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HONORING THE PAST and Looking to the Future



A NEW BEGINNING: The design of the new St. Bartholomew Chapel incorporates the bell tower from the previous chapel, which was destroyed in the 2007 wildfires.

Rebuilt chapel pays tribute to Indian culture, traditions

By Denis Grasska

RINCON INDIAN RESERVATION — When St. Bartholomew Chapel was destroyed during the 2007 wildfires, the Catholic community on the Rincon Indian Reservation set out to rebuild what it had lost.

The initial plan called for a faithful re-creation

of the original structure, which had stood on the reservation and served Catholic tribal members for more than 70 years.

But the St. Bartholomew church committee, which was entrusted with overseeing the design and construction of a new chapel, ultimately pursued a different course.

Construction concluded Jan. 29. At 3,500 square feet, the new chapel is substantially larger than the 1,200-square-foot structure it replaced.

"What we wanted to do was to honor the past and look to the future," said George Arviso, chairman of the church committee.

The chapel's design, he said, pays tribute to the earlier chapel and includes several symbolic references to Indian culture and heritage.

For example, the previous chapel's bell tower, which survived the fire and was later refurbished, was incorporated into the design

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Pope's Lenten Message Focuses on Conversion

By Cindy Wooden

VATICAN CITY — Conversion to Christ gives people the strength to break the bonds of selfishness and work for justice in the world, Pope Benedict XVI said in his message for Lent 2010.

"The Christian is moved to contribute to creating just societies where all receive what is necessary to live according to the dignity proper to the human person and where justice is enlivened by love," the pope said in the message released Feb. 4 at the Vatican.

Latin-rite Catholics begin Lent

Feb. 17 while most Eastern-rite Catholics begin the penitential season Feb. 15.

The theme of the pope's message was, "The Justice of God Has Been Manifested through Faith in Jesus Christ."

The common understanding of "justice," he said, is to give each person his or her due.

But because people are created in God's image, they not only need food, water, shelter and jobs; they need God and they need love, he said.

The greatest sign of God's love is

the gift of salvation in Christ. When people accept that gift, the pope said, they recognize that they are dependent on God.

"Conversion to Christ, believing in the Gospel, ultimately means this: to exit the illusion of self-sufficiency in order to discover and accept one's own need — the need of others and God, the need of His forgiveness and His friendship," the pope wrote.

The Vatican invited Hans-Gert Pottering, the former president of the European Parliament and president of Germany's Konrad

Adenauer Foundation, to present the pope's message to the press.

Pottering said the basic call of the pope's message is "to work in union with our Creator on our responsibility in the world."

"In these words — charity, solidarity, fraternity — lie the key to a true understanding of the responsibility of Christians in the world," he said. "Solidarity or charity implies the responsibility to defend and protect the universal dignity of any human being anywhere in the world under any circumstances."

Catholic News Service

Catholic Agency Continues Relief Work in Haiti

BALTIMORE — Catholic Relief Services and its Caritas partners have stepped up relief efforts in the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas, delivering food and water to hundreds of thousands and providing medical care to thousands more.

As of Feb. 2, CRS had provided food to more than 100,000 people in Port-au-Prince, many of whom are gathered at the city's largest camp run by CRS. Just days after the Jan. 12 magnitude 7 earthquake that killed an estimated 200,000 people and left as many as one million people without shelter, CRS turned a Port-au-Prince golf course into one of the first formal camps for the homeless, delivering food, water and hygiene materials to some 40,000 people. CRS is collaborating with the Local Church in Haiti and its Catholic Caritas partners, including Caritas Haiti and the Caritas Internationalis confederation.

A CRS team also worked closely with Haitian colleagues to get one of the country's oldest hospitals, St. Francois de Sales in Port-au-Prince, up and running within days of the disaster. The hospital had been 70-percent destroyed, but CRS worked with the hospital administrator to restore the hospital's ability to receive patients and, as of early February, volunteer medical teams were performing up to 200 critical operations per week.

As camps are becoming more organized, and with the rainy season looming, CRS is also stepping up efforts to build temporary shelter and stem the outbreak of disease that results from a lack of clean water and poor hygiene. CRS began installing large water storage bladders throughout the capital, and construction is underway of latrines and washing stations that will serve thousands of people at various CRS sites, including St. Francois de Sales.

Meanwhile, CRS has seen an overwhelming outpouring of support in response to the crisis in Haiti.

"Catholic dioceses, parishes and schools across the country started mobilizing their networks immediately and have generously and creatively supported our work to help the victims in Haiti," said Joan Rosenhauer,



HAITI IN RUINS: *The remains of the Catholic cathedral of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, is seen in a Jan. 15 handout photo provided by the United Nations. Most of the churches in Port-au-Prince were destroyed in the Jan. 12 earthquake that rocked the capital.*

CRS executive vice president for U.S. operations. "For that, we are extremely grateful."

As of Feb. 2, CRS had raised more than \$38 million for its emergency response. Parishes are reporting generous second collections for Haiti; Catholic colleges and universities responded immediately by setting up special Web sites; Catholic schools held special Masses, prayer services, concerts and fundraisers.

"We even heard of one little girl who sold all of her stuffed animals to raise donations. We really appreciate every effort, no matter how small or large," Rosenhauer said.

Parishes throughout the Diocese of San Diego were among those conducting special collections to aid CRS in its work. As of Feb. 1, CRS had received donations from most

parishes in San Diego as well as more than 1,000 individual local donors totaling nearly \$250,000.

Catholic Relief Services is the international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. The agency provides assistance to people in more than 100 countries and territories based on need, regardless of race, nationality or creed.

Donations to support the work of CRS among Haitian earthquake victims can be made by phone at 1-877-HELP-CRS or online at www.crs.org. Checks can be mailed to: Catholic Relief Services, P.O. Box 17090, Baltimore, MD 21203-7090. Money Orders can be made payable to "CRS/Haiti."

The Southern Cross

Human Trafficking Expected to Be Issue at Olympics

By Deborah Gyapong

OTTAWA — Members of the Canadian bishops' justice and peace commission have called for prayers for victims of human trafficking, noting that they expect it to be a problem at the Feb. 12-28 Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia.

A pastoral letter issued Jan. 26 said major sporting events often see "systems put in place to satisfy the demand for paid sex."

"As pastors of the Catholic Church in Canada, we denounce human trafficking in all its forms, whether it is intended for forced labor (domestic, farm or factory work) or for sexual exploitation (whether it be prostitution, pornography, forced marriages, strip clubs or other)," the bishops wrote. "We invite the faithful to become aware of this violation of human rights and the trivialization of concerns about prostitution."

The bishops urged Catholics to become aware of human trafficking, so "we can share in the suffering of the victims and change the behaviors and mentalities that foster institutionalized violence in this new form of slavery."

The scale of human trafficking is "alarming," the bishops wrote, citing International Labor Organization estimates of 2.4 million victims of trafficking, including 1.3 million caught up in sexual exploitation, worldwide.

The bishops also pointed out that according to the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime, 79 percent of trafficking victims — mostly women and children — are used for the sex trade.

The bishops put human trafficking in the context of economic globalization and the increasing gap between rich and poor countries, noting that "impoverished populations of the South and the East remain vulnerable to trafficking."

"When hunger threatens their family's lives, people are more likely to believe the promises of unscrupulous smugglers or to succumb to the attraction of earning money through sexual tourism," the bishops said.

"Often, [victims] cannot speak the language, their passport has been taken from them, and they are at the mercy of pimps who demand to be reimbursed for the victim's transportation costs," they said. "Women and children, usually under the influence of drugs, must then engage in prostitution under the vigilant eye of pimps who pocket the profits. If the victims try to run away or stand up for their rights, the pimps threaten to kill them or members of their families back home."

"To help women break free of prostitution, as they are generally the victims, we must provide concrete assistance, including health care, psychological counseling, detoxification programs, safe housing, decent employment and spiritual support," the bishops wrote.

Catholic News Service

Latino Youths Optimistic, Despite Struggles

By Patricia Zapor

WASHINGTON — A major study of the values, circumstances and aspirations of Latino youths paints a portrait of optimism and enthusiasm in the face of significant struggles, including inadequate education, problems with their immigration status and high rates of poverty.

