clothing, housing, jobs, medical help, work as in jobs, education and training, encouragement and comfort.

The glory is all God's.

"If you don't love the neighbor that you can see, how can you say that you love God (whom you cannot see)?" asked the Rev. Jon Stasney, an Episcopal priest in Midland. Stasney had teamed up with Hellinghausen and Steve Davidson in establishing in 1991, the Midland Habitat for Humanity to build

houses for low-income families who could not afford adequate housing. In turn, they contribute (through "sweat equity") with the construction and, when able, help with the building of houses for others in need. With interest forgiven, they pay for their own houses.

"The love of Christ compels us to do those things," Stasney said of feeding the hungry people, clothing the naked, giving drink to the thirsty, visiting the sick, the afflicted and the imprisoned, and giving shelter to strangers.

Hellinghausen helped and helps those who cannot help themselves at various stages in their lives: the poor and homeless, the elderly and destitute, the young and down-and-out. It doesn't matter who or where or why.

His work is similar to that of another saint, a servant of God, Bobby Trimble, who since the mid 1970s has headed up Christmas in Action

to repair and rebuild houses of the low-income elderly and handicapped people in Midland.

Hellinghausen is a saint, a minister of the Gospel, albeit, like the rest of us one by one, a sinner. I assume that, even though I have not known Hellinghausen to sin.

Over the years, since he and his theologian-wife, Marjorie, known as Marge, both Catholics, and their eight children (Mary, Michael, Ann, Jane, Elizabeth, Sara, John, and Nancy) moved to Midland from Breckenridge in the late 1960s, Hellinghausen has been what the world would call "an activist".

He has been involved in financing and building community housing projects for those people in need and in promoting incentive programs, such as Project Self-Sufficiency (through education and training) operated by the Midland County Housing Authority and the Midland Fair Havens program, which is a refuge for single mothers who "prepare to make a better life for themselves and their children".

He serves on the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, a Catholic charity,

that serves people in crisis. "Poverty is the greatest violence," Hellinghausen has said again and again. "We need to go into these poverty areas. We need to help these poor people."

Ten years ago, Hellinghausen, ever the advocate of the poor and the homeless, said, "When you look at the poor people nose to nose, that's where you will find the Lord."

In carrying out the Lord's commission, Hellinghausen said that there is "not enough help out there for the need. We don't need more ministers. We need more ministry."

Hellinghausen, I am convinced, seeks only to glorify God by helping His children in desperate situations - feeding them, clothing them, providing them shelter, offering them hope and God's love.

Other's, who serve in that great commission, also honor Hellinghausen.

Today in Austin, for example, the Texas Homeless Network on which Hellinghausen served to help the homeless in Midland and

see "HELLINGHAUSEN" page nine

JOURNEY

from page three

She is a blessing from God, a pencil in God's hands.

Being an active member of the aforementioned prayer groups, especially the Rosary Movement, I was always reading foreign papers and magazines, especially the Divine Love Magazines from Fresno, U.S.A. Information from these resources helped me a lot in my life because they increased my knowledge and opened my eyes spiritually and temporarily.

One day after praying as usual, I took up one of the religious magazines from a friend-Seminarian, to read in search of a benefactor or a benefactress who could supply us with books, rosaries and holy pictures and I came across some names and addresses including Mrs. Amy's. So, I wrote these people for help. When I wrote to Amy Quinn, I requested help to become a priest because my spirit urged me to do so. I wrote her a letter of request and posted it to Mooroka in Queensland in Australia without knowing her real address. The letter was mailed in

April 1976 and, it reached her in July of the same year due to wrong address. However, she eventually received my letter and responded very positively to my request. With the assurance of her financial support, I went into the Seminary School for the Priesthood. I was astonished when she sent my school fee for that month, I could not believe my eyes!! It seemed to me as if I was in a dream. The whole thing became clear to me when she sent my school fee for the next month. From then on, she continued to sponsor my training for the Beautiful Catholic Priesthood

For the 14 years that I spent in the Seminary, Amy Quinn carried the burden of supporting my dream financially with the encouragement of her beloved husband Mr. Jim Quinn. My glorious journey came to an end with my ordination to the Sacred Priesthood on July 8, 1989. Amy Quinn single-handedly provided all the necessities for my ordination and even visited Nigeria on that day so that she could see me for the first time. Truly it was a miracle in my life. Since then, we have been relating to each other as mother and son. This miracle proved to me that

heaven helps those who help themselves by cooperating with God's graces that come our way. I cried out to God for help in my prayer and he answered me and changed my vision and direction in life.

