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Rite of ELECTION

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Celebrating 100 Years

St. Agnes Parish began as mission to Portuguese fishermen

By Denis Grasska

POINT LOMA — St. Agnes Parish, which began as a humble, wooden, mission church built by its own parishioners, celebrates its 100th anniversary this year.

To mark this milestone, a Gala Dinner/Dance and Auction was held Aug. 25, 2007, at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina. More than 700 people attended the event, which raised money for the parish's Endowment Fund.

A reunion was held the previous day for students and teachers at the now-closed St. Agnes School, which opened in 1946 and closed in the early 1970s.

"The centenary of St. Agnes Parish, along with the first school reunion, is for most of us a 'once in a lifetime' event," Father Joseph Mel Collier, pastor, wrote in an Aug. 15 letter to parishioners. "It is an honor for me as pastor to preside over these historic celebrations."

On Jan. 20, 2008, Bishop Robert H. Brom joined the community and served as presider at a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving. A reception followed in the parish hall.

St. Agnes Parish's first church building was constructed in 1908 through the

efforts of Father Joseph C. Mesny and the Catholic families of Point Loma. The structure was blessed March 14, 1908, by Bishop Thomas J. Conaty of the Diocese of Monterey-Los Angeles, which was responsible for the region until the establishment of the Diocese of San Diego in 1936.

The parish arose to serve the needs of Portuguese fishermen who began settling in the Roseville/Point Loma area in 1883 along with their families and worked at the local whaling station or made their livelihoods as sardine fishermen.

Before St. Agnes Parish, the religious needs of the community were met by Portuguese priests who traveled south to San Diego and celebrated Mass for the fishermen and their families in an empty warehouse. Other local Catholics traveled by horse and buggy to attend Masses celebrated in the old adobe chapel in Old Town San Diego.

St. Agnes Parish did not have a resident pastor until Father Manuel Rose was appointed to that position in 1933. In the midst of the Great Depression, Father Rose oversaw the construction of the parish's current church building, which was funded, not only by parish contributions, but through the generosity of some 15 fishing boats that donated 25-cents per ton of fish, according to a written parish history. Male parishioners literally laid the foundation for the new



CELEBRATING A CENTURY: Bishop Robert H. Brom and Pastor Joseph Mel Collier greet parishioners after the centennial celebration Mass Jan. 20.

church and assisted throughout the construction.

The new church building was completed in 1934.

In the late 1960s, when the liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council permitted the celebration of the Mass in

the vernacular, the parish began offering a Portuguese-language Mass, which is still celebrated every Sunday.

Portuguese Catholics from throughout San Diego continue to "consider St. Agnes their church," Father Collier said.

The Southern Cross

1.5 Million Signatures Needed to Save Marriage in California

By Ann Aubrey Hanson

SAN DIEGO — Some 1.5 million signatures are needed by April 1, 2008, to place a California Constitutional Amendment proposal to protect marriage on the June 2008 ballot. If this deadline is missed, proponents will not have a chance to get the amendment on the ballot until June 2010.

Simply stated, the proposal is to declare, as Proposition 22 did in 2000, "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California."

The proposition is not, as opponents declare, about codifying discrimination. Rather, it is about supporting marriage because it is best for children and society.

Pope Benedict XVI, in his Jan. 1 message, connected marriage and family life with peace, saying that threats to marriage "threaten the very foundations of peace."

On Jan. 24, the University of San Diego hosted the National Organization for Marriage (NOM) of California at an evening symposium during which the Marriage Amendment proposal was discussed in detail. The speakers included Auxiliary Bishop Salvatore

Cordileone; Maggie Gallagher, president of NOM; Brian S. Brown, executive director of NOM; Charles LiMandri, West Coast Regional Director of the Thomas More Law Center; and Grace Dulaney, a promoter of pro-family causes for 30 years, and spokesperson for Proposition 85, the *Parents Right to Know Initiative* (which pro-family supporters are also petitioning to get on the June 2008 ballot).

"Marriage is a virtually universal human institution," said Bishop Cordileone in his talk. The three commonalities of marriage have always been that "it is always a public union, it is a sexual union between a man and a woman, and the rights and responsibilities of marriage are publicly supported and defined."

Societies need children, said Bishop Cordileone, and children need a father as well as a mother. Even the United Nations has declared this a basic human right. Marriage, Bishop Cordileone said, is "a mechanism needed to attach a father to children."

The California Supreme Court is expected to render a decision this spring which will determine whether

Prop. 22, which voters overwhelmingly passed to protect marriage, is unconstitutional. If the court decides Prop. 22 is unconstitutional, it will clear the way for same-sex marriage to begin taking place in California.

The result would be a grave risk of civil liability for any person or institution speaking against same-sex marriage, placing such speech on a par with racial discrimination. Institutions accused of discrimination would be denied government benefits and privileges. Churches and religious schools would likely lose their non-profit status, and churches and religious organizations may be excluded from licensing of marriages.

"Only marriage between a man and woman is valid or recognized in California." Once this language is enshrined in the State Constitution, the courts will no longer have the power to re-define marriage under state law.

For information on the marriage amendment signature-gathering campaign, contact NOM at (888) 894-3604 or visit www.NationForMarriage.org.

The Southern Cross

Church Celebrates 150th Jubilee of Our Lady of Lourdes

By Regina Linskey

LOURDES, France — Mary did not seek devotion from St. Bernadette Soubirous and Catholics but instead sought devotion to Jesus and the Eucharist, said Bishop Jacques Perrier of Tarbes and Lourdes.

In the apparitions at the Massabielle grotto, Mary led St. Bernadette to Jesus and today intercedes for pilgrims and leads them to Jesus, the bishop said at an outdoor international Mass in Lourdes Feb. 11, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and the World Day of the Sick.

At the grotto in the Sanctuaries of Our Lady of Lourdes, a statue of Mary stands on the right side and the altar for the Eucharist is at the center, he said, because the Eucharist is the center of devotion.

“The mission of Lourdes is to be a school of prayer, a place where it is easy, natural to pray,” said Bishop Perrier.

Mary brought St. Bernadette to Jesus, said the bishop, noting that during the apparitions Mary was preparing the young St. Bernadette to receive her first Communion. St. Bernadette initially was not allowed to receive her first Communion because she did not know her catechism well enough. The book was in French and St. Bernadette only spoke the local dialect.

However, St. Bernadette finally received the sacrament between the 17th and 18th apparitions. The Lourdes jubilee year — which began Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and runs until this Dec. 8 — marks the 150th anniversary of the Marian apparitions to St. Bernadette.

Welcoming the estimated 50,000 pilgrims, Bishop Perrier said that no one is excluded at Lourdes.

He said the Jubilee Way, the special anniversary pilgrimage in Lourdes of sites related to St. Bernadette’s life, begins at the parish church, where St. Bernadette was baptized, and ends where St. Bernadette received her first Communion.

All of the Jubilee Way is in preparation for the Eucharist, said Bishop Perrier, who, like the tens of thousands of pilgrims thronging the streets of Lourdes for the feast day, wore a souvenir medallion marking his participation in the Jubilee Way pilgrimage.

The bishop said that when Mary appeared to St. Bernadette Mary was smiling and laughing. Lourdes is a place of happiness and confidence, but also of penance and a difficult stage of conversion, he said.



PILGRIMS AT LOURDES: Pilgrims gather for a Mass in the grotto of the Sanctuaries of Our Lady of Lourdes in Lourdes, France, Feb. 10.

Pope Benedict XVI said in his Feb. 10 Angelus address at the Vatican that the message of Lourdes reminds the faithful to pray and do penance. The pope said he

promised to pray for all sick people during his annual Lenten retreat, which began the evening of Feb. 10.

Catholic News Service

Priests Embrace Our Mission in True Spirit of Atonement

PASTORAL CENTER — The bishops and some 200 priests in the Diocese of San Diego have contributed slightly over \$300,000 toward the Embracing Our Mission campaign. Donors include priests both active and retired, and diocesan as well as religious order priests.

The idea of priests volunteering to contribute one month’s salary or a comparable amount as part of the sexual abuse settlement originated with Father Patrick Mulcahy, pastor of Corpus Christi Parish. He proposed this as a resolution during the September 2007 meeting of the Presbyteral Council.

Consequently, the proposal found broad-based support at the annual convocation of priests and was then endorsed for implementation by the pastors who serve as deans of the seven diocesan deaneries.

Questioned why he encouraged his brother priests to embrace this form of sacrificial giving, Father Mulcahy said, “It’s part of our ministry of reconciliation and important for us at this time to do what is necessary to help our people to restored trust.”

Bishop Robert Brom said that he was frankly surprised at the overwhelming response. He described it as

“an expression of atonement, that is, priests paying the price for sins they did not commit and for failures not their own.”

He added that this indicates how “priests are making the Paschal journey through denial to admission, through anger and blaming to acceptance and appropriate response, and through sadness to renewed hope.”

Father Bruce Orsborn, pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish, director of Catholic campus ministry at SDSU and chairman of the Presbyteral Council, said that “priests are trying to lead the way for all in the Church to follow the example of Jesus who sacrificed Himself in atonement for our sins.”

Father Matthew Spahr, pastor of the Immaculata Parish, diocesan director of priestly formation and vice-chairman of the Presbyteral Council, referred to a challenge of Pope John Paul II, who said that responding appropriately to past failures, especially with outreach to victims of abuse and their families, and doing what is necessary for the Church to be a safe place for children and young people, should lead us to “a holier priesthood and a holier Church.”

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ATONEMENT: Father Bruce Orsborn, Father Patrick Mulcahy and Father Matthew Spahr review a report on the Embracing Our Mission project.

Briefs

Rosary for Unborn Babies Set for May 3

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — The “1 Million Rosaries for Unborn Babies” prayer event is scheduled to take place throughout the United States on Saturday, May 3. Participants will pray the rosary within the same hour for an end to the surgical and non-surgical killing of unborn babies. The rosary may be prayed at a Catholic church, at one’s home, etc. In order to get everyone praying the rosary during the same hour, the time zone that a person is in will determine within what hour he/she is to pray. The hours are: 9 - 10 a.m. (Eastern); 8 - 9 a.m. (Central); 7 - 8 a.m. (Mountain); 6 - 7 a.m. (Pacific); 5 - 6 a.m. (Alaska); 4 - 5 a.m. (Hawaii). To register as a participant, visit www.Saint-MichaelTheArchangelOrganization.org.

Pope Praises Worldwide Marriage Encounter

ROME, Italy — Pope Benedict XVI, recently speaking at an audience with Worldwide Marriage Encounter leaders from across the world, spoke in support of the movement. “Marriage Encounter, yes! You are doing such important work in our Church, especially in this world we live in,” Pope Benedict said as he spoke with David and Bronny Lea, and Father John Rate, Worldwide Marriage Encounter International Coordinating Team. The pope went on to say, “I will pray for you and your movement.” Coordinating couples and priests from all over the world came together in Rome for the World Council meeting of WWME in January 2008.

Cardinal Defends Pope’s Reformulation of Prayer

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Vatican cardinal defended Pope Benedict XVI’s reformulation of a prayer for the conversion of Jews and said he hopes it will not become an obstacle in Catholic-Jewish dialogue. Cardinal Walter Kasper, who heads the Vatican’s Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, said the Catholic Church cannot hide its belief

that Jesus Christ is the savior of all peoples, including the Jews. But that does not mean the Church is launching a missionary effort among the Jewish people. Cardinal Kasper was responding to Jewish criticism of the pope’s new Good Friday prayer for Jews in the 1962 *Roman Missal*, known as the Tridentine rite, which can be used with greater freedom under new norms issued last year. “The Holy Father wanted ... to underline the specific difference that exists between us and Judaism,” the cardinal said. That difference is that for Christians Jesus is recognized as the Messiah and the Son of God, he said.