The recent study by the Pew Hispanic Center highlights many similarities between the way previous generations of immigrants and recent Latino immigrants and their children become a part of American society. And it notes that Hispanic cultural traditions of close family ties, religious faith and hard work remain strong even several generations after a family resettles in the United States.

Ties to church were singled out as a particularly strong influence in helping young Latinos avoid getting involved with gangs.

Between Two Worlds: How Young Latinos Come of Age in America reported on a national survey sample of more than 2,000 Hispanics questioned in August and September. Focus groups from Chicago, California, New Jersey, Maryland and the District of Columbia provided further information.

One particularly pervasive problem faced by Latino youths more so than other demographic groups, the survey reported, is that they are much more likely to become involved with weapons, fights and gangs, and more likely to land in jail or prison.

First-generation and second-generation offspring of Hispanic immigrants in particular are more likely than immigrants themselves to have been in fights or have friends or family members who are in a gang, the Pew report said.

It noted that 7 percent of youths who are immigrants reported getting into a fight and 17 percent said they know someone in a gang. That compares to 16 percent of U.S.-born Latino youths who had been in a fight and 41 percent who said they know someone in a gang.

One factor for that, the study suggested, is that immigrants tend to be more involved with their churches than do later generation Latinos. And "young Hispanics who are highly religious are significantly less likely than others to engage in risky behaviors," it said.

Young Latinos who attend church services at least once a week are less likely to say they have had contact with the police, gotten into a fight, carried a weapon or ever been in a gang, it said. "Regular attendees of religious services also are less likely to say they have ever been in a gang (2 percent versus 7 percent) or to have been questioned by police in the past year (17 percent versus 25 percent)."

Forty-one percent of immigrant Latinos
SEE LATINOS, PAGE 6

Supporting the Annual Catholic Appeal

By Bishop Robert H. Brom

Each year, generous response to the Annual Catholic Appeal by Catholics throughout the Diocese of San Diego demonstrates that "Our Life Is Mission."

Diocesan receipts from the 2010 Annual Catholic Appeal in the amount of \$3 million will be used for the following purposes:

Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities is the primary social service agency of the diocese. It assists approximately one million people each year by providing a network of very important programs and services.

Priestly and Religious Vocations

To accomplish our mission, we continue to need dedicated priests and religious. Money is well spent in promoting vocations to the priesthood and religious life and in the formation of candidates.

Parishes and Schools in Need

Some of our parishes and parochial schools struggle financially and need our assistance to provide basic facilities and programs.

Marriage and Family Life

Contemporary society poses fundamental challenges to the meaning, purpose and value of marriage and family life. We have made it a priority to provide good programs of preparation for marriage and for marriage/family enrichment.

Youth and Young Adults

We are attempting to offset the negative influences which bombard our youth and young adults today by fostering efforts and offering programs which will promote their human and spiritual growth and development.

Religious Education

Time, talent and treasure are needed to offer culturally sensitive evangelization and systematic catechesis to all Catholics, whether children, youth or adults, and to reach out to those interested in becoming Catholics.

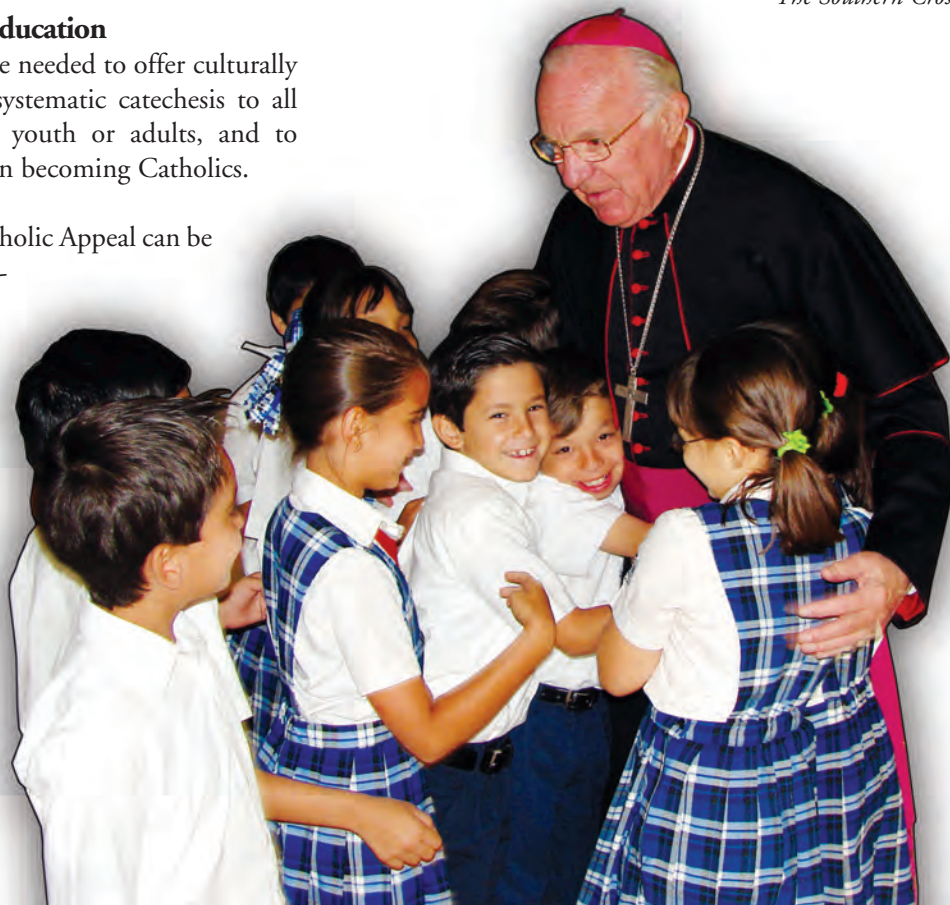
Response to the Annual Catholic Appeal can be made with a single contribution or with a pledge that can be paid over the course of a year. Donation envelopes available at all parishes may be used, or contributions can be made by going to the diocesan Web site, www.diocese-sdiego.org, and selecting the "Gift Giving" tab.

This year, once again, all funds received in excess of the parish assessment may be used as a parish determines.

In this time of economic

anxiety and financial insecurity, families are being forced to make hard decisions about spending, saving and which worthy causes to support. As we enter this Lenten season of prayer, fasting and charity, I invite you to embrace the mission of our Local Church with support for the 2010 Annual Catholic Appeal.

The Southern Cross



New Study Proves Effectiveness of Abstinence Education

By Steven Ertelt

WASHINGTON — A new study released Feb. 1 finds abstinence education effective in reducing sexual activity among youth, while "comprehensive sexual education" was not.

Students participating in an eight-hour abstinence program showed a one-third decrease in their rates of sexual activity compared to non-participants.

The study, involving black middle-school students, appears in the February 2010 *Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine*, a publication of the American Medical Association. It found the students in the abstinence program showed lower levels of sexual activity even two years later.

The National Abstinence Education Association (NAEA) told *LifeNews.com* that the study shows positive outcomes for high-risk, African American middle school students.

"The study shows that a high-risk population of sixth- and seventh-graders receiving abstinence-centered education reduced sexual initiation, reduced the number of sexual partners (a crucial determinant in acquiring an STD), and further showed that abstinence instruction did not deter the use of condoms (a common charge brought by anti-abstinence critics)," NAEA's Valerie Huber said.

Of particular note, students were significantly less likely to initiate sex with the abstinence-centered approach than any other sex education strategy.

"If we are serious about reaching teens with the skills they need to resist sexual activity, the findings supporting the

effectiveness of abstinence education should not be ignored," Huber said.

While the study's authors say abstinence education is the primary approach funded and promoted by the United States, Huber says the opposite is true. She said that, during the last 10 years, comprehensive sex education received four times the federal dollars as abstinence education.

Students were significantly less likely to initiate sex with the abstinence-centered approach than any other sex education strategy.

"The Obama administration completely eliminated abstinence education from the 2010 budget, a rash and imprudent decision that jeopardizes the sexual health of America's youth," she said. "The positive outcomes of this study provide President Obama important data for his 2011 budget recommendation to Congress. We urge a crucial course adjustment in funding so that abstinence-centered education can continue to work to reach teens."