Soon after my ordination to the Priesthood, my beloved Bishop Most Rev Anthony E. Ilonu sent me back to the university to study for the master of Theology with special interest on Moral Theology which lasted two years. At the end I was invited to Australia by Amy Quinn, Jim Quinn and their Pastor Rev Gerry Gogan to the Holy Spirit Parish Bray Park where I served for a short time. In this Parish I found out that Mrs. Amy Quinn, though as poor as she was materially, had a very high profile in her Parish because of her spirit of commitment in the Church. She translates love into action in accordance with the scriptural injunction of St. James which says that Faith without good work is dead. In other words, faith in Christ Jesus, goes with good work - action (James 2:14) Outside the Parish, she was involved in charitable works such as looking after a handicapped home (home for the less privileged) without mate-

rial remunerations. Today, according to the information I got recently from Australia, one of the handicapped homes in Bray Park is renamed Mrs. Amy Quinn's Handicapped home because of her selfless services, isn't that heavenly?

When I was about to leave Australia in October 1992 for a brief stay in New Zealand before returning to Nigeria, I never thought that we would meet again in life because she had no source of income as usual. However she strongly believed in the power of prayers with which God can make the impossible to be possible if he judges it necessary. From 1992 to 1999, we only communicated to each other in writing. It was in the year 2000 when I came here that we were able to communicate through the phone yet, we never thought of seeing each other face to face in this life. However, we have been praying for this favor to see each other as usual and behold he made it possible for us this year. Her love for Our Lady brought her to Mexico and she decided to visit America also in order to see me. After her pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico from October

26 to November 3, she arrived in Eden and joined us in the holy mass presided over by Our Bishop, Rev Mike D. Pfeifer in honor of St. Charles on November 4th. She spent five days here from November 4th to November 9th, visiting with some members of St. Charles Parish Eden, St. Phillip Eola and some individuals who invited her to their homes. She was also invited to Winters by Fr Des Obi, to the Sacred Heart Church Abilene by the women of grace, women of Sacred Heart and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Group. Finally she was taken to San Antonio to see the Missions by the beloved Family of Bill and Alice Rhodes in Abilene who eventually drove her to the Abilene airport on Sunday November 9, 2003. She was very grateful to all the people she met especially to Our Bishop and Fr. Robert Bush. I was happy that she enjoyed her visit and did not get sick in spite of her age as it is not easy for someone of her age (75 years) to travel abroad these days. I am really indebted to her and to her beautiful family.

Religious Retirement Collection Set For December 13-14

by National Religious Retirement Office

The Benedictine admonition to "Let Mercy Triumph" is the theme of the 16th national collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious, which will be taken up in Catholic parishes nationwide December 13-14.

The annual appeal helps retired sisters, brothers, and religious order priests, who spent their lives in church ministries such as education, health care, and social services. This year's campaign highlights how religious women and men continue diverse ministries despite their growing need to care for frail, elderly members.

The unfunded retirement liability of the nation's religious orders

is estimated at \$6.1 billion.

Last year the fund collected more than \$28 million, and provided assistance to more than 500 religious orders. "American Catholics have responded most admirably to the aging of religious," says Sister Andree Fries, a Sister of the Most Precious Blood of O'Fallon, Missouri, and executive director of the National Religious Retirement Office. "They recall what religious did for them in the past; but they also know that the aging of religious women and men foreshadows many issues that face the nation.

Of the 63,205 women religious in the country, more than 54 percent are now past 70; of the 13,815 men, more than 37 percent are past 70. Total cost of care last year in

independent, assisted living, and skilled nursing homes was more than \$837 million. The annual Social Security benefit received by an individual religious is less than \$4,000.

Since the appeal was established in 1988, the Religious Retirement Fund has collected more than \$400 million, making it the most successful regular collection in the history of the church in the United States. Last year's collection of \$28 million included a \$1 million contribution from the Archdiocese of Chicago.

The Religious Retirement Collection was launched in 1988 by the U.S. bishops and leaders of national associations of religious orders.

HELLINGHAUSEN from page eight

West Texas is honoring him, as it's "Volunteer of the Year."

"But I think it is 'Volunteer of a Lifetime' for him," said Ryla Scull, a Texas Homeless Network editor-director who nominated Hellinghausen for Texas-wide award. "He is very involved" in the community.