Evolution and Creation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican newspaper ran an illustration of a chimpanzee in late January. The odd thing about this chimp was that he was urbanely dressed in a sweater, tie and straw hat and looked as if he might be striding across the lawn at Oxford. The image was a grabber, though it didn’t have much to do with the accompanying article, a lengthy exposition of how evolution can be considered a means of divine creation. “Evolution and creation cannot be in opposition. God can have created a world with the capacity to change and evolve through natural causes,” it said. The article, by Italian biologist Fiorenzo Facchini, was another element of a debate that has kept percolating to the surface under Pope Benedict XVI, as the Vatican has focused more on the relationship between God and evolution.

Up to 22 U.S. Bishops Could Retire in 2008

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With the Jan. 24 retirement of 77-year-old Bishop John J. Leibold of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Mo., up to 22 U.S. bishops, including four cardinals, could retire because of age this year. There are 14 active U.S. bishops, including four cardinals, who have already turned 75. Seven more will celebrate their 75th birthday in 2008. At age 75, bishops are requested to submit their resignation to the pope. Pope John Paul II often asked cardinals to stay on the job after they reached the age of 75. Pope Benedict

XVI has given no indication that he will change that practice. Even when a cardinal retires in his 70s, he remains an active member of the College of Cardinals, eligible to enter a conclave and vote for a new pope, until age 80.

Ecumenical Conference Theme Announced

SAN DIEGO (SOX) — The *Oriente Lumen* Conferences will be held in three different cities in the U.S. this coming year: Washington, D.C.; San Diego, Calif.; and Detroit, Mich. These ecumenical conferences focus on topics of the Christian East and are open to the public, for both lay persons and clergy.

These conferences encourage ecumenical dialogue on a specific theme through presentations and discussions. The theme for all three locations in 2008 will be “Feast Days of the Eastern Churches.” *Oriente Lumen* XII West will be held in San Diego, June 23 - 26, at the University of San Diego campus. Registration details are available at www.olconference.com.

Wikipedia Images of Mohammed Protested

SAN FRANCISCO (CWNNews) — More than 100,000 signatures have been collected to protest the images of Mohammed that appear on the English-language section of the online reference site,

Crate for Cause



Bishop Daniel R. Jenky of Peoria, Ill., ties a ribbon around a crate of preliminary research into the life and virtues of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen during a Feb. 3 Mass at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Peoria. The Mass ended the diocesan phase of the cause and the documentation now goes to the Vatican Congregation for Saints’ Causes. The famed media evangelist was called “the kind of saint America needs today” during ceremonies closing the diocesan phase of his sainthood cause.



Wikipedia. The inclusion of images of the Islamic prophet offends Muslims, whose faith prohibits such representations of Mohammed. The Wikipedia site currently includes two images, taken from the 13th and 15th centuries.

Vincentians Celebrate 175-Year Jubilee

ST. LOUIS, Mo. (CNS) — The largest lay Catholic charitable organization in the world was founded 175 years ago by a French college student named Frederic Ozanam. Ozanam founded the Society of St. Vincent de Paul on April 23, 1833, his 20 birthday, so that he and his schoolmates could put their faith into action through service to the poor. The Society today has more than 690,000 members operating in 142 countries. The Society's 115,000 U.S. members, known as "Vincentians," will mark the year with a series of commemorative activities, beginning with a special 175th Anniversary Liturgy and Commitment Ceremony to be celebrated in parishes nationwide on "Ozanam Sunday," April 20. The festivities will culminate with the Society's four-day Annual Meeting in Louisville and end Sept. 27, the feast of St. Vincent de Paul, the Society's namesake and patron.

Cardinal Opposes Shariah in British Legal System

LONDON (CNS)—An English cardinal has rejected suggestions that aspects of Shariah, or Islamic law, might be incorporated into the British legal system. Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor of

Westminster distanced himself from remarks made in a speech by Anglican Archbishop Rowan Williams of Canterbury, but he added he was "saddened" by the way the archbishop had been misunderstood. In a Feb. 7 lecture on Islam and English law, Archbishop Williams, leader of the worldwide Anglican Communion, said Britain needed to continue to find accommodation with religious legal codes such as Shariah if community cohesion and development are to be achieved. Archbishop Williams told the *British Broadcasting Corp.* hours before the lecture in London that the adoption of some aspects of Shariah in Britain "seems unavoidable." Senior Anglican bishops from around the world criticized his remarks, and some called for his resignation.

Knights of Malta Grand Master Dies

ROME (CNS) — The grand master of the Knights of Malta, Fra Andrew W.N. Bertie, who gave a new humanitarian impetus to the ancient order, died in Rome at the age of 78. Bertie, the first Englishman to be elected to the post of grand master in the order's 900-year history, died Feb. 7. Pope Benedict XVI sent a telegram of condolences, describing Bertie as a "man of culture and commitment" who used his office to help the most needy. The members of the order are expected to gather in Rome in the coming weeks to choose a new grand master, whose election must then be approved by the pope. Bertie, elected in 1988, came from a noble family and had a wide range of experience. He taught judo,

grew orange trees, served as an officer in the Scots Guard, spoke five languages and once worked as a financial journalist in London.

Teachers, Students Killed Near Shrine

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (CNS) — Catholics were among the 18 civilians killed and 14 wounded in a land-mine explosion near the Shrine of Our Lady of Madhu in Mannar, Sri Lanka. The Catholics killed Jan. 29 included 11 teachers and schoolchildren on a bus from a nearby Catholic school. A school staff

member and a Catholic nun were among the 14 wounded. "It happened within 1 kilometer of the shrine," Father Emilianuspillai Santhiapillai, administrator of the Marian shrine, told the Asian Church news agency *UCA News* by telephone. "We managed to remove the bodies of the girls and boys and injured teachers, under shelling," he said in a faint voice, calling it a "horrible scene." He said the bodies were taken to the shrine after the attack. Families claimed bodies there, then took them home for "home rituals," he said, adding that all the bodies would be buried at the shrine's cemetery.

Caisson Padre



CNS/COURTESY MSGR. BRIAN DONAHUE

Msgr. Brian Donahue, vicar general of the Diocese of Fargo, N.D., and pastor of two parishes, celebrates Mass in Iraq in 2005. Msgr. Donahue wants to do a second tour of duty as a military chaplain in Iraq. Msgr. Donahue, 52, has put in the paperwork and is awaiting fitness tests given by the military. He said he will probably know the Army's answer by Easter.

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British Politician Deplores Decision About Hybrids

By Simon Caldwell

LONDON — A Catholic politician has complained to Britain's attorney general about the decision to allow scientists to experiment on human-animal hybrids before the House of Commons had the chance to vote on the practice.

Jim Dobbin, a Catholic, and Ian Gibson, both members of the governing Labor Party, said in a letter to Baroness Scotland of Asthal that the issuing of licenses to two research centers in England to carry out work on cytoplasmic hybrids before a legal framework had been established to permit such research had made a "mockery" of Parliament.

As the attorney general, Baroness Scotland, a Catholic, is the main legal

adviser to the British government.

"It makes a mockery of Parliament to have an unelected body prejudging the will of the [House of] Commons prior to the *Human Fertilization and Embryology Bill* being debated," the legislators wrote in their letter.

The pair added that, "in practice, it creates a precedent for the pre-emption of government legislation."

The Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority granted the licenses to King's College London and Newcastle University Jan. 17, two days after the House of Lords voted in favor of experiments on human-animal "chimeras" that would be destroyed within 14 days of their creation.

The proposals, contained in the

Human Fertilization and Embryology Bill, must pass from the House of Lords to the House of Commons before they can become law later this year.

The legislators' letter was sent Jan. 22 but was released to *Catholic News Service* Feb. 1, after the attorney general replied to say she would relay the concerns of the two men to the Department of Health.

A cytoplasmic hybrid is an embryo that is 99.9 percent human. It is formed by injecting a human nucleus and cytoplasm into a hollowed-out animal ovum.

Plans to create and destroy such embryos have been severely criticized by Catholic leaders in Britain.

Catholic News Service

Archbishop Speaks About Coach, Conscience, Catholic Identity

ST. LOUIS — People who represent Catholic institutions have an obligation to "show respect for the teachings of the Church" and not to take public positions contrary to those teachings, Archbishop Raymond L. Burke of St. Louis said in an interview with the *St. Louis Review*, his archdiocesan newspaper.

In the interview published on Feb. 1, the archbishop discussed comments in favor of abortion and stem-cell research made by Rick Majerus, the men's basketball coach at Jesuit-run St. Louis University, during an impromptu television interview Jan. 19.

But the archbishop also expanded the discussion to include questions of conscience and Catholic identity.

"Here is someone who makes a point to identify himself as a Catholic and then takes positions that are contrary to some of the most sacred teachings of the Church — teachings with regard to the inviolable dignity of every human life from the moment of its beginning," Archbishop Burke said of Majerus.

"It gives scandal to other people, Catholics and non-Catholics alike, if they hear a Catholic give an interview to the media, saying that I am proud to be a Catholic but at the same time I hold these views," he said.

"Whatever his personal positions may be in regard to procured abortion or embryonic stem-cell research, he's obliged as a public figure from a Catholic university to show respect for the teachings of the Church. For him to say these things brought my concern to a new level."

Archbishop Burke said he would have been concerned about Majerus' remarks even if he were not Catholic.

"He still represents a Catholic institution, and so even though he might belong to some faith or belief that accepts procured abortion, he would be obliged to respect the fact that the Catholic Church ... teaches that abortion is an intrinsic evil; and therefore he would not publicly espouse such positions," he said.

Catholic News Service

Pope Benedict XVI Asks Religious to Help Laypeople Draw Closer to Bible

By Cindy Wooden

VATICAN CITY — Marking the feast of the Presentation of the Lord and the annual celebration of the World Day for Consecrated Life, Pope Benedict XVI asked members of religious orders to help laypeople draw closer to the Bible.

The pope said that, as the Catholic Church prepares for the October world Synod of Bishops on the Bible, consecrated men and women should help other members of the Church learn to pray with the Bible and to draw direction for their lives from the Scriptures.

At the foundation of each religious order, there was a strong inspiration from the Gospel, the pope said Feb. 2, joining the religious in St. Peter's Basilica after they had celebrated Mass.

"The Holy Spirit draws some people to live the



Gospel in a radical way and to translate it into a more generous form of discipleship," he said.

"Following Christ without compromise, as proposed by the Gospel, has been the ultimate and supreme rule in religious life throughout the centuries," the pope told the religious.

The pope asked the consecrated men and women to "nourish your day with prayer, meditation and listening to the word of God. You who have familiarity with the ancient practice of *lectio divina* (praying with Scripture) should help the faithful appreciate it in their own daily lives."

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U.S. Mission Directors Leave Rome Convinced Their Efforts Are Working

By John Thavis

VATICAN CITY — A pilgrimage of U.S. mission directors left Rome with a sense that their efforts are making a difference in the Universal Church, participants said.

Msgr. John E. Kozar, national director of the pontifical missionary societies in the United States, led about 140 diocesan directors to Rome Jan. 29-Feb. 5 for Vatican meetings, workshops on communications, and visits to Assisi and other pilgrim spots.

'These are really tomorrow's leaders in those mission countries, and we're helping to make that possible.'

The goal was twofold: providing the spiritual uplift of a pilgrimage and energizing participants as missionaries by bringing them to the Church's international center.

Msgr. Kozar said what struck him during their stay was that people from mission countries are now assuming leadership roles in the Universal Church. Many are studying in Rome, while others are representing their countries in various roles at the Vatican, he said.

He met with about 80 missionary sisters from Africa and Asia, including China and Vietnam, and said he was "overwhelmed" by the spirit of thankfulness among them.

"These are really tomorrow's leaders in

those mission countries, and we're helping to make that possible," he said.

The pontifical missionary societies unite four Church agencies involved in mission education and fundraising activities. Their role is to animate and educate people about missionary efforts, ask people to pray for the missions and encourage cooperation, including financial support.

This year, the U.S. societies are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the United States no longer being considered "mission territory." For the last 100 years, Msgr. Kozar said, U.S. Catholics have been giving back to the Universal Church.

Msgr. Kozar got confirmation that U.S. contributions are appreciated in Rome during a brief meeting with Pope Benedict XVI.