Conservative writer Robert Rector also commented on the new report at *National Review*.

While abstinence helped students, he wrote: "By con-

trast, safe sex (promoting only contraceptive use) and comprehensive sex-ed (teaching both abstinence and contraceptive use) programs didn't affect youth behavior at all. Students in these programs showed no reduction in sexual activity and no increase in contraceptive use, in either the short or long term."

"Employing state-of-the-art evaluation techniques, the study used random assignment to place students into four groups: a group that received instruction solely in abstinence; a safe-sex group instructed in contraceptive use; a comprehensive, or mixed message, group taught both abstinence and contraceptive use; and a control group that received health education unrelated to sex," he noted.

Students in the abstinence program were one-third less likely to initiate sexual activity when compared to students in the other three groups. They also were not less likely to use condoms if they did become sexually active.

The study was conducted by Drs. John and Loretta Jemmott of the University of Pennsylvania.

"Prior to the current study, there had been 15 scientific evaluations of abstinence education, 11 of which had shown that abstinence programs were effective in reducing sexual activity," Rector noted. "However, the new Jemmott study is the first evaluation showing positive results which employed full random assignment. As a result, it cannot be dismissed on methodological grounds."

LifeNews.com

Steven Ertelt is the editor of LifeNews.com.

Briefs

Poll: More Americans Hold Pro-Life Views

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (CNS) — A poll commissioned by the Knights of Columbus and released Jan. 21 said that a majority of Americans called abortion “morally wrong.” Americans in all age groups made that judgment in the poll, conducted by Marist College. The Knights paid the greatest attention in an announcement of the poll results to the “millennial” age group, those ages 18-29, because they were intentionally oversampled in the survey. Of the 2,243 Americans polled, 1,006 of them were millennial. And 58 percent of the millennials called abortion morally wrong. More than 60 percent of seniors ages 65 and up called abortion morally wrong, as did 60 percent of those from Generation X (ages 30-44) and 51 percent of baby boomers (ages 45-64). By comparison, 19 percent of all those polled — and 20 percent of the millennials — said abortion was “morally acceptable.”

2009 Tax Deduction Permitted for Haiti Relief

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Under a new U.S. tax law, people who have donated to charities providing relief to Haitians since the Jan. 12 earthquake can take a tax deduction for the contribution on their 2009 tax return instead of their 2010 return. The measure was passed unanimously by the House Jan. 20 and by the Senate Jan. 21. President Barack Obama signed the bill into law Jan. 22. “This measure provides an immediate benefit for those who have already given and incentive for those who are considering a charitable contribution,” said a Jan. 22 statement released by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s office. In 2004, Congress passed similar legislation for contributions to aid agencies helping the victims of the tsunami in Indonesia. An IRS announcement about the new law has been posted on the Web site www.irs.gov.

Testimony Concludes in Proposition 8 Case

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — Closing arguments were expected around the beginning of March in the federal trial challenging the constitutionality of California’s Proposition 8. Chief U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker, presiding at the nonjury trial, said Jan. 27 that he will set a date for closing arguments after at least a 30-day hiatus to review the evidence. Proposition 8, a 2008 constitutional amendment initiative, restored traditional marriage in California,

defining state-sanctioned marriage as between one man and one woman.

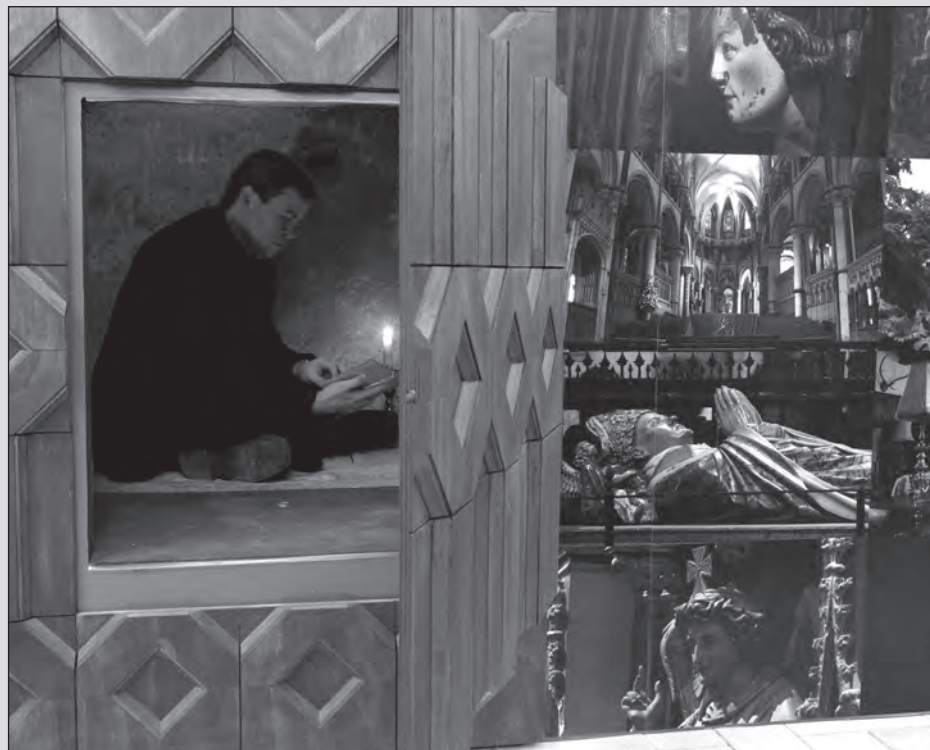
Planned Parenthood Report Insults Catholics

NEW YORK (*LifeNews.com*) — In a recent report titled *Stand and Deliver*, the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) promotes “sexual engineering” by “smearing religious conservatives, especially Catholics,” according to Bill Donohue, president of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights. The report demands that governments, religious institutions and society at large provide “comprehensive sexuality education” for children as young as 10 years old. The IPPF report also says, “Fundamentalist and other religious groups — the Catholic Church and *madrasas* [Islamic schools] for example — have imposed tremendous barriers that prevent young people, particularly, from obtaining information and services related to sex and reproduction.” Donohue rejected the idea that “the kids in Sister Mary’s class who learn about responsible sex are analogous to Imam Mohammad’s kids who are either denied sex education or are told that homosexuality is punishable by death.” Donohue also pointed out an inconvenient truth: “In the 1950s, there was no sex education in the schools, the pill was not commercially available and AIDS didn’t exist. Yet the out-of-wedlock birth rate was comparatively miniscule and sexually transmitted diseases were relatively rare.”

Venezuelan Mystic on Path to Sainthood

METUCHEN, N.J. (CNS) — The sainthood cause has formally opened for Maria Esperanza Medrano de Bianchini, a Venezuelan woman believed to have seen 31 apparitions of Mary, who spread worldwide a message of family reconciliation and fraternal unity that she said Mary relayed to her. “We gather together as a people filled with faith believing in the gift of God,” said Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski, who presided at the ceremony at St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral in Metuchen Jan. 31. “We believe God gives us men and women of fine example who show us the way to Jesus Christ. Today, we begin the cause for Maria Esperanza, a woman of faith and we pray as this faith community that God will recognize her through His Church as one of His saints,” he said. Bianchini reportedly first saw an apparition of Mary in 1976, but she became a world-renowned figure after Mary reportedly appeared to her and 150 others at a farm named Finca Betania in Venezuela on March 25, 1984. Bianchini died in New Jersey in 2004 after a long illness.

Hiding Place



A priest reads by candlelight in this demonstration of the use of a “priest hole,” part of an exhibit on the Tudor era at the Venerable English College in Rome Feb. 4. Pictured is Father Jeff Kirby of the Diocese of Charleston, S.C. This replica of a “priest hole” is an example of hiding places built into walls for priests to celebrate Mass and the sacraments in England during the Reformation.

Web Site Launched for World Youth Day

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Organizers of the 2011 World Youth Day celebration in Spain launched an English-language Web page offering registration information, schedules and social networks to help spread word about the event. The Web site, www.madridwyd2011.com, created by and for young people, opened its English page Jan. 29. It counts down to the Aug. 16-21, 2011, World Youth Day international gathering in Madrid. The Web site introduces multimedia resources, including videos, audio, and social networking tools that allow young people from all over the world to stay connected and updated via Facebook, YouTube and Twitter. Members and fans are encouraged to post pictures, video clips and comments, and to share experiences from past World Youth Day celebrations. The site also offers a detailed schedule of the 2011 World Youth Day week.