The Texas Homeless Network works with its statewide affiliates, known as coalitions, "to try to prevent and eliminate homelessness," said Kathryn Reid, the network's former executive director. "Don is

just an inspiration to people around the state," Ms. Reid said. "He has such a passion for helping people. He is a real testament of what one person can do." Hellinghausen "doesn't think things are impossible. He believes that communities 'are really able to do something about these problems. He is willing to put his own time and energy into making that happen."

Jim Ameel, who, like Hellinghausen, serves the poor as a volunteer, said that his dear friend "has great compassion for his fellow man. He is deeply moved by the less fortunate and the poor and just has the inborn desire to help these people, to help provide a better lifestyle for people that are going through rough times for one reason or another. He is a very caring person."

Hellinghausen "has great compassion," said DiAnn Koehl, Midland Fair Havens" executive director. He does care about people."

Alynda Best, Midland Habitat for Humanity's executive director, characterized Hellinghausen as "the catalyst" who "gets things moving and doesn't give up."

Charles A. Spence, publisher of the Midland Reporter Telegram, observed that Hellinghausen will ask if "You've got a minute" and then expects the "rest of your life

to help others" in need.

Elizabeth, "Liz" Zenteno, Hellinghausen's activist-daughter who is a compassionate "liberal" like her father, said that Hellinghausen "feels people's pain and suffering and wants to do something about it and is willing to even go against the grain to get the resources to do it."

Hellinghausen, who, like his daughter, is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame where his Catholic heritage was enriched, is "never indifferent to someone's (desperate) situations," the daughter said.

Ms. Zenteno, who in the 1980s was a missionary in Chile as a Holy Cross Associate under the guidance of the University of Notre Dame's priests, said that much of her father's works "comes from his faith."

"He reads the Gospels, she said. "He believes that he needs to live that out. He is never indifferent to someone's situations" whatever that person's needs may be - for food, clothing, shelter- in poverty's realm.

"He is not worried about being popular, even though I think he is well loved in the community. Sometimes he has to say the things that nobody else wants to say" about the plight of the homeless people and God's children in need.

HIGHLIGHTS

from page one

- "Advent Reflections" with Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services. Separate episodes air 11:30 p.m.-midnight Dec. 9, (repeated 10:30-11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10); 4:30-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14 (repeated 11:30 p.m.-midnight Tuesday, Dec. 16, and 10:30-11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17); 4:30-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21 (repeated 11:30 p.m.-midnight Tuesday, Dec. 23) and 11-11:30 a.m. Dec. 25 (repeated 9-9:30 p.m. Dec. 25).

- "The Gift," a new episode of "Kingdom Under the Sea," in which everyone in the Kingdom has forgotten the true meaning of the holidays until Professor Pinch and sidekick Clawed try to destroy Christmas, 4:30-5 a.m. Friday, Dec. 19 (repeated 6-6:30 p.m. Dec. 19, 7:30-8 p.m. Dec. 21, 10:30-11 a.m. Dec. 24, 4:30-5 p.m. Dec. 25, and 9:30-10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 27).

- "The Savior," produced by Family Theater Productions and filmed in Spain, highlighting the events told in the rosary's joyful mysteries, 3-4:30 a.m. Dec. 21 (repeated 1-2:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 22, and 10-11:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26).

- Catholic University of America's annual Christmas concert, 1:30-3 p.m. Dec. 21 (repeated 3-4:30 a.m. Dec. 27).

- A Christmas episode of "Backstage," with Mary Anne LaHood of Angel Force singing such carols as "O Holy Night," "Ave Maria" and "O Little Town of Bethlehem," 4-4:30 p.m. Dec. 21 (repeated 11-11:30 p.m. Dec. 23, and 4-4:30 a.m. Dec. 26).

- "Heralds of the Gospel Christmas Special" as the musical group performs Christmas music from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Hanceville, Ala., 1:30-2 a.m. Dec. 22 (repeated 9-9:30 a.m. and 2-2:30 p.m. Dec. 24 and 8:30-9 p.m. Dec. 25).

- "Joyful Hour," with actor Pat O'Brien and his family praying the rosary interspersed with scenes of the story of Joseph and Mary, 5-6 a.m. Dec. 22 (repeated 1-2 a.m. Dec. 23, 8-9 p.m. Dec. 24, and 2-3 p.m. Dec. 25).