"The Holy Father personally expressed to me his very warm thanks and appreciation and love to all of us as his collaborators, and spoke highly of the generosity of the people of the United States," he said.

Msgr. Kozar said similar appreciation was expressed in meetings with the pontifical missionary societies' international secretariat in Rome.

In some ways, however, the Church in the United States is today on the receiving end from mission countries, Msgr. Kozar said.

"We now have thousands of missionaries in the United States from these same countries that we were able to help in the last 100 years, and are relying more and more on them," he said.

"So Pentecost continues, that's the way we say it," he said.

Catholic News Service

A G'day, Mate



Aboriginal men watch Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd apologize to indigenous Australians on a big screen outside Parliament House in Canberra Feb. 13.

CNS/MIK TSUKAS REUTERS

Israel OKs Multiple-Entry Visas for 'High-Ranking' Church Workers

JERUSALEM — The Israeli Ministry of the Interior has agreed to provide multiple-entry visas to "high-ranking Church personnel" who must travel in and out of Israel for their work.

In a letter to Archbishop Antonio Franco, papal nuncio to Israel and the Palestinian territories, Interior Minister Meir Sheetrit said the Church would need to submit a list of such personnel to be "checked and approved" by the ministry before the multiple-entry visas would be issued. Sheetrit said all other religious who need to leave Israel for work would be able to apply and receive re-entry visas to Israel before departure from the country, thus avoiding the complication of having to apply for such a visa from outside Israel.

Emergency cases would be treated as such and would be dealt with "immediately and on the spot," wrote Sheetrit.

However, Archbishop Franco said the Church "was not fully pleased with the changes." He said, "Even parish priests need to move around. In the Latin patriarchate, they have many meetings and pastoral duties. [The priests] do not fit into [the category] of VIPs. The practicality, it is not there."

Catholic News Service

Pope Reduces Waiting Period for Sister Lucia

COIMBRA, Portugal — Pope Benedict XVI has lifted the five-year waiting period to start the canonization process for Carmelite Sister Lucia dos Santos, one of the three children who saw Our Lady of Fatima in 1917.

The decision means that the diocesan phase of the sainthood process can begin immediately.

Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, head of the Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes, made the announcement at a Feb. 13 Mass in Coimbra commemorating the third anniversary of Sister Lucia's death.

The cardinal said Pope Benedict had reduced to three years the waiting period so the Diocese of Coimbra, where Fati-

ma is located, can begin the initial phase of the sainthood investigation. Bishop Albino Mamede Cleto of Coimbra, supported by other bishops, had asked for the reduction.

On May 13, 1917, when Sister Lucia was 10 years old, she and her cousins — Francisco, 9, and Jacinta, 7 — claimed to have seen Mary at Fatima, near their home.

The apparitions continued once a month until October 1917 and later were declared worthy of belief by the Catholic Church.

In 2000, Pope John Paul II beatified Sister Lucia's cousins, who died as children.

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Church Must Mend Split Between African and Arabic Countries

By Bronwen Dachs

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — Church structures in North Africa need strengthening so that the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar can represent “all of Africa, as is intended,” said the symposium’s president, Tanzanian Cardinal Polycarp Pengo.

“We cannot come out with a continental voice until the split is mended” between what is considered “black Africa” and countries “that seem more Arabic than African,” such as Egypt, Morocco and Algeria, Cardinal Pengo said in a Feb. 8 telephone interview from Johannesburg, where SECAM’s standing committee met Feb. 4-7.

GLOBAL SOLIDARITY

Cardinal Pengo, the archbishop of Dar es Salaam, said North African countries do not contribute to SECAM, and “we want them to realize that we consider them part of Africa.”

Cardinal Pengo said members of the standing committee also sent messages of condolence to Catholics in Kenya and

Chad, where political violence has claimed hundreds of lives.

“The situation in Kenya is very worrying,” he said, noting that “people are dying while its leaders fight for political position.”

Archbishop Gabriel Palmer-Buckle of Accra, Ghana, said that besides trying to increase communication with Catholic organizations on other continents, SECAM “is trying to increase the effectiveness of its justice, peace and development work.”

“As Africa moves toward democratization, the ordinary African’s voice needs to be heard at a national political level” and the Church’s justice and peace structures are a way to achieve this, he said in a Feb. 7 telephone interview from Johannesburg.

“Every diocese has a justice and peace commission, but many are dormant, and they need to be more active and aware of issues in their areas,” since these groups “are able to reach people at a parish level and to lobby locally” on issues of social justice, the bishop said.

“We need to bring the Church into the mainstream of politics, so we can bring our salt to bear,” he said, noting that the Church should use its “energy to revitalize social, political and cultural affairs.”

Catholic News Service



PREPARING TO FIGHT: Members of the Kisii tribe prepare to fight a battle with those in the Kalenjin tribe in the town of Chepilat, west of Nairobi, Kenya, Feb. 3.

ONSPETER ANDREWS/REUTERS



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God Magnet

After her first- and second-grade students at St. Joan of Arc School in St. Louis did an experiment on magnetism in science class, teacher Karen Mason used their religion class to talk about the spiritual concept of magnetic pull.

Mason told her students they can influence others by their actions, thus pulling them closer to God. "It's not just that we're stuck to the God magnet. We're stuck to each other. When you use manners and kind words, you're bringing each other closer to God."

She also spoke of what can pull students away from God, and urged them to resist those pulls, telling them that instead of watching a mindless or inappropriate television show, they should read a book, pray or enjoy nature.

"Be drawn by good friends who make good choices," Mason added.

The classroom links between science lessons and faith are part of a pilot program, "Exploring the World, Discovering God," sponsored by the Institute for Theological Encounter With Science and Technology. Currently, the program is being used in about a dozen schools, mostly in the St. Louis Archdiocese but also in schools in Texas, Kansas and Michigan.

The program is currently in use in kindergarten through fourth-grade classes, and teachers are being sought for workshops for fifth through eighth grades. An advisory council of scientists, theologians and educators is helping to shape the materials.

'Foosball' Isn't the Devil

While the NFL and advertisers used Super Bowl XLII as a chance to further their enterprises and increase profits, some Benedictine sisters in Phoenix used the big game as an opportunity to further the work of the Catholic Church in spreading the Gospel.

By turning their Our Lady of Guadalupe Monastery and Retreat Center into an affordable hotel for football fans, the sisters raised much-needed funds for expansion, increased awareness of and promoted religious life, and established vocation and retreat contacts.

"Really, we did it as a fundraiser," said Sister Linda Campbell, prioress of the

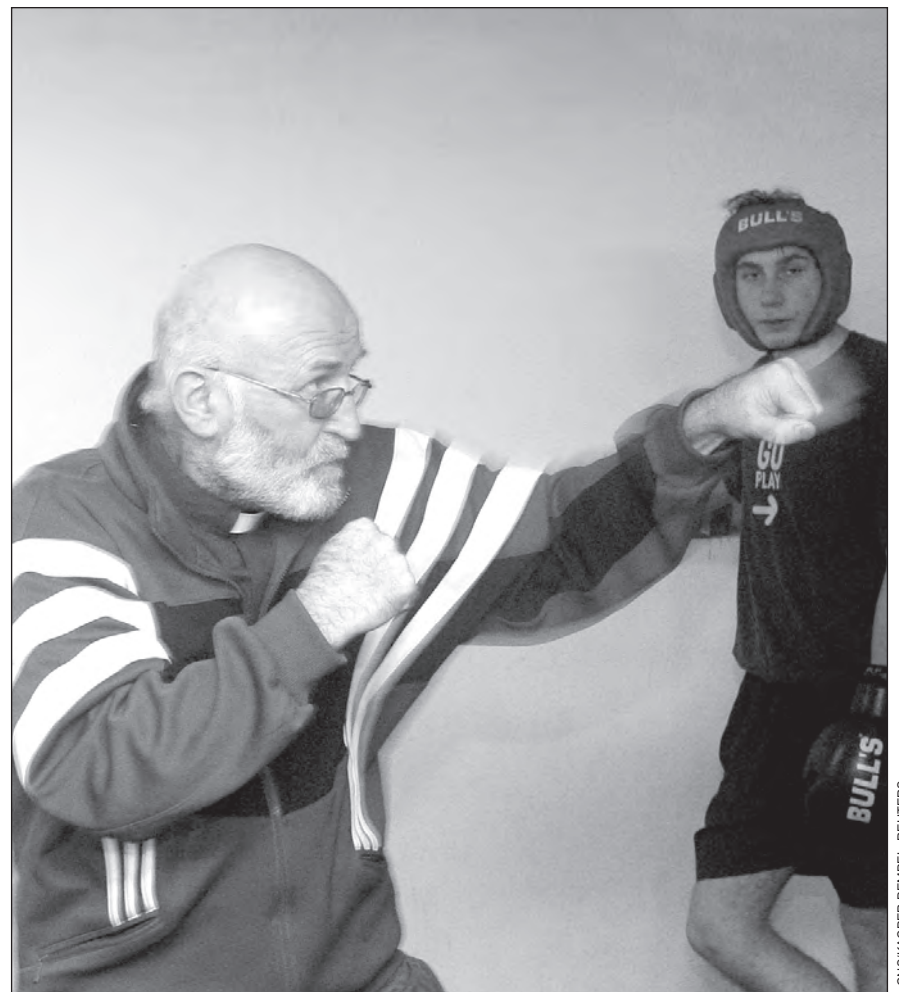
monastery.

Sister Linda, a season-ticket holder for the Arizona Cardinals, knew football fans would appreciate the 3.5-mile drive from the Phoenix monastery to the Super Bowl's playing field at the University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale.

The sisters opened their 10 retreat rooms — that feature twin beds, a shared bathroom and no TV or phone — to 20 fans, who filled the rooms.

The football fans — who included a blend of New England Patriots and New York Giants fans — got a decent deal on a room and the sisters raised \$10,000.

Rocky XVIII



Father Zbigniew Dudek shows teenagers how to box at a boxing club in Maslonskie, in southern Poland, Jan. 21. The Catholic priest teaches boxing in his free time, believing that the sport — a "discipline" rather than a fight — develops universal characteristics useful in everyday life as well as in faith.

ONS/KACPER PEMPEL, REUTERS

Q Quotable Quotes Q

Custom-Made Children

"The right to a 'custom-made child' is merely the natural extension of our current discourse of reproductive rights. [There is] no virtue in the role of chance in conception, and great virtue in expanding choice. [...] embryos and fetuses are biological property and parents should be allowed to modify or terminate them as they see fit If women are to be allowed the 'reproductive right' or 'choice' to choose the father of their child, with his attendant characteristics, then they should be allowed the right to choose the characteristics from a catalog."

J. Hughes in "Embracing Change with All Four Arms: A Post-Humanist Defense of Genetic Engineering"

"In our lifetime, the natural relations between sex and procreation, personal identity and embodiment, and human agency and human achievement have all been profoundly altered by new biomedical technologies Virtually unnoticed, the train to Huxley's dehumanized Brave New World has already left the station."

Leon Kass, former chairman of the President's Council on Bioethics in the United States

iPadre

Thanks to the Internet and modern technology, people around the globe can now hear the words of a Rhode Island priest aimed at inspiring his listeners.

Father Jay Finelli, pastor of Holy Ghost Church in Tiverton, began recording Catholic-themed podcasts — an Internet form of a radio show — in 2005 under the name of iPadre. He initially produced two podcasts that year, and created a weekly show this past fall.

A podcast is a digital media file, or a series of such files, that is distributed over the Internet using syndication feeds for playback on personal media players, such as iPods, and personal computers.

Now the iPadre Catholic podcast is an affiliate of SQPN, the *Star Quest Podcast Network*, an international Catholic Internet podcast site. Unlike conventional radio shows, which are broadcast

at a set time, podcasts can be downloaded and played at any time, even while a listener is jogging or shopping in a supermarket.

Father Finelli records the broadcasts on Sunday evenings, and the programs can be downloaded to a computer or iPod a few hours later. They're available online at: www.iPadre.net.

Father Finelli said he has heard from listeners in several states and from as far away as Zagreb, Croatia. Some have written to him about their return to the Church, while non-Catholic listeners have expressed a desire to learn more about Catholicism.