Cardinal Proposes ‘Ecumenical Catechism’

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Vatican official has floated the idea of a shared “ecumenical catechism” as one of the potential fruits of 40 years of dialogue among Catholics, Anglicans, Lutherans, Methodists and members of the Reformed churches. Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the

Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, spoke with representatives of the churches during a three-day symposium at the Vatican to brainstorm on the future of ecumenism. He said it is essential “to keep alive the memory of our achievements” in dialogue, educate the faithful about how much has been accomplished and prepare a new generation to carry on the work. He said the members of his council “proposed an ecumenical catechism that would be written in consultation with our partners.”

Apostolic Visitation Meets with Slow Response

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The nun who is overseeing the Vatican-mandated apostolic visitation of U.S. communities of women religious has expressed “sadness and disappointment” over congregations that have resisted completing the questionnaire that is part of the process. The apostolic visitation was initiated by Cardinal Franc Rode, prefect of the Vatican’s Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. Announced Jan. 30, 2009, the apostolic visitation process was opened “in order to look into the quality of life” of U.S. congregations of women religious. The study covers nearly all of the country’s 67,000 sisters. Only those nuns who live in cloisters are exempt. Mother Mary Clare Millea — who is overseeing the study of 341 congregations as apostolic visitor — told women religious

The Southern Cross is the official newspaper of the Diocese of San Diego. With print and Internet presence, it assists the Local Church to fulfill its teaching and pastoral mission by: informing the faithful about the life and work of the Church throughout the diocese, including its multicultural diversity; offering news and information which will foster unity with the Church throughout the world; and instructing the faithful regarding authentic Catholic teaching and practice.



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in a letter dated Jan. 12 that “[Cardinal Rode] was pleased to hear about the whole-hearted and genuine responses of many congregations to the questionnaire.” “However,” she added, “I also shared with him my sadness and disappointment that not all congregations have responded to this phase of dialogue with the Church in a manner fully supportive of the purpose and goals of the apostolic visitation.”

Pope John Paul II Used to Practice Self-Mortification

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II always took penitence seriously, spending entire nights lying with his arms outstretched on the bare floor, fasting before ordaining priests or bishops and flagellating himself, said the promoter of his sainthood cause. Msgr. Slawomir Oder, postulator of the late pope’s cause, said Pope John Paul used self-mortification “both to affirm the primacy of God and as an instrument for perfecting himself.” Cardinal Georges Cottier, theologian of the papal household under the late pope, said, “Union with the redeeming suffering of Christ comes through accepting the trials and suffering of life or, like in the case of Pope John Paul II, with the voluntary choice of physical suffering.” Cardinal Cottier added, “Spiritual masters insist this practice must always be prudent and never without a spiritual guide.”

No Annulments Possible for Valid Marriages

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — True pastoral charity and concern can never lead the Church to grant an annulment to a Catholic whose marriage is valid according to Church law, Pope Benedict XVI said. “One must shun pseudo-pastoral claims” that look only at the desire of divorced Catholics to return to the sacraments, the pope said Jan. 29 in his annual speech to officials of the Roman Rota, a tribunal that mainly deals with appeals filed in marriage annulment cases. The pope said helping Catholics be able to go to confession and receive the Eucharist is important, but it cannot be done without taking into account the truth about their Church marriage. For the Catholic Church, he said, a marriage celebrated with the full consent of the couple and following the correct form is always presumed to be valid, and a valid marriage is indissoluble. Pastors and those who work in Church tribunals must beware of “the widespread and deeply rooted tendency” to see justice and charity as totally competing values, the pope said.

Wyoming Theologian Honored by Pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A young theologian at a new Catholic college in Wyoming received a papal award for his outstanding research on the writings of St. Thomas Aquinas. John Mortensen, associate professor of theology and philosophy at Wyoming Catholic College in Lander, Wyo., received the Prize of the Pontifical Academies for his thesis “Understanding Analogy in Aquinas” at a ceremony Jan. 27. The 34-year-old U.S. scholar also joined members of the seven pontifical academies Jan. 28 for an audience with Pope Benedict XVI, who encouraged Catholic scholars to model their work on that of St. Thomas Aquinas, who used faith and reason to respond creatively to new questions. Speaking at the ceremony where Mortensen was awarded the prize and a \$28,000 stipend, Archbishop Gianfranco Ravasi, president of the Pontifical Council for Culture, said the pope’s decision to give him the prize is a “testimony that theology is not only for clerics, but is also being developed by and for laypersons.” Mortensen wrote the thesis while earning his doctorate in 2006 at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome.

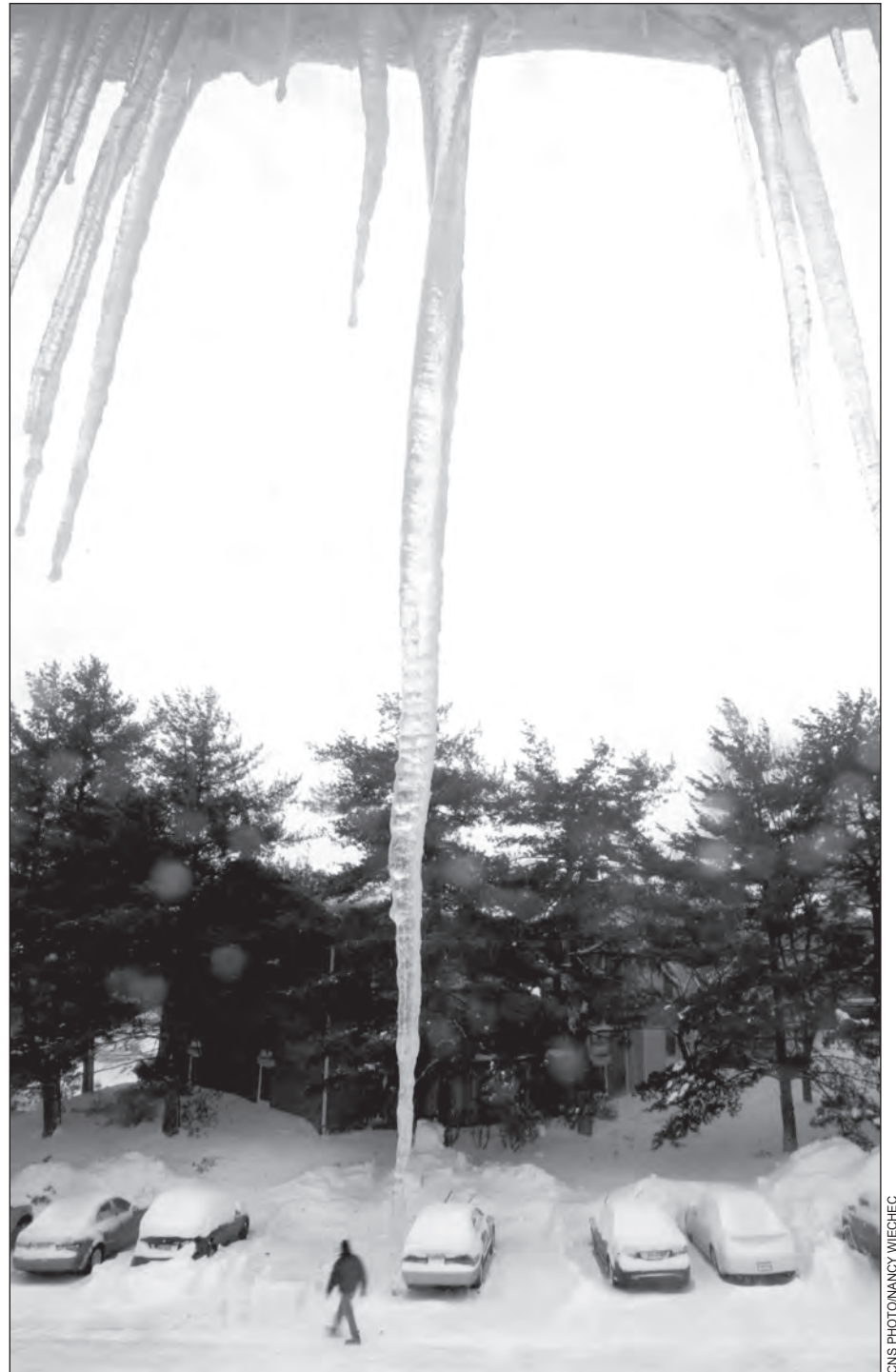
Pope Speaks Approvingly of Consecrated Life

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Catholics enter religious orders or consecrate themselves as virgins because the love of God is so great that it is worth giving everything for, Pope Benedict XVI said. Adoring the Eucharist and celebrating evening prayer with religious Feb. 2, the feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple, the pope told them that they are witnesses for others of the realness of God’s love and mercy. The Church celebrates the World Day for Consecrated Life each year on the feast day. The pope told the religious that each one of them had drawn near to Christ “as the source of pure and faithful love, a love so great and beautiful that it deserves everything or, rather, more than our all, because an entire life would not be enough to repay that which Christ is and has done for us.” Beyond the thousand things religious do in the Church and in the world, he said, “consecrated life is important precisely as a sign of selflessness and love.”