- "Candles and Carols," featuring the 39th annual program of music and Scripture from Anderson University in Anderson, Ind., 10-11 p.m. Dec. 22 (repeated 2-3 a.m. Dec. 26).

- Live midnight Mass with the pope from St. Peter's Square in Vatican City, 6-8 p.m. Dec. 24 (repeated 8-10 a.m. Dec. 25).

- Live choral meditations at the national shrine featuring the shrine's choir, 10-10:30 p.m. Dec. 24.

- Live Christmas Eve Mass from the national shrine, 10:30 p.m.-1 a.m. Dec. 24.

- Live Christmas Mass from EWTN headquarters, 1-2:30 p.m. Dec. 25 (repeated 7-8:30 p.m. Dec. 25).

- The pope's "urbi et orbi" message live from St. Peter's Square, 6-7 a.m. Dec. 25 (repeated 10-11 a.m. Dec. 25 and 3-4 a.m. and 10-11 a.m. Dec. 26).

- Live Christmas Day Mass from the national shrine, noon-2 p.m. Dec. 25 (repeated midnight-2 a.m. Dec. 26).

- Live New Year's Day Mass of reparation from EWTN headquarters, midnight-1:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 1 (repeated 8-9:30 a.m. and 6:30-8 p.m. Jan. 1).

- Live New Year's Day Mass from the national shrine, noon-1:30 p.m. Jan. 1 (repeated midnight-1:30 a.m. Jan. 2).

Faith & Values Media is presenting a New Year's Day music special, "Night of Joy," featuring nine top Christian music acts: Michael W. Smith, Kirk Franklin, Yolanda Adams, Rebecca St. James, Jars of Clay, Point of Grace, Stacie Orrico, Salvador and Freddie Colloca. The program will be seen 10-11 p.m. EST Jan. 1 on cable's Hallmark Channel.

Other family-oriented Hallmark Channel Christmas features include (all times EST):

- "A Christmas Visitor" with William Devane, about a family where a young man comes into their life who is about the same age as their son who was killed in the Persian Gulf War, 8-10 p.m. Dec. 14 (repeated 8-10 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, and 4-6 p.m. Dec. 25).

- "The Christmas Box" with Richard Thomas, Annette O'Toole and Maureen O'Hara about a workaholic dad and the imperious old woman who comes into his family's life, 8-10 p.m. Monday, Dec. 15 (repeated 4-6 p.m. Dec. 21).

- "A Season for Miracles" with Carla Gugino, Patty Duke, Laura Dern and Kathy Baker, about a mysterious stranger who helps a young woman give her imprisoned sister's children the Christmas they've never had, 8-10 p.m. Dec. 21.

- "Silent Night," based on the true story of a half-dozen American and Nazi soldiers who put down their weapons on Christmas Eve 1944 to share dinner and an evening of peace, 2-4 p.m. Dec. 25.

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Intentions Of The Holy Father For December

General – Inter-religious cooperation to alleviate human sufferings. That the members of all religions may cooperate to alleviate human suffering.

Mission – The Church in totalitarian countries. That the Church may be given full freedom to carry out her spiritual mission.

January 26-27: Rest and Prayer
January 28: Fort Stockton, St. Joseph - Meet with Pastor and Parish and Finance Councils at 7:00 p.m.

January 30: Midland - Mass and Dinner with Members of Holy Sepulchre at 6:30 p.m.

CALL from page four

Christ individually and in a communal way. More time needs to be given to prayerful reflection on sacred Scripture, to the celebration of the Sacraments, to adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, to building up devotion to the Mother of God and Mother of the Church, and in expressing religious thought in concrete faith actions.

The true reform and renewal of our Church will not be found in a new bureaucracy, or in establishing committees and boards, and developing new policies and demands, but ultimately will be found in the grace of Christ, that is being offered to those who do what the Lord requires of us: "Only to do the right and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah,6,8)

NAVIDAD from page two

La vida de gracia que empieza con el bautismo y es alimentada en la eucaristía revela una dimensión de la eternidad que levanta nuestra existencia terrenal y la dirige, con verdadera continuidad, hacia nuestra entrada a una vida celestial.