The technology-savvy priest noted that his audience has climbed steadily since he started broadcasting. His show now attracts more than 800 listeners each week.

Briefs

Magnificat Location Changed for Feb. 23

SAN DIEGO — The location has been changed for the Saturday, Feb. 23, prayer breakfast sponsored by the Central San Diego chapter of Magnificat. Derry Connolly, founder and president of San Diego's John Paul the Great Catholic University, will be the guest speaker at the 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. breakfast, which will now be held at the Mission Valley Resort, 875 Hotel Circle South. Registration: \$23. To RSVP, call (619) 463-7713. For information, call (619) 583-3389.

Chargers QB Rivers to Speak at Breakfast

ESCONDIDO — Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers will be the guest speaker at the next Benedictus breakfast, March 29,



PHILIP RIVERS

at the California Center for the Arts. A Mass will be celebrated at 8 a.m. Breakfast will be served and Rivers will speak from 8:45-11 a.m. Cost: \$25, adult; \$20 (age 16 and under). Payment must be received by March 1. No at-the-door sales. The California Center for the Arts is located at 340 N. Escondido Blvd. in Escondido. For information, visit www.Benedictus1.com or call (760) 451-0830.

Online Education and Resources for Catholics

BELLEVUE, Wash. — If religious formation does not come up to the general level of secular education, Catholics will find themselves unable to defend their beliefs. The Catholic Education Resource Center (CERC) is dedicated to remedying this situation. The CRC is a free and

easily accessible on-line resource library that boasts the best in Catholic faith and culture. For more information, visit www.catholiceducation.org and subscribe to the free CERC Bi-Weekly Update.

Women's Vocation Retreat Feb. 23

BONITA, Calif. — Are you a young woman age 17-35 interested in finding out more about consecrated life? The Sister Servants of the Blessed Sacrament will host a Day of Discernment in Bonita from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Feb. 23. For information, contact Father Anthony Saroki at (619) 291-7452 or Sister Aurora Lopez-Ornelas at (760) 554-8312.

'Theology of the Body' with Bishop Cordileone

SAN DIEGO — San Diego Auxiliary Bishop Salvatore Cordileone will give a presentation of Pope John Paul II's *Theology of the Body* as it relates to Responsible Parenthood on Friday, March 14, in the St. Gregory the Great Parish Hall, from 7 - 9 p.m. The Knights of Columbus will host a Fish Fry in conjunction with the talk in the hall at 6 p.m. Tickets for the Fish Fry can be purchased at the door for \$6 for adults, or \$3 for children 6 and under. The talk is free and will include a Q&A session. Free babysitting is also available during the talk for the first 20 children signed up. St. Gregory's is located at 11451 Blue Cypress Dr., San Diego. To register for babysitting or RSVP for the event, please call the office at (858) 653-3540.

'April in Paris' Mercy Ball April 12

SAN DIEGO — The 38th annual Mercy Ball, "April in Paris," supporting Scripps Mercy Hospital in San Diego and Chula Vista will be held Saturday, April 12, at the Manchester Grand Hyatt. Amid the sights and sounds of

'Voices for Children'



COURTESY VOICES FOR CHILDREN

SAN DIEGO — Currently, there are some 7,500 children, age newborn to 18 years, in the foster care system of San Diego County. Every month, 200 more abused children enter the foster care system. Foster children are victims, not delinquents. They are victims of neglect, abuse and abandonment who are paying the price for the misdeeds of the adults in their lives. Voices for Children, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, endeavors to ensure that abused, neglected and abandoned children who have become dependents of the San Diego County Court will have a safe and permanent home. Through its network of trained and educated volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs), Voices for Children works with key agencies, legal counsel and community resources to identify and protect the best interests of each child inside and outside of court. There will be an informational meeting on Monday, March 3, at 7 p.m. in the diocesan Pastoral Center for people who are interested in the CASA program.

The Southern Cross

Paris, guests will enjoy a live auction, fine cuisine and live entertainment. The black-tie affair raises funds for critical care services at Scripps Mercy Hospital. The event will honor San Diego developer

and philanthropist Conrad Prebys, who last year made a gift of \$10 million to support emergency and trauma services. For tickets, visit www.MercyBall.org or call (858) 678-6364.



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Third Thursday Mass & Adoration for Vocations

SAN DIEGO — The Office for Vocations has started a Third Thursday Mass and Adoration for Vocations, which will be held at a different location each month. The readings and prayers of the Mass will have a vocations theme. Mass starts at 7 p.m. and is followed by a 20-minute period of Eucharistic Adoration. Next location: Feb. 21, Our Mother of Confidence, 3131 Governor Dr., 92122. *For other dates, visit www.sandiegovocation.org/mass_adoration.php.*

Good Shepherd Evening with Dan Schutte

SAN DIEGO — Good Shepherd Parish will host an evening of Reflection and Insight with renowned liturgical composer Dan Schutte. Many of Schutte's most celebrated pieces, including "Here I Am, Lord," "City of God" and "Sing a New Song," come from his years of collaboration with the St. Louis Jesuits. Schutte will be performing live on Friday, April 4, at 7 p.m. at Good Shepherd Church, located at 8200 Gold Coast Dr. in the Mira Mesa area of San Diego, 92126. Tickets: \$10. On Saturday, April 5, Schutte will conduct a liturgical workshop from 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Registration for this event is \$25 and includes lunch. *For information, concert tickets or registration for the workshop, contact Romer Fajota at (858) 271-0207.*

Good Friday Walk with the Suffering

SAN DIEGO — The 17th annual Good Friday Walk with the Suffering will begin

at 8:30 a.m., Friday, March 21, at the San Diego Rescue Mission, located at 201 Elm St. and Second Avenue in downtown San Diego. The annual walk, coordinated by the Ecumenical Council of San Diego County, features students from two local Catholic high schools depicting scenes from Jesus' walk to Calvary on Good Friday. Walk participants stop outside various public venues in the downtown area, reflecting and praying about issues that create suffering in the community while the students act out a particular scene from Calvary on the back of a flatbed truck. The walk will conclude at the Rescue Mission where free parking will be available. *For more information, phone (619) 702-5399 or visit the Ecumenical Council Web site at www.ecsd.org.*

Obituaries

ASTON, Penn. — Sister Daniel Therese Coyle, OSF, died Jan. 19 in St. Ann Convent, Tacoma. She had been a professed member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia for 57 of her 82 years. Sister Daniel Therese (Brigid Mary Coyle) was born in Dublin, Ireland, where she was a member of Holy Family Parish. She ministered in the Diocese of San Diego for four years, where she taught at St. Mary Magdalene School (1960-64).

ADRIAN, Mich. — Sister Michael Mary Madden, formerly known as Mary Elizabeth Madden, died Jan. 30 at the Dominican Life Center. She had been a professed member of the Adrian Dominican Congregation for 70 of her 88 years. She was born in Chicago, Ill. to Michael and Kathryn (Collins) Madden. Among her numerous assignments, she was principal for six years at St. Mary Star of the Sea School in Oceanside.

Promoting Healing



COURTESY MARTHA LEPORE

SAN DIEGO — At the crossroads of misery and mercy, more than 100 Catholic men and women sought mercy at a diocesan divorce ministry workshop on Jan. 26. Participants came from San Diego and Orange counties as well as Los Angeles, looking for positive ways to handle the painful challenges of separation and divorce. The day-long event held at Holy Spirit Parish in San Diego featured testimonials and resource information from experts in the fields of divorce ministry, psychology, annulment, finance and law. Several attendees noted that they had felt more accepted in the Church than at any time since being divorced. The event was organized by Giovanna De Santi and DivorceCare teams from St. Luke Parish in Rancho San Diego and Sacred Heart in Coronado. *Pictured from left: attendees Anthony Romero and Frances Ferrari; presenter Rose Sweet; organizer Giovanna De Santi; and attendees Tom Bauer and Donalene Ferrer.*

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sessions. The course is concrete and practical, designed precisely as a workshop where the participants learn by working and work by learning. Workshops are offered in both English and Spanish. Local Catholics are invited to attend the workshop meetings, held every Thursday in English and Monday in Spanish. *For information, call (858) 373-8280.*

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'Synergy' Youth Gathering Tops Expectations

By Denis Grasska

CARMEL VALLEY — The diocesan Office for Youth Ministry hosted its third annual Synergy: A Catholic Youth Gathering Feb. 9 at Cathedral Catholic High School.

This year, some 1,200 Catholic teens registered for Synergy. The event drew about 100 local Catholic youth in its inaugural year and about 600 last year. The increasing attendance figures indicate its growing popularity in the Diocese of San Diego.

Most attendees are local high school students. Some are currently enrolled in confirmation classes, while others have already received the sacrament.

"The best thing about the event is being able to look around and see 1,200 teens worship the same way that you do," said Jeffrey Sinkiewicz, 17, a parishioner at St. Luke Parish in El Cajon. "Our theme today is 'One Body,' and today just proves it beyond all belief for me. We are One Body and, looking around, everybody's getting involved and nobody's being left out."

This year's event, which lasted from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., began with the first of two opportunities for praise and worship, and an opening prayer led by the youth themselves.

The keynote speaker was Doug Brummel of Lighten Up! Ministries, a national-

ly-known comedian who uses humor to evangelize.

Bishop Robert H. Brom presided at an 11 a.m. concelebrated Mass.

"Bishop Brom made it his mission to make sure that kids are important, because we are the future," said Sinkiewicz. "When he can take the time out of his extremely busy schedule to show up, in the back of our minds, we just feel that, wow, he does care about what we're doing here."

Annie Le, a 16-year-old Good Shepherd parishioner, found Brummel's presentation to be "really inspiring" and Bishop Brom's homily "very relatable."

"In the homily, Bishop Brom talked about how we should be the best of who we are and I think I can bring that back to my parish and start using my own talents to better our youth ministry and also maybe to connect with other youth," Le said.

She added, "Sometimes, we leave Jesus and God in the back of our mind, and I think it's good to have events like this to ... bring back our faith."

The event also included a concert by Catholic musician Josh Blakesley; witness talks by three local youth on how God has worked in their lives; a screening of a promotional DVD about Camp Emmaus, the diocese's annual summer leadership camp for Catholic youth; a presentation



SEEING THE FUTURE: Bishop Robert H. Brom chats with students during the lunch break at the third annual Synergy youth conference.

on vocations to the priesthood and religious life, delivered by Father Anthony Saroki, diocesan Director for Vocations; and a closing prayer led by Auxiliary Bishop Salvatore J. Cordileone, who has attended all three Synergy gatherings.

"Having our own youth rally, our own youth day here in San Diego is a blessing,"

said Marissa Esparza, director of the Youth Ministry Office. "It's definitely something that has been in the needs and the wants of many of us ministers for a long time. And it's definitely a really wonderful moment to see our kids come together all in one place."

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Bishop Brom Blesses All Hallows Parish's New Community Building

LA JOLLA — On Jan. 27, Bishop Robert H. Brom presided over Mass, and a dedication and blessing ceremony for the new All Hallows Parish community building located at the corner of Nautilus and La Jolla Scenic South. The church was filled to its 410-person capacity for the Mass that preceded the ceremony.

Joining Bishop Brom at the altar were Father Jerry O'Donnell, All Hallows pastor; Father Rowland DePeaux, visiting from Grand Rapids, Mich.; and Father Bob Gavotto, OSA, from St. Augustine High School in San Diego.

The All Hallows Parish children's and adult choirs performed at the Mass, and the All Hallows Academy Parent Teacher Group hosted a reception in the parish hall immediately following. Academy Principal Michael Durant attended the Mass and ceremony, as did former academy principals Thomas Mamara and Sister Kathleen Clausen.

During his sermon, Bishop Brom said that, much like the development and completion of the new parish building, good things take time. Despite society's current expectations for "instant gratification," Christian and Catholic teachings tell us that the best and most worthy rewards do not come without some sacrifice and pain. It is our faith that helps us

persevere, he said.