British Bill Backs Church

LONDON (CNS) — Britain’s House of Lords rejected government proposals that the Catholic bishops said could have demanded that the Church accept women, sexually active gays and

Weathering the Storm



Icicles hang from a building in Alexandria, Va., Feb. 10 as the mid-Atlantic region is hit with the second major snowstorm in less than a week. The storms forced businesses, schools, churches and government offices to close and left thousands of residents without power.

CNS PHOTO/NANCY WIECHEC

transsexuals into the priesthood. Members voted 216-178 in favor of an *Equality Bill* amendment to protect the existing rights of churches to insist that clergy and high-profile lay employees live consistent with Christian moral teaching. Two attempts by the government to reverse the vote later were defeated during the Jan. 25 debate. The successful amendment deleted a paragraph that said an exemption would apply solely to those people who spent most of their working time in leading worship and teaching doctrine. Catholic, Anglican and evangelical church leaders said the paragraph would narrow the definition of a ministry so radically that no clergy would be able to qualify for an exemption. They said priests spent the majority of their time involved in pastoral work, private prayer and study, administration and building maintenance. The government has not yet said if it intends to challenge the amendment when the bill returns to the House of Commons later this year.

Israeli Ambassador Urges Jewish-Catholic Dialogue

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — For the good of the world and for the Jewish community itself, Jews should be willing to engage in dialogue and joint projects with Catholics, said the Israeli ambassador to the Holy See. “Catholics have reached out a hand to us. It makes no sense not to take it, at least if we don’t want to mortgage our future with constant animosity with the Catholic world,” Ambassador Mordechai Lewy wrote in an article for the February issue of the Italian Jewish newspaper, *Pagine Ebraiche*. The ambassador’s article also was printed in the Jan. 20 edition of *L’Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican newspaper. He said the first 2,000 years of Catholic-Jewish relations do not bear repeating; “we both deserve better.” Lewy said that despite the Jewish biblical view that all humanity is one and despite centuries of authoritative biblical commentary demonstrating respect for other religions, some Orthodox Jews continue to be reluctant to enter into dialogue with Christians.



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► LATINOS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Report shows connection between going to church, avoiding violence

said they attend religious services weekly, compared to 31 percent of those born in the United States. Among both immigrants and U.S.-born Latino youths, those who attend church regularly were only half as likely to report being threatened with a weapon in the previous year — 5 percent — compared to their peers who are less religiously involved — 12 percent, it said.

The report did not analyze the connection between avoiding violence and going to church, beyond saying “religion may help explain why immigrants, who tend to be more religious than native-born Latinos, are less likely to tempt fate by carrying weapons, getting into fights or joining gangs.”

Among some of the other findings in the 100-page report:

- Large majorities of Hispanics, both young and old, immigrant and U.S.-born are satisfied with their lives and optimistic about their futures. U.S.-born Latinos are even more optimistic about being upwardly mobile than are immigrants, with more than three quarters saying they expect to be better off financially than their parents. Just 66 percent of immigrant Latinos say the same.

- Among all young Latinos, 89 percent ranked being successful in a career as very

important. There was no difference among immigrants or U.S.-born people. The next priority listed as very important was “having children,” cited by 50-60 percent, followed by “being married,” cited by 41-53 percent. “Being wealthy” was cited as very important by between 21 and 28 percent of Latino youths.

- “Living a religious life,” was listed as a very important priority by 60 percent of immigrant Latinos, and by 51 percent of all Latino youths. That compares to the 39 percent of the general population age 16-25 who considered a religious life very important.

- Latino youths even a generation removed from their family’s home country tend to support the tradition of children living at home with their parents until they marry. Sixty-nine percent of all Latinos agreed with that tradition, as did 61 percent of those between ages 16 and 25. Eighty-one percent of immigrants agreed with the statement, while just half of first generation U.S.-born youths agreed and only 45 percent of those whose parents also were born in the United States.

- Across all generations, more than 85 percent of all Latinos believe that “relatives are more important than friends.”

- All Latinos attend church services at about the same frequency as the general population. Among young Hispanics, 40 percent of immigrants attend religious services at least weekly, compared to 31 percent of those whose families have been in the United States at least two generations.

- Among all Latinos, 60 percent identify themselves as Catholic, followed by 14 percent who say they are evangelical. Among immigrants, 66 percent of young people are

Catholic. That figure declines to 49 percent among U.S.-born Latino youths. U.S. native Latino young adults are more likely to describe their religion as “other.”

The report was drawn from National Survey of Latinos and an oversample of 1,240 Hispanics between the ages of 16 and 25, interviewed for the Pew Hispanic Center by Social

Science Research Solutions. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish, by cell phone and land line.

The margin of error for the full study is plus or minus 3.7 percentage points, and plus or minus 4.6 percentage points for the survey of 16- to 25-year-olds.

Catholic News Service

Pius XII Feared Outcry Against Atrocities Would Worsen Situation

By Carol Glatz

VATICAN CITY — Pope Pius XII wanted to speak out against Nazi atrocities, but was advised not to for fear of worsening the wartime situation, said the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*.

“If the pope was silent, it was not out of fright or self-interest, but concern for worsening the situation of those oppressed” by the Nazi regime, it said.

With continuing criticism of Pope Pius’ wartime activities, especially given the advancement of his sainthood cause, the newspaper Feb. 2 republished an article that had first appeared in a special June 28, 1964, edition of the Vatican’s weekly periodical, *L'Osservatore della Domenica*.

The article, written by the late Jesuit Cardinal Paolo Dezza, gave a firsthand account of the cardinal’s conversations with Pope Pius during the war. Cardinal Dezza, who was rector of the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome at the time, conducted spiritual exercises for Popes Pius XII and John Paul I.

During a lengthy audience with Pope Pius in December 1942, the cardinal said the pontiff was pained by the Nazi atrocities unfolding in Germany and was distressed by criticisms that he was not speaking out publicly against them.

The pope had recently sent letters to three bishops in Poland in which he deplored the Nazi’s criminal acts, but the bishops had written back, first thanking the pope for his concern, but adding that they would not make the letters public “because it would worsen the situation,” according to the late cardinal.

“If I speak out, I will do them harm,” the pope said, according to Cardinal Dezza.

The cardinal said the pope told him, “People lament that the pope doesn’t speak out. But the pope can’t speak out. If he did, it would be worse.”

When the Germans occupied Rome in 1943, the late Italian cardinal said Pope Pius encouraged him to use the pontifical university as a refuge for “civilians, Jews and the persecuted.”

Catholic News Service

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Abortion Survivor Serves As a Voice for the Voiceless

By Patricia Kasten

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Melissa Ohden remembers the moment she knew she'd forgiven the mother who had tried to abort her.

"I was just married a year. I was thinking about how I wanted to be a mom, to have a house," the Sioux City, Iowa, resident remembers. "I was driving on a country road, and all of a sudden it hit me: 'I'm not different than my mother must have been. She must have been thinking all those things, when she found out she was pregnant with me.' That was a humbling moment, to realize that she was no different than me, but she made a different decision than me."

It was 1977 when Ohden's biological mother, a university student in Iowa, tried to end her six-month pregnancy by a saline abortion.