La celebración de la Navidad nos recuerda de ese gran momento cuando la eternidad entró en el tiempo con el nacimiento de Jesucristo. Esa eternidad que ha entrado dentro del tiempo, dentro la vida humana, es el poder soberano de amor que busca guiar todas nuestras vidas hacia su propósito final, que es escondido en el misterio del Padre. La Navidad nos recuerda que la eternidad ha entrado en la vida humana por Jesucristo. Con Jesús, la vida humana es llamada para hacer la jornada con Cristo desde el tiempo hasta la eternidad. Jesús vino a nuestro mundo para ense-

ñarnos como vivir y como buscar el significado de la vida y el tiempo. El talmud dice que el tiempo es el mejor maestro. Todos queremos saber el futuro, pero si supieramos el futuro, estuvieramos llenos de ansiedad y miedo, y quitaría mucha de la anticipación y participación de la vida.

Para nosotros los Cristianos, el único significado del tiempo se encuentra en Jesucristo. El es el centro de la historia y nuestros corazones. La historia encuentra en el su punto de salida – Cristo es el alfa – y su punto de llegada – Cristo es el omega. El tiempo y la historia culminan en El, y en El alcanzan su plenitud absoluta y su significado supremo. Sin Jesucristo, el tiempo y la historia son simplemente accidentales. Con Cristo, son un plan de Dios, una historia de salvación, un yunque en que se forja nuestra decisión en libertad y responsabilidad.

Para los Cristianos, el tiempo nos es solamente una sucesión de segundos, minutos, y horas; una cadena de días, meses, y años. Para los Cristianos, el tiempo con sus siglos y milenio es historia, dirigido por dios. Es dios dirigiendo la salvación del la gente. Para los Cristianos, el tiempo tiene una unidad y armonia, constancia y cohesión. Nuestro tiempo de vida diaria, con sus trivialidades y monotonía, es parte de su divino proyecto, una pieza del gran rompecabezas de la historia de savación así como fue planeado por Dios. Para Dios cada minuto cuenta, y la mejor manera que podemos vivir cada mometo del tiempo es cumplir el gran mandamiento de Dios: Amar uno a otro. El significado del tiempo incluye el significado de mi tiempo. Para los Cristianos lo que le da a el tiempo su significado verdadero es amor. Cuando nosotros amamos, luego nuestro tiempo toma un nuevo significado, and nos prepara para vivir en una unión eterna de amor con nuestro Dios para siempre. Tenemos que preguntarnos: ¿Somos generosos con nuestro amor, o lo medimos con la vara de nuestro egoísmo? El tiempo encuentra su significado verdadero cuando nosotros vivimos cada minuto, cada día en el amor de Dios.

El misterio de la Navidad se enfoca en la pregunta – quién es Jesu-

cristo? Sin duda, Jesucristo es la personalidad mas celebrada en la historia. Tributos y honores a su influencia y a su inspiración son observados en todos lugares cuando uno camina por los pasillos de la historia. Las palabras de Jesús determinan nuestras leyes. Nuestra música es embellecida con su belleza. Artistas han capturado el drama de su vida y obras. Poetas han escrito poemas y poesías de su grandeza. Innumerables libros han evaluado su carácter y quien El reclama ser. Tributo silencioso se le hace cada vez que se da la vuelta a un calendario y cada vez que se le pone la fecha a una carta.

Mientras quizás Cristo no es aceptado como Dios por unas religiones, cada religión lo ve como un Profeta incomparable. Charles Mallock, Presidente Anterior de las Naciones Unidas, habló volumenes cuando declaro, "Jesucristo es la bisagra de la historia." Toda la historia es incomprendible sin Cristo.

El Jesús Cristo que tocó el tiempo con la eternidad de su nacimiento, no pintó ningunas pinturas. Aún, algunas de las pinturas mas finas de Rafael, Miguelangel, y Leonardo Da Vinci recibieron inspiración de El. Jesus no escribió poesía, pero Dante, Milton y muchos mas gran poetas del mundo fueron inspirados por El. Jesús no compuso música, aún Hayden, Handel, Bethoven, Bach, y Mendolsohn alcanzaron su perfección mas alta de melodia y música en las himnos y simfonlas que ellos compusieron en su gloria. Cada esfera de grandeza humana ha sido enricuecido por el humilde carpintero de Nazareth.

¿Quién es Jesucristo que honramos y celebramos en Navidad? El es mucho más que el centro de la historia el es más que un gran paradigma o criterio moral. Es El de quien se habla en unas de las lecturas de navidad que se encuentra en la carta de San Pablo a tito donde leemos: "Pero cuando Dios nuestro Salvador mostró su bondad y su amor por humanidad, nos salvó ... por medio de lavamiento nos ha hecho nacer de nuevo; por medio del Espíritu Santo y por medio de nuestro Salvador Jesucristo nos ha dado el Espíritu Santo en abundancia, para que, habiendonos librado de culpa por su bondad, recibamos vida eterna que esperamos."