Father O'Donnell concluded the Mass by thanking all of those parishioners and others who donated millions of dollars to pay for the project and volunteered their time during the construction of the new building, which parishioners have dubbed "Catholic Corner." He also said that, since the new building houses many new classrooms and facilities for the academy, it was especially appropriate to dedicate the building on the Sunday kick-off to the national celebration of Catholic Schools Week.

The new All Hallows building adds nearly 13,000 sq. ft. to the All Hallows Parish campus. The church and academy began using the new building space in early January. The new facilities include: a fireside room which can be used as a small group prayer or meeting space, or as a location for families to prepare for weddings or funerals; a music room, to be used by the church choir and by the academy for music classes; new administrative offices and health center for the academy; a new lunch, meeting and work room for academy teachers; new rooms for the academy's Learning Center; new kindergarten space; a science lab and classroom; computer lab; and library.

The Southern Cross



COURTESY ALL HALLOWS PARISH

BLESSING COMMUNITY: Bishop Robert H. Brom stands with Father Jerry O'Donnell, pastor; Academy Principal Michael Durant; and students during the blessing of the new All Hallows building.

Brief

Bearing Witness Institute

SAN DIEGO — Bearing Witness, an interfaith program of the Diocese of San Diego and the Anti-Defamation League of San Diego, will be offered June 16-18.

The Bearing Witness Institute is a seminar about Holocaust education and anti-Semitism, and is available to all Catholic educators in San Diego. The summer institute is provided through a partnership between the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and the Catholic Diocese of San Diego and in coordination with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

"The program fosters a partnership, a sense of understanding, and a connectedness between the Catholic-Jewish communities," said Stevan Laaperi, diocesan director of schools. The deadline for applications is March 14. Fee is \$65. To receive an application, contact Marcie Denberg Serra, assistant director of education, at (619) 293-3770 or at mdenberg@adl.org.

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March 19, 2008

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Catholic Schools Week is an annual national celebration of the important role that Catholic elementary and secondary schools across the country play in providing a values-added education for America's young people.

Catholic schools are proud of their educational network that emphasizes intellectual, spiritual, moral, physical and social values in their students.

Catholic Schools Week this year was Jan. 27-Feb. 2. The theme was "Catholic Schools Light the Way."

Catholic schools provide faith formation and values. Teachers view the formation of Christian character as a non-negotiable, which is Gospel centered, environmental, cross-curricular and essential in this society where values are lacking.

According to the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA), in the United States, some 2,320,651 students are enrolled in Catholic schools: 1,682,412 in elementary and middle schools and 638,239 in high school.

There are 7,498 Catholic schools in the U.S.: 6,288 elementary and 1,210 secondary. In 2007, 36 new schools opened, while 212 schools closed or consolidated. Full-time equivalent professional staff numbered 159,135, and the average student/teacher ratio was 15:1.



Briefs

St. Augustine Will Host April Events

SAN DIEGO — The Big One is Saturday, April 12, on the St. Augustine High School campus, from 5:30 – 10:30 p.m. There will be live and silent auctions — over 10 trips and 100 baskets. Cocktails and dinner included. Attire is casual/dressy. Heels are discouraged. Cost is \$75/person or \$150/couple. The Ensenada trip is Saturday, April 26. For information, contact Casey Callery at the Saints Development Office at (619) 282-2184, ext. 5541 or ccallery@sahs.org.

Call for Entries: Catholic Educator of the Year

Catholic Family Life Insurance is seeking entries for an award program to recognize outstanding Catholic educators. Prizes include a \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond for the winning educator and a matching \$1,000 cash award for the educator's school. The 2008 award will recognize an educator working with students in Kindergarten through Grade 5 in a Catholic school. The winner will be determined by an independent panel of judges. Their decision will be based on the winning nominee's achievements during the 2007-2008 academic year, as well as his/her adherence to the school's mission. Only one nominee per school will be accepted per academic year. Next year, the society plans to honor a Grade 6 through 12 Catholic educator. For further information or to receive an official entry form, contact: The Fraternal Department, Catholic Family Life Insurance, P.O. Box 11563, Milwaukee, WI 53211, or phone toll-free (800) 227-2354, ext. 233, or visit www.cfli.org. The deadline for entries is April 10, 2008.

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Toys for Tots



COURTESY ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL

POWAY — St. Michael School's Mercy Corps presented several hundred toys to Corporal Mike Chilner and Sgt. Thomas Robinson of the San Diego County Marine Corps Reserves on Dec. 19, 2007. This is the first year the school has hosted a Toys for Tots drive. Composed of nine students selected by the school faculty, Mercy Corps organizes service projects both on and off campus. Mercy Corps is named in honor of the Sisters of Mercy who formerly staffed the school, and follows the ideal of living out the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. Pictured (from left) are Kaitlin Haupt, Grace Garcia, Lauren Park, Andrew Mock, Sgt. Robinson (USMC Reserves), Corporal Chilner (USMC Reserves), India Williamson, Diana Rossio, Melanie Barnes, Sandra Velasquez and Katie Epperson.

Holy Trinity School Helps The Poor

EL CAJON — This past holiday season, Holy Trinity School decided to help families in developing countries help themselves. Each class in the school raised money for an organization called "Heifer International" (www.heifer.org).

The money raised will go towards purchasing livestock and plants for people all over the world. Each class chose a different project. As a result, the students raised enough money to purchase: 4 tree seedlings,

2 bee hives, 1 llama, 11 flocks of chicks, 2 sheep, 2 heifers, 3 goats and 2 water buffalos.

On Feb. 7, a representative from Heifer International visited Holy Trinity School to accept the check and speak to the students and parents on behalf of the organization. Students enjoyed the presence of livestock on campus during the event, reminding them of the assistance they are providing to their less fortunate brothers and sisters.

The Southern Cross

Hi, My Friends!

I invite all of you to experience the wonderful spiritual journey of a lifetime in The Holy Land...walk where Jesus walked...where every page of the Bible comes alive...visiting beautiful and biblical historical sights. Accompany me in visiting the Sea of Galilee, Mount of Olives and the old city of Jerusalem. We will be visiting Bethlehem and the Church of the Nativity, as well as many other beautiful sights. It will be an unforgettable experience where we share our faith, our history, other cultures and languages. May God bless you for joining me on this beautiful pilgrimage and for your support to the Church.

Fr. Jose Castillo

The cost of the trip is \$3,061 including tips, taxes, hotel stay
breakfast and dinner daily.

For more information please call Gina Panzarini or Betty Contreras
at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel parish office (619) 428-1415 ext. 16.

'Heroes in Heaven' Vacation Bible School

MT. GILEAD, Ohio — "Heroes In Heaven," a Vacation Bible School program, provides a hands-on learning experience and teaches children about the saints.

The program was designed by Tammy Gabrelcik of Mt. Gilead, Ohio, who was inspired to create the program in 2000, when she discovered that the only Vacation Bible School programs available were non-denominational programs with minor adaptations to make them Catholic-friendly.

The Heroes In Heaven program follows the lives and lessons of the Catholic saints, using them to teach abstract ideas and reinforce catechism concepts. Each day of the five-day program is centered around one particular saint, and the program includes games, crafts, snacks, puppet shows, music and activities that help

children ages 4-12 understand the teachings and recognize the importance of that saint.

"So often, I think, the catechism just isn't sticking with our children," said Gabrelcik, "and the lives of the saints just get put on the shelf ... but they're so important."

The Heroes in Heaven program package includes an introduction booklet with detailed instructions; lesson plans and suggestions for instructors of the program; and five booklets, each focusing on five different saints. The package also includes a music CD, DVD and image CD to supplement the booklets.

For information or to order the *Heroes In Heaven* package, visit heroesinheaven.com or call (419) 768-2677.

The Southern Cross

Academy of Our Lady of Peace Spring FUNRaisers

SAN DIEGO — The Academy of Our Lady of Peace will host Casino Night on Friday, April 4, from 6 – 10 p.m. at the Holy Family Event Center on campus, at 4860 Oregon St. The theme of the evening is "Luck Be a Lady." The event will feature 16 game tables, a silent auction, and a buffet dinner with drinks. Cost is \$75/person, which includes \$200 in "Casino Money." On Friday, April 25, OLP will hold its 17th annual Golf Tournament, beginning with 7:30 a.m. registration and 8:30 a.m. Shotgun Start, at the Steele Canyon Golf Course, Rancho San Diego. The event will be a Four-Player-Scramble. Cost is \$150/player before April 10 (\$165 after), and includes green fees, cart, continental breakfast, goody bag and BBQ buffet. For information on both events, contact the OLP Development Office at (619) 297-2537.

Jubilee



Our Lady of Grace School held its 50-year jubilee, Jan. 27. Pictured, eight members of the Class of 1977 during the anniversary celebration.

COURTESY OUR LADY OF GRACE SCHOOL

Sacred Heart Teachers Are #1



During Catholic Schools Week at Sacred Heart School in Coronado, students participated in the annual science fair, an all-school talent show and Crazy Socks and Hat Day. Students also enjoyed ice cream treats on No Homework Day, shared a Chili Feast with parents, and surprised teachers with thank-you cards and gifts at the end of the week. Pictured, Kindergarten students let everyone know that Sacred Heart teachers are #1.

COURTESY SACRED HEART SCHOOL, CORONADO

Director for the Office of Campus and Young Adult Ministry

The Catholic Diocese of Richmond seeks a full-time Director for the Office of Campus and Young Adult Ministry. The director is responsible for coordinating the diocesan ministry to and with the young adults on the college and university campuses of the diocese and in the parishes.

The director works and coordinates programming with all the campus ministers in the diocese. The director also oversees the Encounter with Christ program, Campus Leadership training, the Young Adult Convention and the administration of the office. Qualifications include a Master's Degree in ministry or a closely related degree; five or more years professional campus ministry experience; good grasp of pastoral theology; strong administrative, leadership and communication skills; good interpersonal and collaborative skills; and a working knowledge of computer software applications.

The candidate must be an active practicing Catholic. Good benefits package and salary commensurate with experience. Closing date is March 14, 2008.

Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and diocesan application to pbarkster@richmonddiocese.org or mail to:

**P. Barkster, HR Administration Coordinator,
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'Spring Forward' Offers Insights into Teachings of the Faith

By Mary Jo Waggoner

PASTORAL CENTER — The Office for Evangelization and Catechetical Ministry held its annual mid-year catechetical conference, "Spring Forward," on Jan. 26 at the St. Therese Parish social center.

The conference was well attended by the catechetical ministry communities from parishes around the diocese.

The keynote speaker was Sister Maureen Sullivan, OP, Ph.D., a faculty member of St. Anselm College Theology Department. Sister Sullivan has authored two books: *101 Questions and Answers on Vatican II* and *The Road to Vatican II: Key Changes in Theology*. She spoke on "Preparing the People of God for the 21st Century Church, Announcers of a New Pentecost."

"One of the biggest problems we find in our Church is religious illiteracy," said Sister Sullivan. "Many of our

Catholics today do not know the teachings of their faith. Even though the 16 documents of the Vatican II Council were printed in 1965, many of our faithful are unaware of its teachings," she said. "The documents of Vatican II are the greatest story never told. Where pre-Vatican II was apologetic teaching via memorization, head knowledge; there was not enough emphasis placed on heart knowledge. Our faith was not reaching our hearts."

"Pope John XXIII, in beginning a new council, meant there to be a New Pentecost, an opening of the windows, bringing the Holy Spirit into the institutional Church. To do this, we need to bring back an understanding of 'Church,'" said Sister Sullivan. "Vatican II asked us to live in close union with our contemporaries and proclaim the Gospel to the world — an Incarnational theology. Just as Jesus became incarnate, we need

to bring our theology into incarnation, into the world."

"Vatican II was a decisive turning point in the Church, it was not a break with the past but emphasizes that we must be signs of hope for the 21st century. We must be familiar with the *Dogmatic Constitution of the Church*. It is the Church's 'magna carta,'" emphasized Sister Sullivan.