The abortion failed and Ohden survived. She was soon adopted and, even though her pediatricians believed she would suffer lifelong complications from the abortion attempt, Ohden had no long-term effects.

Today, a mother herself, she speaks about her experience, her biological parents and their families, her adoptive parents and her own daughter, to pro-life groups around the country.

Ohden's intent with her public speaking is to give a face and a voice to those children who experienced abortion, as she did, but did not survive.

"It's about being able to reflect the true reality of what abortion is," she said. "We in the pro-life movement talk about unborn children all the time, but we don't hear them. That's one reason the Lord



SURVIVOR: *Melissa Ohden of Sioux City, Iowa, is pictured with her 2-year-old daughter, Olivia, in an undated photo.*

saved my life, to talk about that, about my unborn brothers and sisters."

It's something that resonates with her audiences.

"Every time I go speak somewhere," Ohden said, "I am so surprised by the number of people

who line up to speak to me — grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers and sisters — to tell me their story and tell me how much they are hurting because of an abortion. They are missing out on that person in their lives."

This is also why Ohden founded

For Olivia's Sake, a nonprofit organization that "seeks to peacefully raise awareness of the intergenerational impact of abortion on men, women, children, families and communities."

Olivia is the name of her 2-year-old daughter, who was born in the

very hospital where Ohden's life almost ended in abortion. It was a tough decision for Ohden, who almost ran out of the birthing classes there and who had always held her breath "every time I drove past the place."

But it was all part of God's plan for her healing. In the process, Ohden met a nurse who had been working at the same hospital for 30 years, a nurse who remembered her birth family.

After years of work, searching medical records and filing petitions in court, Ohden was able to learn who her birth parents were. She has not met them but has connected with several relatives of her father, who is now deceased, and with her maternal grandfather.

Although she is striving for forgiveness, anger and fear resurface at times.

Still, Ohden said she cannot remain angry with her birth parents. Nor can she judge them. In fact, through what she acknowledges as God's grace and guidance, she has been able to feel sorrow for her biological parents because of the pain they must have experienced because of their choice.

And she adds that God's grace continues to lead her, this time toward the Catholic Church.

"I'm considering a conversion," said Ohden, who was raised a Methodist. "I listen to Catholic radio and all I watch is Catholic TV. I feel that connection at a deep level."

Part of the connection goes back to the hospital where her life almost ended before it began.

"There was a priest who prayed outside the hospital where I was to be aborted," she said. "And I know he saved my life."

Catholic News Service

'We in the pro-life movement talk about unborn children all the time, but we don't hear them. That's one reason the Lord saved my life, to talk about that, about my unborn brothers and sisters.'

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FEBRUARY

18: Prints in the Artist's Studio: "Rubens's Print Collection Reconstructed." Exhibition aims to represent the different uses of master prints in a 17th century European artist's studio. Tuesdays through Sundays, noon to 4 p.m. and Thursdays, noon to 6 p.m. Robert and Karen Hoehn Family Galleries, Founders Hall. Through May 9. Free. Closed university holidays. Call (619) 260-4261.

18: "Katsina: Commodified and Appropriated Images of Hopi Supernaturals." Exhibit of more than 30 carved figures representing sacred Hopi spirits. Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 1 to 3 p.m. David W. May Gallery, Serra Hall, Room 214A. Through April 16. Free. Call (619) 260-4238.

20: "Contemplating Christ's Pierced Heart in the Wound of Humanity." Reflection on five female mystics who saw Christ's pierced heart in the wounded hearts of other people. 9 a.m. to noon, University Center, Room 103. \$15, pre-registration; \$20, at the door; half-price, USD faculty and staff; free, USD students with I.D. Call (619) 260-4874 or e-mail ccs@sandiego.edu.

21: Life Directions Retreat for Young Adults. Prayer and reflection for those in 20s and 30s facing major life choices. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Salomon Lecture Hall, Maher Hall. \$20, registration by Feb. 19. Call (619) 260-4874 or e-mail ccs@sandiego.edu.

24: "Global Economic Morass: How Greed and Government Conspired to Change Capitalism," by Matthew Paull, retired CFO of McDonald's Corp. 8 to 9 a.m., Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice Theatre. Free, RSVP required to gascilla@sandiego.edu. Call (619) 260-4828.

25: "Aid that Works: Creating a 21st Century Vision for U.S. Development Assistance," by Raymond C. Offenheiser, president of Oxfam America. 7 to 8:30 p.m., Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice. Free, RSVP required at <http://peace.sandiego.edu>. Call (619) 260-7509.

26: Chamber Music Recital. An all-Schubert program. 7:30 p.m., French Parlor, Founders Hall. Tickets on sale at the door only. \$10, general admission; \$8, seniors, USD faculty, staff, and alumni; \$5, students with I.D. Call (619) 260-4171.

27: "The Country Wife," a Restoration-era comedy. Times vary, Studio Theatre, Sacred Heart Hall. Through March 4. \$10, general admission; \$8, students, seniors, and active military. Tickets on sale at UC Box Office. Go to www.globemfa.org.

MARCH

24: "Nuclear Energy: The New Green Hope?" Talk by Randy Willoughby, USD professor of political science. For those ages 55 and older. 10 to 11:30 a.m., Degheri Alumni Center, Room 120. Free, RSVP required. E-mail jehrgott@sandiego.edu or call (619) 260-4815.

25: "The Gospel of Luke: Lessons for the Recession," by Pastor Jack Lindquist on wisdom in times of economic instability. \$10, pre-registration; \$15, at the door. Call (619) 260-4784.



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National Program Raises Awareness of Global Hunger, Poverty

'Operation Rice Bowl' starts Feb. 17

BALTIMORE — Every year, millions of Catholics in the United States participate in Operation Rice Bowl.

Catholic Relief Services' annual Lenten program starts on Ash Wednesday, which is celebrated Feb. 17 this year.

Each Lent, Catholics at more than 13,000 parishes and schools use symbolic rice bowls as the focal point for their prayer, fasting and learning. Getting involved in the program is a tangible way to help people living in poverty around the world.

Families that undertake Operation Rice Bowl make the small sacrifice of preparing simple, meatless recipes each week and putting the money they otherwise would have spent on a big meal into the symbolic rice bowls. That money, which is often turned in during the Sunday liturgy, goes to support CRS' mission to fight global hunger and poverty.

"Participating in Operation Rice Bowl provides Catholics with 40 days of making a real difference in the lives of people struggling with hunger and poverty," said Beth Martin, program manager for Operation Rice Bowl. "Learning about our brothers and sisters in developing countries and following the call to sacrifice helps thousands of people onto a path out of poverty every year."

Participants receive an Operation Rice Bowl calendar, which provides them with daily reflections and learning opportunities that reinforce the program's message and mission. To help families, schools and parishes participate in Operation Rice Bowl, CRS also makes a number of resources available, including an educator's guide containing lesson plans and a community and parish guide to help Catholics participate as a group.

Twenty-five parishes and schools in the Diocese of San Diego have ordered rice bowls for their families this year.

Last year, Catholics raised more than \$6 million through



A SIMPLE MEAL: The Angelotti family prays before diving in to a meatless meal at their home in Centreville, Va. The family has made Operation Rice Bowl a centerpiece on the family table during Lent.

Operation Rice Bowl. Since its beginning in 1975, the program has raised more than \$173 million to fund CRS' development projects in more than 40 countries. With active participation in almost every diocese in the United States, many

communities and families have adopted Operation Rice Bowl as a way to observe Lent.

For more information, visit <http://orb.crs.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

Wilton, Angelina	January 9	St. Therese
Hoffman, Refugio	January 12	Our Lady of Guadalupe, Chula Vista
Brister, Frances	January 15	St. Didacus
Szewzuk, Louise	January 16	Holy Cross Cemetery
Ledesma, Dr. James P., PhD	January 16	St. Didacus
Chavez, Frances	January 18	St. Didacus
Fredricks, Margaret	January 22	St. Therese
Morehead, Patricia	January 22	St. Martin of Tours
Wrigley, Maxine	January 23	Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
Garcia, Celia	January 26	St. John of the Cross
Rubalcaba, Frances	January 28	St. John of the Cross
Fares, Helen	February 2	St. Ephrem
Lorentz, James	February 2	Mission San Diego de Alcala

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Supporting Our Bishops

A prayer campaign that began in 2005 to offer support to Bishop Robert C. Morlino of Madison, Wis., has been expanded to allow Catholics nationwide to sign up to pray for their bishops online.