VOCATIONS from page three

I celebrated Mass at Mount Carmel Hermitage on National Priesthood Sunday. It is remarkable how much the priests of our Diocese are loved by the Faithful. This love is a challenge to us to be of loving service.

At Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio I attended a presentation by CLINIC on visas used by religious workers and seminarians. As more international priests and seminarians come to the U.S.A. for minister and theological studies, it is important that we understand the immigration laws involved in their presence here.

In Houston I went to the Region 10 Vocation Conference. Dr. Chris Baglow, Ph.D. presented The ABC's of Generation X, Y, and Z: Evangelizing Postmodern Youth. Dr. Baglow pointed out differences between generations and challenged the ministers of the Church to meet Catholic youth where they are in their journey of faith with acceptance and a willingness to help them in their encounter with Christ. This requires that we are all faithful to our Catholic Faith and our own vocations.

After the region meeting, I accompanied our 280 youth from the Diocese at the National Catholic Youth Conference in Houston. The River of Life theme was central to the conference. Our youth joined about 25,000 Catholic youth from all over the country in celebrating the Lord and in listening to God's invitation to participation in the Church in ministerial service to others. I am proud of our youth and the chaperoning adults who traveled to this conference. (See story pg. 6.)

This semester I have visited our five seminarians at Assumption Seminary in San Antonio and at Conception Seminary in Conception, Missouri. They are doing well as they

continue to be formed toward maturity and priesthood. Please keep them in your prayers. Pray that others will join them in answering God's call to priesthood.

While we all know about the shortage in vocations to priesthood and religious life, the overall spirit among Vocation Directors is a positive one of hope and faith. After all, we are God's People – the invitation to ministry is in our midst waiting for us to respond. We have good priests, religious, deacons, and lay ministers. We have fantastic families and youth. God will call some from our families to priesthood and religious life. How can we lose, unless we decide to say "later" to God's invitations?

SCHEDULE from page two

11:00 a.m.

January 17: Odessa, St. Mary - Mass at 6:00 p.m.

January 18: Midland, Our Lady of Guadalupe - Mass at 10:00 a.m.

January 19: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Ecumenical Prayer Service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King at 12:00 noon

January 20: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Liturgy Commission meeting at 10:30 a.m.

January 21: San Angelo, St. Joseph - Mass for Workers at 12:00 noon

January 22: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Pro Life Mass at 12:00 noon

January 23: Sonora, St. Ann - Meet with Pastor and Pastoral and Finance Councils at 7:00 p.m.

January 24: Olfen, St. Boniface - Mass and Bless Renovation at 4:30 p.m.

January 25: Mertzton, St. Peter - Mass at 9:45 a.m.



Cursillo Movement Directors Appointed

by Greg Perez

The Cursillos in Christianity Movement Secretariat appointed Mr. Raul Castaneda and Mr. Joey Light to the position of Directors of the Diocesan School of Leaders during a recent Meeting.

Mr. Castaneda, who attends Our Lady of San Juan Mission in Odessa will direct the Spanish School of Leaders and Mr. Joey Light who attends Holy Family Parish in Abilene will direct the English School.

The Cursillos in Christianity Movement is a Movement of the Church and the Diocesan School of Leaders is a community of service that is committed to the support of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan in its Evangelization Mission.

The Diocesan School of Leaders is being organized so as to have representatives in each of the three deaneries of the Diocese in both English

and Spanish. Each deanery-level school will have a Vice-Director and the Pre-Cursillo, Three-Day Cursillo and PostCursillo Sections to insure the authenticity and integrity of the Movement and its methods.

Anyone desiring information concerning the School of Leaders should direct their questions to Mr. Raul Castaneda (Spanish) by writing him at 8608 Duke, Odessa, Texas 79765 or Tele: (432) 550-8652. Mr. Joey Light (English) at 5718 Antilley Rd., Abilene, Texas 79606 or Tele: (325) 695-0503.

The dates and places for the English Cursillos during 2004 are as follows:

Women - Feb. 12-15 at St. Vincent in Abilene and Jun. 24-27 at CKRC in San Angelo

Men - Mar. 18-21 at St. Vincent in Abilene and Jul. 22-25 at CKRC in San Angelo

absolute fullness and their supreme meaning. Without Jesus Christ, time and history are merely accidentals. With Christ, they are a plan of God, a history of salvation, an anvil on which to forge our decision in freedom and responsibility.