"As in all teachings by Ecumenical Councils, we are bound by the teachings of Vatican II, so we must read the documents and then live by them," she continued. "The most important person present at the Vatican II Council was the Holy Spirit, faithfully guiding the Church, the bride of Christ, to a New Pentecost. Through the faithful reading and study of the Vatican II documents, we can truly be a faithful Church and announcers of the New Pentecost."

The Southern Cross

Ignatian Volunteers Find New Wealth in 'Retired' Life of Service

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO — The Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) offers retired men and women, age 50 and above, a unique opportunity to serve the poor and experience spiritual growth.

For a 10-month period, IVC volunteers spend two days each week working for a local organization that addresses the issue of poverty. Meanwhile, the spiritual component of the program requires them to reflect on their experiences through prayer, journal writing, monthly meetings and an annual retreat.

Each month, volunteers meet individually with a "spiritual reflector," an expert in Ignatian spirituality, who helps them to use their service opportunities

as a means of growing closer to God. Volunteers also attend monthly group meetings with fellow IVC volunteers, during which they discuss their volunteer experiences and common reading material.

According to a recent survey, commissioned by the IVC, volunteers are overwhelmingly happy with the IVC and their experience with the program.

"I am absolutely delighted with the results of the CARA survey," said Margie Carroll, who in September became IVC regional director for San Diego. The study "reflects that Ignatian Volunteers are people who find greater fulfillment in their retirement years by using their experiences in varied fields to

'give back' to society, put their faith into action, and grow in social justice."

For more information on the IVC, visit www.ivcusa.org. To ask a question about the IVC, arrange to attend one of its monthly meetings or speak to an IVC vol-

unteer, contact Margie Carroll, regional director, at (619) 881-9509 or mcarroll@ivcusa.org; or Pat Doyle, regional coordinator, at (858) 715-0900 or pdoyle@ivcusa.org.

The Southern Cross

IN LOVING Memory

INTO THY HANDS, O Lord, we commend the spirits of these beloved ones who are gone before us into the realm of thy eternal happiness and peace. AMEN

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Boschetto, Mary	Jan. 18	Blessed Sacrament
Dougan, Lillian	Jan. 18	St. Didacus
Mendoza, Mary	Jan. 25	Goodbody Mortuary Chapel
Taylor, Margaret	Jan. 28	Goodbody Mortuary Chapel
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African American Revival Reveals Faithful as Universal 'Tapestry'

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO — The Diocese of San Diego's annual African American Revival took place Jan. 28-30 at Christ the King Parish.

Coordinated by the diocesan Commission for African American Catholics and the diocesan Office for Cultural Diversity, the three-day event provided opportunities for fellowship, Bible study, sermons and songs.

The location of the revival alternates each year between three parishes with large African American populations: Christ the King, St. Rita and Holy Spirit.

This year's theme was "Transformed by the Renewing of Your Mind."

The presider was Father Anthony Bozeman, a national speaker and revivalist who serves as pastor of St. Joan of Arc Parish in New Orleans. Music was provided by the St. Rita Choir, Christ the King Gospel Choir and Christ the King Youth Choir.

"We are one segment of a beautiful

tapestry that makes up the Universal Catholic Church, and we bring our own culture, our own ways of expression," Father Bozeman said. "The revival is an opportunity to come together in the African American Catholic style of worship to refortify yourself, to reinvigorate yourself, so that you can go out and be a witness and a leaven to our society."

Deacon Harry Guess of Christ the King Parish, who serves as the clergy representative for the Commission for African American Catholics, said the revival drew some 750 people. Father Bozeman said only about 60 percent of attendees were African American, while the remaining 40 percent represented "a lot of other cultures."

"The purpose of the event is to raise the spiritual awareness and get our parishioners excited about Christ and His message," said Don Long, chairman of the Commission for African American Catholics. "Attendees come from parishes as far as Escondido and Imperial Beach as well as East County."



DENIS GRASSKA

REVIVAL: The choir processes into Christ the King Church Jan. 30 on the final night of the African American Revival.

Attendees also came from Imperial Valley on the first two nights and from St. Christopher Parish in the Diocese of San Bernardino on the third night.

Auxiliary Bishop Salvatore Cordileone was present for the entire first night and delivered an opening blessing to attendees.

"It is my sincere hope that this time of revival will be a time of spiritual renewal as we enter the season of Lent," said Father Tommie Jennings, pastor of Christ the King and a self-described "active attendee, firm supporter and prayer partner" of the revival.

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VATICAN Board Game Unlocks the 'Secrets of How Men Become Pope'

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO — The papacy is an awesome responsibility, and the prospect of becoming pope has reminded more than a few great men of their shortcomings and inadequacies.

Upon his own election, Pope John Paul I reportedly said, "May God forgive you for what you have done in my regard." More recently, Pope Benedict XVI said he was comforted by "the fact that the Lord knows how to work and to act, even with insufficient instruments."

But while the real-life papacy is certainly not a game, the same is not true of "VATICAN: Unlock the Secrets of How Men Become Pope," a papal election board game created by Stephen Haliczzer, Ph.D., and published by the College of DuPage Press.

VATICAN is a game for two to six players, who assume the roles of prominent, fictional cardinals viewed as possible papal contenders. To win, a cardinal must earn the support of at least two-thirds of the 150 cardinals voting in the simulated papal conclave.

According to the instruction booklet, "VATICAN is a simulation of processes and events that are in reality far more complex and nuanced than in the game." Though "designed for enjoyment," the simulations are "distillations from the recent history of papal elections," which the game's creator and publisher hope will also provide players with "some solid knowledge along the way."

There are three phases in the game. The first phase makes



use of a game board, while the second and third phases are played exclusively with the game's card decks.

During the first phase, "Life and Career," players establish some of their character's key biographical details, as well as their credentials for the papacy.

In the second phase, "Electoral Run-Up," players have an opportunity to grow in prominence as they stand up to scrutiny from the press and their fellow cardinals during the nine days between the death of the pope and the beginning of the papal conclave.

The objective of the first two phases is to acquire Influence Points, which are converted at the end of each phase into Cardinal Votes.

The third and final phase is set during the conclave itself, when players must earn the remaining Cardinal Votes

needed to emerge from the conclave as the next pontiff.

The game is clearly intended to be an entertaining, educational and interactive experience of the process by which the Catholic Church elects its popes. But potential players should be warned that some of the cards present scenarios that might strike some players as morbid, unduly tongue-in-cheek or uncomfortably realistic.

For example, among the various possible scenarios for the end of the previous papacy are death by assassination and ailments ranging from pneumonia, heart attack and lung cancer to the West Nile and Ebola viruses. One scenario even has the pope dying after an accident in which "the popemobile rolls over after hitting a truck carrying bananas."

Several of the Career Events cards, which add to or subtract from a player's Influence Points, directly reference how the player's character handled clerical sex abuse cases within his archdiocese. With the wounds of the sex scandals still so fresh, some Catholics might reasonably feel that this particular subject does not lend itself well to a board game.

Still, the game does serve a valuable role as an educational tool and might prove to be an enjoyable way for Catholics to learn more about one of their Church's foundational institutions.

For more information or to order a copy of "VATICAN: Unlock the Secrets of How Men Become Pope," visit www.vaticanboardgame.com or call (800) 290-4474.

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Spirits, Spartans and Hannah Montana — Something for Everyone

NEW YORK — The following are capsule reviews of movies recently reviewed by the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

“The Eye”

(Lionsgate/Paramount Vantage) Reasonably effective suspense yarn about a blind concert violinist (Jessica Alba) who, after receiving corneal transplants, begins to envision harrowing scenes of devastation and spectral spirits for reasons she connects with her anonymous eye donor, while she tries to convince others that she's not hallucinating. Acceptable for older teens. *USCCB classification — adults. MPAA rating — PG-13.*

“Fool’s Gold”

(Warner Bros.) Sparring treasure hunter (Matthew McConaughey) and ex-spouse (Kate Hudson) join forces with a billionaire (Donald Sutherland) and his pampered daughter (Alexis

Dziena) to seek ancient treasure in the waters off a Caribbean island before a gangster (Kevin Hart) and the hunter's former mentor (Ray Winstone) get to it first. *USCCB classification — adults. MPAA rating — PG-13.*

“Hannah Montana & Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert”

(Disney) Refreshingly innocent live-performance feature capturing singing star Miley Cyrus' 69-city tour during which she appeared both as herself and as her Disney Channel television persona, Montana. The film also showcases Miley's life behind the scenes, practicing guitar, rehearsing routines and dashing through a breakneck costume change. *USCCB classification — general patronage. MPAA rating — G.*

“In Bruges”

(Focus) After a heinous murder, a mobster (Ralph Fiennes) orders his two



DO YOU SEE WHAT EYE SEE? Alessandro Nivola and Jessica Alba stare grimly in a scene from “The Eye.”

Irish hit men (Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson) to go into hiding in the medieval Belgian city — an experience that proves transformative for both of them. Pervasive rough language, violence with bloodshed, drug use and sexual situations. *USCCB classification — limited adult audience. MPAA rating — R.*

“Meet the Spartans”

(20th Century Fox) Lame parody of “300” in which the king of ancient Sparta (Sean Maguire) leaves his realm in the care of his queen (Carmen Electra) while he leads a small band of warriors against the aggressive ruler of Persia (Ken Davitian). Rear and partial upper and frontal female nudity, much crude language, and sexual and bathroom humor. *USCCB classification — limited adult audience. MPAA rating — PG-13.*

“Over Her Dead Body”

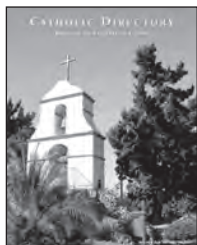
(New Line) Bland romantic comedy about a psychic (Lake Bell) who falls in

love with her reluctant client (Paul Rudd), grieving for his fiancée who died on their wedding day, and how the ghost of the intended bride (Eva Longoria Parker) jealously tries to sabotage the budding romance. Some profanity, passing sexual and gay references, and brief partial female nudity. *USCCB classification — adults. MPAA rating — PG-13.*

“Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins”

(Universal) Unruly family farce in which a successful TV talk-show host (Martin Lawrence), accompanied by his controlling fiancée (Joy Bryant), returns to his parents' (James Earl Jones and Margaret Avery) home in Georgia to attend their 50th wedding anniversary, only to encounter a host of eccentric relatives and resume a rivalry with his orphaned cousin (Cedric the Entertainer). Sexual situations and humor, partial frontal female nudity and pervasive crass language. *USCCB classification — limited adult audience. MPAA rating — PG-13.*

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“Rambo”
(Lionsgate)

“Strange Wilderness”
(Paramount)

“Vince Vaughn’s Wild West Comedy
Show: 30 Days and 30 Nights —
Hollywood to the Heartland”
(Picturehouse)

"God is more domestic than monastic!" A novelist, Nikos Kazantzakis, wrote those words but a theologian might have. Christ was born into a family not into a monastery.

Not that there is anything wrong with monasteries. Maybe they're not places where families live but they're special places, like deserts and shrines, where we can be apart from the ordinary to do some deeper inner work. You can find God, too, in a monastery, but, ordinarily, God is found wherever there are little children and families, kitchen tables and petty squabbles, bills to pay and all those other kinds of things that seem unspiritual.



Rev. Ronald Rolheiser, OMI

Carlo Carretto, the renowned spiritual writer, shares how he learned this from experience: A much respected spiritual mentor, he had spent most of his life living by himself as a hermit in the Sahara desert, praying in silence and translating scripture into the Bedouin language. On one of his visits home to Italy, sitting with his mother, he was struck by the fact that

The Domestic and the Monastic

The normal road to sanctity (which is unselfishness and gratitude) leads through family and job, rather than through a monastery

she, an earthy practical woman who had raised a large family and who had gone through whole years of her life so preoccupied with the duties of raising her children that she never had any quality time alone, was more of a contemplative than he was, her hermit son, who had spent years alone in solitude trying to block out the distractions of the world so as to pray.

But Carretto didn't draw a simplistic conclusion from this. Realizing that his mother, who had been so busy and preoccupied for so many years, was more contemplative than he was didn't suggest that there was something wrong with what he had been doing all those years in the desert. Rather it suggested that there had been something very right about what she had been doing during those years when the constant demands of little children and family left her with no time ever for herself.