Rosary for the Bishop was inspired by a passage from Chapter 17 of Exodus, which refers to Aaron and Hur holding up Moses' hands during battle.

"We need to support our bishops' hands so that they do not weary in the battle for the faith," said Syte Reitz, a Madison-area Catholic who initiated the campaign.

"Many Catholics pray the rosary every day," he added. "Why not pray one for our bishops? They are our shepherds, and

their job is not easy. They need and deserve our prayers."

Reitz's son, Tom, then a computer science student, developed the Web site at www.rosaryforthebishop.org, where people can sign up online to pray for multiple bishops, if they wish. There also is an option for users to receive a reminder message by e-mail or Twitter when they are scheduled to pray.

"If you want to pray for Bishop Morlino on Mondays and Archbishop [Timothy M.] Dolan of New York on the first Friday of every month, you can do that," said Tom Reitz. "And the neat part is that you can see statistics about how many other people are praying, too."

Catholic News Service

A Cross, the Universe

The Gospels, four icons, crosses and a relic of the True Cross have been taken aboard the Russian segment of the International Space Station (ISS), a Russian cosmonaut has reported.

A photo taken by the station crew shows an icon and a crucifix floating in zero gravity in the ISS.

Writing on his blog at the Web site of the Russian Federal Space Agency (Roscosmos), Cosmonaut Maksim Suraev responded to readers' questions about religious symbols on the space station.

"We have four holy icons on the Russia segment. We also have the Gospels and a big cross," he said, according to a blog entry translated by *Russia Today* in November 2009.

Suraev added that he has a reliquary cross

in his cabin.

"A priest gave it to me at Baikanur before the launch," he said. "Father Job told me a piece of the original cross on which Jesus was crucified is contained in mine."

He added that his cross was blessed in the major monastery of Sergiev Posad.

"It will be with me the whole expedition and will return with me to Earth," the cosmonaut wrote.

Holy relics and other objects have been on previous spaceflights. For instance, U.S. astronaut Ronald Garan brought a relic of St. Therese of Lisieux with him on the space shuttle Discovery in 2008, and he plans to bring another relic of the saint with him on a mission to the ISS in 2011.

Catholic News Agency

With a Huff and a Puff ...



DAVID SAUNDERS

During a production of "The Three Little Piggy Opera," two little pigs hide out from the Big Bad Wolf in a house made out of sticks. Performed by kindergarteners at The Nativity School in Rancho Santa Fe, the production took place Jan. 27 during an open house at the school. [Editor's Note: Only brick houses are known to withstand the huffing and puffing of a Big Bad Wolf.]

Faith Bowl

A round-table discussion produced by Family Theater Productions brought together professional Catholic athletes to discuss how they live out their faith in the public arena of professional sports and what challenges to family life they face.

The half-hour discussion, called *Faith Bowl III*, aired on several Catholic television broadcast outlets and networks in conjunction with Super Bowl XLIV Feb. 7. This was the third consecutive year that Family Theater has produced *Faith Bowl* in conjunction with Catholic Athletes for Christ and the Knights of Columbus.

Faith Bowl III featured Mike Piazza, a retired catcher who had a 16-year career in Major League Baseball, mostly with the

New York Mets and Los Angeles Dodgers; Mike Sweeney, a 15-year veteran of Major League Baseball and designated hitter for the Seattle Mariners in 2009; Bobby Keppel, a relief pitcher for the Minnesota Twins.

With Keppel as moderator, the panelists discussed the importance of the Catholic faith, prayer and a sound Christian family life, and the important role of a husband and father in being a "true man." The three ballplayers are members of Catholic Athletes for Christ, which assists its members in the practice of their faith and helps them promote a Catholic sports culture.

Catholic News Service

Media and Ministry

In a message embracing the evangelizing potential of digital media, Pope Benedict XVI asked priests around the world to use Web sites, videos and blogs as tools of pastoral ministry.

"The world of digital communication, with its almost limitless expressive capacity, makes us appreciate all the more St. Paul's exclamation: 'Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel,'" the pope said in his message for the 2010 celebration of World Communications Day.

"Priests stand at the threshold of a new era: As new technologies create deeper forms of relationship across greater distances, they are called to respond pastorally by putting the media ever more effectively at the service of

the Word," he said.

The pope's message, released at the Vatican Jan. 23, was tailored to the current Year for Priests, focusing on the theme: "The priest and pastoral ministry in a digital world: New media at the service of the Word."

World Communications Day will be celebrated May 16 in most dioceses.

The pope said that while priests should not abandon traditional methods of pastoral interaction, they cannot afford to pass up the opportunities offered by digital media. He said "the recent, explosive growth and greater social impact of these media make them all the more important for a fruitful priestly ministry."

Catholic News Service

Q

Quotable Quotes

Q

What's So Inappropriate?

"Apparently, [the National Organization for Women] feels this commercial is an inappropriate message for America to see for 30 seconds, but women in bikinis selling beer is the right one. I would like to meet the genius at NOW who made that decision. On second thought, no, I wouldn't."

— Sally Jenkins, an admittedly pro-choice journalist, weighs in on the controversy over a pro-life Super Bowl commercial featuring Florida Gators quarterback Tim Tebow.

Friends Like U.S.

"When there's trouble, the world, the United States, are good friends."

— Redemptorist Father Abellard Thomas, pastor of St. Gerard Church in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, expressing confidence that Americans and others will aid his country in the aftermath of a Jan. 12 earthquake

No Need to Earn It

"Nobody should have to earn the right to hydration. We should do everything we can to care for these people, regardless of how responsive or unresponsive they are."

— Bobby Schindler speaks with Catholic News Agency about a new study showing that limited communication with patients in "persistent vegetative states" is now possible. Schindler is the brother of Terri Schiavo, a brain-damaged woman whose feeding tubes were removed in 2005 by court order, resulting in her death by starvation and dehydration.

Briefs

Speaker to Reflect on Popular Prayers

SAN DIEGO — Father Cavanaugh Wallace, pastor of St. Margaret Parish in Oceanside, will be the guest speaker at the next breakfast sponsored by Central San Diego Magnificat, a ministry to Catholic women. The meeting will be held from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Saturday, March 6, at the Sheraton Mission Valley Hotel. Father Wallace will speak on the simplicity and depth of the "Our Father," "Hail Mary" and "Glory Be," explaining why they can be seen as the backbone of Catholic prayer and worship. Ordained in 1992, Father Wallace ministered at Good Shepherd and St. Charles parishes before being named pastor of St. Margaret in 2001. *For more information, call (619) 583-3389. To RSVP, call (858) 578-1256.*

Therapists' Conference: Jesus Still Heals Today

SAN MARCOS — The Association of Christian Therapists (ACT) is holding a conference Thursday, Feb. 25, to Sunday, Feb. 28, at the Lake San Marcos Resort. The conference is for all those in healing professions — nurses, doctors, therapists (physical, occupational and emotional), educators, lecturers, priests and religious. Everyone in a "people-serving profession" will feel at home, according to conference organizers. ACT is a Catholic and ecumenical organization that welcomes all Christians who believe that Jesus Christ heals today as He did in the Gospels. The conference will feature knowledgeable and spirit-filled speakers, including Dr. Michael Brescia, Sharon Froom LLP, and Rev. Dr. Russ Parker. Father Pat Crowley will be celebrating a healing Mass Feb. 26. There will also be a healing service on Feb. 27. *For more information or to register, visit the ACT Web site, www.actheals.org.*

'Singles for Christ' Group Now Seeking Members

SAN DIEGO — Singles for Christ, an international and local Catholic ministry

affiliated with Couples for Christ, will hold an orientation meeting at 7 p.m., Friday, Feb. 26, at St. Michael Parish in San Diego. Following the orientation talk, there will be weekly meetings. St. Michael Parish is located at 2643 Homedale St., San Diego 92139. *For more information, call (951) 797-7979 or email sfcsocal@gmail.com.*