For Christians, time is not a mere succession of seconds, minutes and hours; a chain of days, months and years. For Christians, time with its centuries and millennia is history, steered by God. It is God directing the salvation of people. For Christians, time has a guiding unity and harmony, consistence and cohesion. Our time of daily life, with its trivialities and monotony, is part of a divine project, a piece of the great puzzle of the history of salvation as planned by God. For God, every minute counts, and the best way we can live each minute of time is to fulfill the great command of Christ: To love one another. The meaning of time includes the meaning of my time. What gives time its true meaning for Christians is love. When we love, then our time takes on a new meaning, and prepares us to live in an eternal union of love with our God forever. The question we need to ask ourselves is: Are we generous with our love, or do we gauge it with the

yardstick of our selfishness? Time finds its true meaning when we live each moment, each day in God's love.

The mystery of Christmas focuses on the question – who is this Jesus Christ? Without question, the most celebrated personality of history is Jesus Christ. Tributes and honor to his influence and inspiration are observed everywhere when one walks down the corridors of history. The words of Jesus determine our laws. Our music is embellished by his loveliness. Artists have captured the drama of his life and works. Poets have written poems and poetry to his greatness. Countless books have assessed his character and who he claims to be. Silent tribute is paid to him everytime the calendar is turned, or a letter is dated.

While perhaps Christ is not accepted as God by some religions, every religion sees him as a peerless prophet. Charles Mallock, former chairman of the United Nations, spoke volumes when he stated, "Jesus Christ is the hinge of history." All history is incomprehensible without Christ.

The Jesus Christ who touched time with eternity with his birth, painted no pictures. Yet, some of the finest paintings of Raphael, Michealangelo, and Leonardo da Vinci received their inspiration from him. Jesus wrote no poetry, but Dante, Milton, and scores of the world's greatest poets were inspired by him. Jesus composed no music, still Hayden, Handel, Beethoven, Bach, and Mendolsohn reached their highest perfection of melody and music in the hymns and symphonies that they composed in his praise. Every sphere of human greatness has been enriched by the humble carpenter of Nazareth.

Who is this Jesus Christ that we honor and celebrate on Christmas? He is more than the centerpiece of history. He is more than just a great moral paradigm or standard. He is the one who is spoken of in one of the Christmas readings found in the letter of St. Paul to Titus where we read: "When the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, . . . he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior, so that we might be justified by His grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life." [Titus 3:4-7]



Southwest Liturgical Conference January 14-17, 2004 Cheyenne, Wyoming

Would you like to deepen your experience of Eucharist? Would you like to have a deeper understanding of the liturgy? Don't miss this opportunity. This annual conference with premier speakers will deepen your understanding of the "source and summit" of our faith. Information and registration forms are available through your diocesan offices, www.swlc.org or Fr. Cliff Jacobson cliff_jacobson@hotmail.com

To the millions of Catholics across the nation:

Thank You!

For your postcards,
your letters, your
phone calls, and most
of all, your prayers.



After eight years, you've made history.

This marks the first federal restriction of an abortion procedure in 30 years.

The struggle over partial-birth abortion is not over, and the ban faces a court challenge. But today our nation is one step closer to a culture of life.

God Bless You

The Catholic Bishops of the United States
Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and the USCCB Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

EDICTAL SUMMONS

The Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo to Daryla Gene Davis, whereabouts unknown.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo, at 804 Ford Street, San Angelo, Texas 76905, on or before, December 24, 2003, to answer to the Petition of Stuart John Jost, now introduced before the Diocesan Tribunal in an action styled, "Stuart John Jost Vs Daryla Gene Davis, Petition for Declaration of Invalidity of Marriage," said Petition being identified as JOST- DAVIS, Protocol No.: SO 03/57, on the Tribunal Docket of the Diocese of San Angelo.

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

Given at the Tribunal of the Diocese of San Angelo on the 1st day of December 2003.

Rev. William R. DuBuisson, O.M.I., M.C.L., J.C.L.
Adjutant Judicial Vicar



New Jersey Nun Keeps Up Pressure For Beatification Of Pius XII

by John Thavis Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) – When New Jersey Sister Margherita Marchione, one of the most energetic defenders of Pope Pius XII, rolls into Rome, Vatican officials expect her to come knocking at their doors. So Pope John Paul II probably wasn't surprised when the scholarly nun turned to him in a late November audience and asked: "Your Holiness, almost 50 years have passed. When will Pope Pius XII be beatified?"