Contemplativeness and openness to the presence of God are not as much a question of silence and quiet, important as these are, as they are of being unselfish and beyond self-preoccupation. Contemplativeness is self-forgetfulness. Silence and the desert can help us to forget ourselves, but so too can duty, the demands of family, parenting, job and vocation. Indeed, the normal road to sanctity (which is unselfishness and gratitude) leads through family and job, rather than through a monastery. Monasteries are special places and the monastic vocation is a special calling, not the norm or ideal for everyone.

My parents' generation had their own way of understanding this. They called this living out one's "duties of state." Their idea was simple, practical and solidly theological: Nobody gets a free ride in life. We are expected to do some work

and fulfill a vocation given us from God. Accordingly we should expect that family, Church, duty and work will necessarily consume our primary time and energy up until we retire. But the idea was that this is where God wants us and that this is where we will find sanctity. Sanctity is found by doing the duties that conscriptively unfold before us each day.

The formula for sanctity doesn't need to be searched for; it finds you, in the duties that you find daily in the path of ordinary life. Ordinary life is your monastery.

Monks have secrets worth knowing, but so, too, do families. Carlo Carretto did some deep inner work during all those years of silence, fasting and prayer in the desert, but so, too, did his mother, during all those years with the asceticism of being a mother.

There are two kinds of monasteries and two kinds of monastic bells. Both are good, as long as they summon us beyond ourselves to the kind of fasting and prayer that makes us put others and God before ourselves.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher and award-winning author, is president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas.

He can be contacted through his Web site, www.ronrolheiser.com.

There's been a lot of chatter since 9/11 about Islam's need for a Martin Luther, a Muslim reformer who would accelerate this great world religion's acceptance of two key planks in the platform of political modernity: that religious freedom is a basic human right, and that democracy is the form of government most likely to produce a just society.

To be candid, this Lutheran imagery has never made much sense to me. It misses large parts of the relationship between the Reformation and the freedom project in the West, and it seems a very dubious scenario for theological development within Islam.



George Weigel

In the mid-1990s, in an essay entitled "Waiting for Augustine," I suggested that resolving the painful encounter between Islam and modernity required a figure of immense intellectual and spiritual authority who could distinguish for Muslims

An Islamic Leo XIII?

What Islam needs is a Leo XIII: a religious leader who, by retrieving and developing forgotten elements of an ancient faith, can bring that faith into a fruitful engagement with the modern world

between the earthly city and the City of God, as Augustine had done for Christians in his 5th century masterwork.

Now, I must confess, that Augustinian analogy also seems not-quite-right. For as a Muslim colleague, Stephen Schwartz of the Center for Islamic Pluralism, recently suggested to me, what Islam really needs is a Leo XIII: a religious leader who, by retrieving and developing forgotten elements of an ancient faith, can bring that faith into a fruitful engagement with the modern world.

When Leo XIII came to the papacy in 1878, the Catholic Church's official thinking on Church-and-state was frozen in

intellectual amber — not least because the Italian destruction of the Papal States had made Leo's predecessor, Pius IX, the "prisoner of the Vatican." Gioacchino Vincenzo Pecci, who would succeed Pius in that gilded and frescoed "prison," had enjoyed a broad pre-papal career in diplomacy, civil governance and pastoral care; he was also a leader in the revival of the philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas. Thanks to those experiences and that intellectual perspective, Pecci suspected that what many Catholics regarded as "traditional" — the insistence that rightly-ordered states must legally and financially support Catholicism as their official religion — did not, in fact, reflect

the deepest currents of Catholic thought on the relationship between religious and political authority.

So when he became Leo XIII, Pecci began a careful, lengthy process of retrieval and development that, by drawing on the "perennial philosophy" of Aquinas and looking deeper into the Church's tradition than the self-styled traditionalists were prepared to do, led (over some 80 years) to a positive Catholic engagement with the institutions of political modernity — one result of which was the Second Vatican Council's *Declaration on Religious Freedom*, which, in turn, led to the Catholic Church's emergence as the world's premier human rights advocate.

Retrieval-and-development, rather than rupture-and-revolution: Is this a model that might be attractive to serious Muslims who want to do something positive to resolve the intra-Islamic civil war that has spilled out from the House of Islam and now affects all world politics — most lethally through jihadist terrorism?

George Weigel is a senior fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

Letters to the Editor

The Southern Cross welcomes e-mail letters at socross@diocese-sdiego.org.

Missing Spanish Pages

It saddened me when *The Southern Cross* newspaper arrived and I could not find the Spanish pages. For my personal point of view, one page is too little for all the Spanish-speaking population that lives in the San Diego area.

We need more Catholic information. Some of you might say that we need to learn English, but the reality is that there are hundreds of people who cannot read English.

Please consider expanding a little more this Spanish section instead of deleting it.

Margarita Galindo
San Ysidro

Life Teen Warning

Life Teen in Mesa, Ariz., is still a valid Catholic ministry. Father Dale Fushek was the founder of this ministry; however, he has nothing to do with this ministry since the bishop put him on administrative leave due to a lot of problems.

He conducts a non-Catholic praise

and worship at the Mesa convention center. This is the reason why the bishop advised Catholics not to attend. These are the facts, check them out.

The article should be corrected ... It is not to avoid the Life Teen Center, it should be to avoid any service Dale Fushek conducts.

Richard Kahl
Via e-mail

Shame on the Judges

As an observant Catholic and an attorney, I have come to expect the [San Diego] *Union-Tribune's* ongoing bias against the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Diego in its coverage of the sexual abuse cases brought against the diocese. But I was truly shocked by the most recent front-page interviews with U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge Louise DeCarl Adler and U.S. Magistrate Judge Leo S. Papas ("Two judges share how they guided church case," Jan. 29).

On Feb. 8, we were told, Adler and Papas were "honored" as trial judges of the year by the Consumer Attorneys of San Diego, which the article said "rep-

resents local trial lawyers." In reality, this group represents plaintiffs' lawyers — like those who will be keeping more than a third of the \$198 million settlement money in the diocese cases.

Adler and Papas should be ashamed of themselves for granting an interview to the *Union-Tribune* on the subject of this case, for their inappropriate remarks and for accepting such an award from a group which represents only one side in cases before them. What they really deserve for their actions is an ethics hearing before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

John Alexander
Via e-mail

Debating Death Penalty

I'm appalled reading the letter from John Harper of Oceanside on the death penalty debate.

Also, the article from Patricia Zapor disturbed me. I miss the clarification from your paper. If a Catholic paper doesn't take an absolute stand against the death penalty — life is precious from conception until natural death — where

does this fit in? I want no part of it.

The New Testament of our Catholic Church tells us different. I've noticed Americans do like to cling to the "eye for an eye" concept. Jesus unmistakably has taught us different. All modern Western societies had the death penalty abolished some time ago.

I understand that repulsive crimes may deserve the death penalty but doesn't [it] in most cases just serve the vengeance of the victim.

If you take a look at all the information available, you will learn that the death penalty doesn't not serve anyone or anything favorably.

I also believe that the request to administer the procedure from beginning to the end is an unreasonable demand and has most likely a negative effect on the personnel.

I also know that our late Pope John Paul II and also Pope Benedict have never agreed to the death penalty. I have read many outspoken information about that in European publications.

Marie Vincent
Via e-mail

Editor's Response

Understanding that this issue has not been resolved among Catholics, we offer this quote from Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (now Pope Benedict XVI) in a letter to former Washington Cardinal Theodore McCarrick in 2004.

"Not all moral issues have the same moral weight as abortion and euthanasia. ...While the Church exhorts civil authorities to seek peace, not war, and to exercise discretion and mercy in imposing punishment on criminals, it may still be permissible to take up arms to repel an aggressor or to have recourse to capital punishment. There may be a legitimate diversity of opinion even among Catholics about waging war and applying the death penalty, but not however with regard to abortion and euthanasia."

Correction

In our January issue, we incorrectly identified a member of the Filipino Commission on page 17. Salva Peralta is the elected Secretary.

On Ash Wednesday, Feb. 6, Bishop Robert H. Brom celebrated Mass in the San Diego Chapel at the Pastoral Center, attended by diocesan staff.

The following is Bishop Brom's Lenten homily.

We have come again to Lent — the time during which annually we focus on the mystery of Christ crucified.

But let's start at the beginning.

God is Love and we've been made by Love for Love; we've been wired by God for God, and nothing less will satisfy us. Material things, passing pleasures and recognition or promotion will never be enough to satisfy the human heart.

Jesus is God's gift of self to us — Love unselfish and self-sacrificing.

Now to be noted is that the mystery of Jesus crucified is the turning around of all primal religion. Instead of our spilling blood to get to God (animal and human sacrifices), we have God spilling blood to get to us, to get our attention, to help us "know and believe in His love for us."

In Christ crucified, we are to KNOW the unselfish and self-sacrificing love of God. It's not enough to know about it (*saber de*), we must know it (*conocer a*). In our bones, at the core of our being, we



Wired by God for God, Made by Love for Love

Bishop Robert H. Brom

must know ourselves as loved by God and then respond to that love with love for God and for our neighbor.

Here it must be said that the measure of our love for God, overflowing into love for our neighbor, depends on how deeply aware we are of God's love for us.

Consequently, we must contemplate often the mystery of God's love for us in Christ crucified whereby we bring the past into the present for a conversion of mind and heart.

St. Agatha, whose feast we celebrated yesterday, acknowledged Jesus as the love of her life. Contemplating the mystery of His love, she saw His death as recent and His blood as still moist.

St. Paul deeply aware of Jesus' love for him said: "The life I live now is not my own, Christ lives in me. I still live my human life, but it is a life of faith in the

Son of God who loved me and gave Himself up for me; and I will not treat God's gracious gift as pointless."

Obviously, we're talking about conversion and transformation, and that's what Lent is all about: conversion from an ego-centered life to a Christ-centered life. Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are to express and deepen this conversion.

When our prayer is what it should be, it leads to a conversion from my will to God's will. Jesus' prayer in the garden is the model: "Father, if this cup cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done."

Prayer is all of Christian life concentrated to a moment. Mother Teresa says it means drinking of the cup to the last drop which, she adds, requires total surrender, complete trust and constant joy.

Fasting and every ascetical practice is

for a conversion from what makes us comfortable in order to be compassionate, that is, in solidarity with Christ in His suffering: Christ in His own passion and death; Christ in the suffering members of His body, that is, the Church; and Christ in all of suffering humanity.

There are a few verses of Psalm 69 which during Lent are applied to the suffering Christ: "In my suffering, I looked for one who would share my sorrow and provide consolation, but none was found." Mother Teresa says that every true disciple of Jesus should be "the one," should be a soulmate for Jesus in His suffering.

Almsgiving is a conversion from addressing my own needs to addressing the needs of others. On the cross, Jesus continued to show concern for others, and so must we, even when we are hanging on a cross ourselves. Our suffering should never make us oblivious to the needs of those around us.

Sin is when I say "No" to the mystery of God's love for me revealed in Christ crucified. In the distribution of ashes we will be challenged to "turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel," that is, to love and its demands. To this we commit ourselves as for another Lent we focus on the mystery of Christ crucified.

EVANGELIZATION & CATECHETICAL MINISTRY

For more information, email jzapata-huezo@diocese-sdiego.org, call (858) 490-8230 or visit www.diocese-sdiego.org/evangelization.htm

Special Religious Education

Catechist course grants diocesan Catechist Certification for Special Religious Education. Cost \$30/person. Upcoming course offered at the Pastoral Center, from 6:30-9 p.m. on Tuesdays, March 4, 11, 18.

Leadership Conference

"Opening the Parish Door to Young Adults" with Joan Weber. From 9 a.m.-3 p.m., April 3, at the Pastoral Center. Cost: \$30.

Basic Catechist Formation Course

Course grants California Catechist Certification. Cost \$60/person. Upcoming course offered at St. Jude Shrine of the West, one class in English and one class in Spanish. Course starts April 7 from 6:30-9 p.m., and continues on Monday and Friday evenings.