Sister Marchione explained that hundreds of people around the world had asked her to implore the pope's help in speeding up the beatification process. The pontiff smiled and acknowledged her interest, but made no commitments.

She took it up a few minutes later with the pope's secretary, asking Archbishop Stanislaw Dziwisz: "How do you explain this 50-year delay?" The archbishop assured her that the pope had read all her letters and appeals. Her next stop was the Congregation for Saints'

Causes, where Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins promised her that things were moving along at the proper – and careful – pace.

Those who know the 82-year-old Sister Marchione, a member of the Religious Teachers Filippini order in Morristown, N.J., would not be surprised at her in-your-face approach, even at the Vatican. She's an unabashed, partisan admirer of Pope Pius XII. She says the criticism about his alleged "silence" on the treatment of the Jews during World War II is a "smear campaign."

She wonders why Jewish organizations today don't highlight testimonials from Jews who were saved through the late pope's efforts. And she sounds a little disappointed that, after writing five books on the subject, few opponents want to step into the debating ring with her. "You know, the trouble is, nobody comes and fights me. I'm waiting for the opportunity, because I've got the documentation for everything," she said.

Her interest in Pope Pius's wartime papacy grew in the 1990s,

when she listened to older members of her religious order describe how they and other Catholic institutions in Rome hid and saved many Jews. Her 1997 book on the subject credited Pope Pius with making this protection mission possible. Her latest book, a copy of which she presented to the pope, is titled simply "Pope Pius XII." A slim volume, it sketches a case for the late pontiff as someone who prudently and quietly helped the Jews, opposed Hitler at every turn and practiced the virtues of a saint.

Jesuit Father Peter Gumpel, who is helping to document Pope Pius XII's sainthood cause, said the drafting of the Vatican's "positio" will almost certainly be finished by the end of the year. But printing the voluminous material may take a long time, he said. And Father Gumpel cautioned that the "positio" is only the start of a phase in the beatification process. It must be studied by members of the saints congregation and their experts, with a series of meetings and reports to follow, he said. It would be



New Jersey Sister Margherita Marchione displays a portrait of Pope Pius XII in St. Peter's Square in early December. The 82-year-old member of the Religious Teachers Filippini order appealed to Pope John Paul II and various Vatican officials for the beatification of Pius XII. Her admiration for the World War II pontiff stands in sharp contrast with some historians who have portrayed him as silent on the treatment of Jews by the Nazis. (CNS photo by Alessia Giuliani, Catholic Press Photo)

wrong to assume, therefore, that beatification is just around the corner, he said.

"It is certain that it will take several years before we will come to that event. I am personally convinced that sooner or later Pius XII will be beatified, but any forecast regarding the time is absolutely premature," Father Gumpel said.

Sister Marchione has written ar-

ticles about recent archival discoveries that offer new evidence that Pope Pius vigorously opposed Hitler's regime.

She has also documented alleged cases of healing attributed to prayers to the late pope.

"There are blessings he is sending down, I know it," she said.

Movie Ratings From U.S. Catholic Conference

A-I General Patronage

- Brother Bear
- A-II Adults and Adolescents**
- Anything But Love
- Elf
- Freaky Friday
- Good Boyl
- The Gospel of John
- Looney Tunes: Back in Action
- Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl
- Radio
- Secondhand Lions

A-III Adults

- American Splendor
- Beyond Borders
- Casa de Los Babys
- Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star
- Luther
- Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World

Matchstick Men

- Mystic River
- Open Range
- Out of Time
- Runaway Jury
- School of Rock
- The Secret Lives of Dentists
- Shattered Glass
- Sister Helen
- The Station Agent
- Under the Tuscan Sun
- Veronica Guerin

A-IV Adults with Reservation

- Anything Else
- Cold Creek Manor
- Jeepers Creepers 2
- Lost in Translation
- Mambo Italiano
- Party Monster
- The Rundown
- S.W.A.T.
- Thirteen

L - Limited adult audience

- Love Actually
- The Singing Detective

O - Morally Offensive

- American Wedding
- House of the Dead
- Kill Bill - Vol. I
- In the Cut
- Love Forbidden
- Once Upon a Time in Mexico
- Scary Movie 3
- The Texas Chainsaw Massacre