Adult Faith Formation

A four-week specialization course offered from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, April 8, 15, 22, 29, at the Pastoral Center. Cost: \$40/person.

Infant Baptism Team Formation

Workshop for teams preparing parents for the Baptism of their infant offered from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., April 19, at

DIOCESAN PROGRAMS

the Pastoral Center. Cost: \$40/person (includes lunch and materials).

LITURGY & SPIRITUALITY

For more information, visit www.diocese-sdiego.org/liturgy.htm, call (858) 490-8290 or email liturgy@diocese-sdiego.org.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., March 8, at St. Thomas More Parish in Oceanside. Basic formation for all newly appointed ministers. Topics include: "Theology and Celebration of the Eucharist," "Ministry to the Sick" and "The Role of the Extraordinary Minister." Prerequisites: Must be 16 years of age; pastor's recommendation required. Individual pre-registration: \$15/person. Pre-registration deadline: Feb. 29. Late and at-the-door registration: \$20/person.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

For more information, call (858) 490-8299.

Natural Family Planning Classes Sympto-Thermal Method

• Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m.; 4/3, 3/18, 4/22, 4/27 — Clairemont area

• Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m.; 4/23, 5/7, 6/5 and 7/16 — Clairemont area

• Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m.; 5/14, 5/28, 6/25, and 7/23 — Clairemont area

• Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m., 5/20, 6/3, 7/15 and 7/29 — Clairemont area

• Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m., 9/17, 10/2 (Thursday), 11/5, 12/3 — Clairemont area

• Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m., 9/24, 10/8, 11/12, 12/9 (Tuesday) — Clairemont area

Ovulation Method

• Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m.; 2/5, 2/19, 3/4, 3/18 and 4/1 — Clairemont area

• Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m.; 2/6, 2/20, 3/5, 3/19 and 4/2 — Clairemont area

• Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m.; 3/11, 3/25, 4/8, 4/22 and 5/6 — Clairemont area

• Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m.; 3/12, 3/26, 4/9, 4/23 and 5/7 — Clairemont area

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

For more information, call (858) 490-8260 or e-mail y-yconnect@diocese-sdiego.org.

World Youth Day

Join young adults from the diocese and meet other Catholics from around the world at World Youth Day in Sydney, Australia in July 2008. The eight-day trip costs \$2,745 and includes airfare, all meals, all hotels and fees. For information, email y-yconnect@diocese-sdiego.org.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Detention Ministry

Catholics age 18 and older can serve on a team ministering to Catholic inmates. For information, visit www.diocese-sdiego.org/restore or call Deacon Jim Walsh at (858) 490-8375.

Courage

Personal/group ministry to those with same-sex attraction. Group meetings: 7 p.m., every other Saturday evening, at St. John the Evangelist Parish, San Diego. Chaplain: Father Richard Huston. Call (858) 271-0207 (office) or (858) 578-5764 (private).

Encourage

Personal/group ministry to families and friends of those with same-sex attraction. This ministry adheres to Church teaching on homosexuality and offers support through prayer, counseling and fellowship. Meetings: 9 a.m., one Saturday morning each month, at Good Shepherd Parish in San Diego. Chaplain: Father Richard Huston. Call (858) 271-0207 (office) or (858) 578-5764 (private).

PARISH EVENTS

Prayer and Life Workshops
A course of 15 two-hour weekly sessions that teaches how to pray in an orderly, varied and progressive fashion, held every Thursday in English and Monday in Spanish. Call (858) 373- 8280.

Lenten Mission
Led by Father James Marchionda, OP, at San Rafael Parish in Rancho Bernardo. Father Marchionda will preach at Feb. 23/24 weekend Masses. Evening sessions take place at 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 24, through Tuesday, Feb. 26. All are welcome. Call (858) 674-1145.

Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary
Offered at 7 p.m., Friday, March 7, at San Rafael Parish in Rancho Bernardo. Chanted rosary prayers, choral singing by San Rafael's Rosary Schola, and displayed icons. Call (858) 487-4314.

Perpetual Adoration
St. John the Evangelist, 1001 Encinitas Blvd., Encinitas. Open 24 hrs. daily, except during Sunday Mass. For information, call (760) 635-2573.

Rosary Procession
Every first Sunday, 2:30-4 p.m., at the Immaculata Parish. For information, call (619) 476-8014.

Divine Mercy
Holy Hour at 1 p.m., every third Sunday, after the noon Mass at Mary, Star of the Sea in La Jolla.

Lenten Fish Dinners
Hosted by Knights of Columbus. 4:30-7 p.m., Feb. 22 and 29, and March 7, in St. Mark Parish's Msgr. Healy Hall, San Marcos. Cost: adults, \$8; seniors, \$7.

GROUPS

Healing Masses
• 7 p.m., Feb. 21, at St. James Parish in Solana Beach. Celebrant: Father Leonardo Aboleda, CJM. For information, call (858) 481-6911.

• 7 p.m., Feb. 28, at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Vista. Celebrant: Father Ray Elam, OSA.

• 7 p.m., March 4, at St. Patrick Parish in Carlsbad. Praise and worship at 6:30 p.m. Celebrant: Father Mike Barry, SS.CC.

Musical Concert
La Jolla Symphony Chorus will present "Vespers" (Rachmaninoff) at 4 p.m., March 2, at San Rafael Parish in Rancho Bernardo. Tickets: \$15, 12, 8. For information, call (858) 487-4314.

Cross/Crucifix Exhibition
Hosted by Our Lady's Guild of Mary, Star of the Sea Parish (La Jolla). March 15, 5:30-8 p.m., and March 16, after all Masses, in the parish hall. Free admission.

GROUPS

St. Vincent de Paul Ladies Guild
Benefit luncheon for children at Father Joe's Villages, Feb. 20, at the Mission Valley Hilton. 11 a.m., social hour; noon, luncheon. Cost: \$45. For information or reservations, call (858) 459-0374.

Central SD Magnificat
Meets 9:30 a.m., Feb. 23, at the Mission Valley Resort, 875 Hotel Circle South. Speaker: Derry Connolly, founder/president of John Paul the Great Catholic University in San Diego. RSVP to (619) 463-7713.

GROUPS

Good Shep Women's Club
Card Party: 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m., March 1, at Good Shepherd Parish Hall. Donation: \$8. Food, raffle and White Elephant Sale. Raffle tickets: 3 for \$1. For information/reservations, call (858) 271-7080.

'Lucky Green' Card Party
Hosted by Blessed Sacrament Women's Club. 10:30 a.m., March 29, in Blessed Sacrament Parish Hall. Prizes, baskets and a hot chicken lunch. Donation: \$8. RSVP by March 26. Call (619) 583-2497 or (619) 286-4989.

Whispering Winds
The Whispering Winds Annual Dinner/Dance Gala and Auction will be held April 5 at the Westin Horton Plaza. Cost: \$150/person by March 8. For details, call (619) 464-1479.

Vocations Mass/Adoration
Sponsored by Office for Vocations on the third Thursday of each month. All are welcome; youth, young adults and families are especially encouraged to attend. Mass begin at 7 p.m.; adoration ends at 8:15 p.m. For information, call (619) 291-7446.

"Love Your Priests"
Prayer group meets for Mass and a luncheon. Attendees hear a priest's vocation story and offer encouragement. Next Mass: 10 a.m., March 8, at Ascension Parish; bring potluck. Call (858) 560-7132.

Separated / Divorce Support
Meets at 10 a.m., Sundays, in the St. James Parish Ministry Offices, 625 South Nardo Ave., Solana Beach. Contact: Frank Grant at (760) 533-1520 or frugrant@earthlink.net.

GROUPS

New Paths
A support group for the separated/divorced, meets at 6:30 p.m., Tuesdays, Feb. 12-April 29 at Sacred Heart Parish, Coronado. For information, call (619) 435-6136.

St. Thomas More Society
The St. Thomas More Society for judges, attorneys and legal professionals will hold its monthly luncheon on the first Friday of the month. Call (619) 595-4294.

Spirit Ministries
• 7:30-9:30 p.m., Bible Class every Monday at Holy Spirit Hall, followed by prayer circle until 11 p.m.

• 7:30 p.m., Mass/Healing Service with Father Jerry Bevilacqua, OSA. March 7 and March 17 at Holy Spirit Parish. Healing service begins with Eucharistic exposition and adoration.

• Call Spirit Ministries at (619) 262-9685 or visit spiritministries.net.

Women's Christian Fellowship (WCF)
Prayer, praise and Bible study from 9:30 a.m.-noon, Thursdays, at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish Center, Carlsbad. All women welcome. Continues until May. For on-site childcare, call (760) 944-8899 or (858) 279-8450.

WORKSHOPS AND RETREATS

Silent Ignatian Retreats
Preached by the priests of Miles Christi. For men, Feb. 22-24 in Temecula; for women, March 19-23 in Santa Barbara. Includes spiritual talks, Eucharistic adoration, daily Mass. Email califor

WORKSHOPS AND RETREATS

nia@spiritualescercises.net or call (209) 357-0128.

USD Master's Credential
Information sessions on the new Master's Credential Cohort Program at the School of Leadership and Education Sciences at USD will be held Feb. 26, March 25, April 22 and May 20. Register at www.sandiego.edu/soles/informationession. Call (619) 260-7988.

Day of Recollection
The La Jolla Deanery has reserved a Day of Recollection, March 13, at Prince of Peace Abbey. Anyone interested is welcome; reservations required. Cost: \$20 donation, includes lunch. Call (619) 276-3730.

Retrouvaille
Are marriage problems tearing your family apart? Retrouvaille, a Catholic ministry, can help. Next program: April 4-6 (English); Oct 17-19 (Spanish). Call (951) 259-9474 or (619) 423-0182.

Beginning Experience
A weekend for widowed/divorced/separated who want to move beyond the grief of their loss. Next weekend: April 25-27 at the Center for Spiritual Development in Orange. Cost: \$199 by March 31; \$225 after. Call (858) 538-4208.

Marriage Encounter
The Worldwide Marriage Encounter 2008 International Convention will be held June 27-29 at the Ontario Convention Center in Ontario, Calif. For information, visit <http://convention.wume.org/> or <http://www.ontariocc.com/>.

Contemplative Outreach
Attend an introduction to Centering Prayer with the North County chapter,

WORKSHOPS AND RETREATS

8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., March 8, at Trinity Episcopal Church in Escondido. Suggested donation: \$35. Call (760) 745-8860 or visit www.consdc.com.

Women's Discernment Retreat
Retreat for women discerning religious life (ages 17-30), April 18-20, with the Daughters of St. Paul, 3908 Sepulveda Blvd., Culver City, CA 90230. Call (310) 390-4699 or (504) 887-7635.

PILGRIMAGES

Holy Land Pilgrimage
Visit biblical sites with Father Jose Castillo, pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Dates: May 5-14. Cost: \$3,038. Call (619) 428-1415, ext. 16.

Parish Pilgrimage
Join St Thérèse of Carmel parishioners on a pilgrimage to French shrines, May 5-15. Includes Lourdes, Lisieux, Paris and more. Daily Mass. Call (858) 259-1173 or email marvlin@earthlink.net.

Pilgrimage to France
April 30-May 12, led by Father Rafael, CFR. Includes two nights in Lourdes, as well as Paris, the Normandy Beaches, Tours, Lyon, Ars, and more. Email belmontour@aol.com or call (800) 760-4330.

MISC.

American Flag Available
A free 5 ft. x 8 ft. American flag is available for anyone interested. Flown at the Diocesan Pastoral Center for six months. Edges torn by wind and weather. Call (858) 490-8279.

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Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number _____

E-mail Address _____

Birth Date (For Single Life Annuity) _____

Birth Date (For Joint/Survivorship Annuity) _____

Please call **888-996-1212** regarding rates for ages 50-69, or if you would like information about Two-Life or Deferred Gift Annuities.

One-Life Gift Annuity Rates

<u>Closest Age</u>	<u>Rate of Return</u>
70	8.1%
75	8.8%
80	10.0%
85	11.8%



Society of the Little Flower
~ Since 1923 ~

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