Weekend Offers Chance for New Beginning

ORANGE, Calif. — Those grieving the loss of their marriage through death, divorce or separation are invited to participate in a Beginning Experience weekend Feb. 26-28 at the Marywood Retreat Center in Orange, Calif. A trained team will lead participants through a healing and growth program. The weekend is designed for those who feel ready to move through their feelings of grief, into the light of a new beginning and hope. *For more information, contact Michelle at (949) 589-5609 or mjs92688@cox.net, or call Larry at (714) 227-9550. Early registration is encouraged.*

Matt Maher to Perform at Lemon Grove Parish

LEMON GROVE — St. John of the Cross Parish in Lemon Grove will be hosting an evening of praise and worship with Catholic musician Matt Maher and band. The concert will be held Sunday, Feb. 28, at the parish. Maher and his band have been transforming lives since the debut of his first album, *The End and the Beginning*, in 2002. Four CDs later, Maher is now circling the globe, has received glowing reviews from major Catholic and Christian publications and recently won the Unity Award for "Artist of the Year." His hit singles, "Just Like You," "Your Grace Is Enough," and "As It Is in Heaven," can be heard in churches of all denominations throughout the United States. He is sought out not only for his gift of music, but for his gift as a motivational speaker and worship leader. Those interested in attending the concert are encouraged to purchase their tickets early, as a sellout is expected. *For tickets and information, call (619) 729-2228 or visit www.stjohnncross.org.*

Dresses for Africa



Kindergarteners at St. John the Evangelist School in Encinitas pose with dresses they made for children in Africa. As a recent community outreach project, students at the school collected pillowcases, ribbons and embellishments, which were used to make dresses. The final products were donated to the nonprofit organization Little Dresses for Africa.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST SCHOOL

Dinner/Auction to Benefit Sacred Heart

CORONADO — Sacred Heart School's first annual The Vine & the Branches, a wine-maker dinner and auction benefit, will take place Saturday, March 6, at Loews Coronado Bay Resort. The event will feature premiere Napa Valley winery Far Niente partnering with Loews' French Master Chef Marc Ehrler to present an elegant four-course dinner. The event, which benefits the school's academic programs, begins with a wine-tasting reception and a silent auction at 5 p.m., followed by the dinner and live auction. The guest auctioneer will be Stevan Laaperi, director of the diocesan Office for Schools and a former principal of Sacred Heart. Tickets are available for \$145 before Feb. 20 and \$165 after that date. *For sponsorship, advertising and*

reservation forms, visit www.sacredheartcoronado.org. For more information, call benefit committee leader Veleria Fabiszak at (619) 253-6928.

Three-Night Mission Will Include Music and Humor

SAN DIEGO — The Faithful Families Parish Mission, presented by Tempe, Ariz.-based Sound Mission Ministries, will offer a dynamic blend of music, humor and Catholic teaching at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in San Diego. The evening missions will take place from Sunday, Feb. 21, through Tuesday, Feb. 23. Held from 7-9 p.m. each night, the missions will help families strengthen their connection with Christ, the Church and one another as they begin their Lenten journey. The mission

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Spiritual Journeys

Best of Italy and Oberammergau Passion Play July 14 - 25, 2010 from LAX; visits Venice, Florence, Siena, Assisi, Rome - Fr. Robert Herbst, OFM Conv.

Holy Shroud of Turin and Oberammergau Passion Play May 14 - 23, 2010 from LAX, including Rome, Assisi, Florence, Torino, Escorted by Founder of Crucifixion & Shroud. Spiritual Director: Fr. Paul Henson, O Carm.

Oberammergau Passion Play & Oktoberfest in Munich, Germany Sept. 14 - 25, 2010 from LAX, visiting Paris, Strasbourg, France; Innsbruck, Salzburg, Austria; Zurich, Lucerne, Switzerland; Black Forest, Berchtesgaden, Munich, Germany - Spiritual Director: Fr. Victor Abegg, OFM Conv.

Footsteps of Paul & Lands of the Bible Grand Christian Cruise "Exclusive Sailing" Nov. 4 - 21, 2010 Greece, Turkey (BVM's House), Cairo, Egypt; Jerusalem, Galilee, Israel. Incl. airfare, transfers, deluxe staterooms, all meals, all Shore Excursions included. Call Today!



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will include music, speeches, prayer and Eucharistic adoration. The mission team will be headed by Chris Muglia, a singer/songwriter who founded Sound Mission Ministries in 2002. There is no cost to attend, but a free-will offering will be collected. *For more information, contact Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish at (858) 484-1070 or visit www.soundmission.org.*

Cookbook Proceeds Aid Developmentally Disabled

SAN DIEGO — *The Scrumptious Cookbook* was produced by the St. Madeleine Sophie's Auxiliary to raise funds for St. Madeleine Sophie's Center. The center serves adults with developmental disabilities. Now in its second edition, the cookbook includes more than 150 recipes, including appetizers, soups and salads, main courses, side dishes, breads and desserts. Each cookbook is sold for \$20, plus \$3 for shipping. Checks made payable to "St. Madeleine Sophie's Auxiliary" can be mailed to: Susan Halstead, president, SMS Auxiliary, 935 La Cresta Blvd., El Cajon, CA 92021; complete mailing and contact information should be included along with the check. *For more information on the cookbook, call (619) 440-6876. For more information on St. Madeleine Sophie's Center, visit www.stmsc.org.*

Lecture Will Examine Rembrandt's Religious Art

SAN DIEGO — As the fifth of a series of educational programs related to the exhibit "Rembrandt's Recession: Passion and Prints in the Dutch Golden Age," the Timken Museum of Art is presenting an "Art in the Evening" lecture entitled "The Search for Rembrandt." The lecture will be delivered from 5:30-8:30 p.m., Thursday, April 15. Collector and connoisseur Robert Hoehn, who lent his private collection to the Timken for the "Rembrandt's Recession" exhibition (Jan. 22-May 2), will discuss his passion for the artist's work and his acquisition of the New Testament prints with Dr. John Wilson, executive director of the Timken. The cost to attend is \$25 for museum members and \$35 for non-members. The Timken Museum of Art is located at 1500 El Prado in Balboa Park.

'Easter Walk' Will Support Catholic Education

SAN DIEGO — An "Easter Walk for Catholic Schools" will begin at 2 p.m., Wednesday, April 14, on Mater Dei Catholic High School's athletic field. The event, which will raise money for local Catholic schools and scholarships funds, is being sponsored by Holy Spirit Parish and Higher Values for Youth, with the assistance of the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Knights and Ladies of St. Peter Claver and Mater Dei Catholic High School. Walkers find donors willing to pledge money for each lap that is walked. Each lap is one-fourth of a mile, and walkers can complete

up to 20 laps. The walkers themselves can designate where their pledge money will be given, whether to a particular school, the scholarship fund of Higher Values for Youth or the diocese's Secondary Education Initiative. *For more information, call (619) 262-2435.*

Everybody's a Winner in the 'Souper Bowl'

SAN DIEGO — The Souper Bowl of Caring Campaign is a community outreach project that helps congregations, schools and businesses make a positive difference in their local community by collecting money and canned food on or near Super Bowl weekend. Everything collected for the campaign is donated directly to the charity or food bank of each group's choice. In the past, local church groups have donated to such organizations as Father Joe's Villages. This year, many are sending their donations to aid earthquake relief in Haiti. Organizers describe the Souper Bowl of Caring Campaign as a fun way to help the homeless and the hungry in local communities. *For more information or to get involved, visit www.souperbowl.org or contact Tom Tiettmeyer, ambassador for Souper Bowl of Caring, at adoptaprogram@yahoo.com or (858) 569-0846.*

Affordable Meal Program Helps San Diego Families

SAN DIEGO — Considering the current economy, feeding your family for a week on just \$30 sounds like a dream, but it has become a reality thanks to local community efforts and a program called The Treasure Box. The program, an economical meal program developed by San Diego-based Good Source Solutions, provides quality, nutritious food for everyone trying to stretch their food dollars — with more than 65 percent savings on your grocery bill. The Treasure Box can feed a family of four for almost a week or an individual for nearly one month. The program is able to leverage its buying power through partnerships with more than 500 well-known and popular food brands to provide a pre-assembled, frozen box packed with \$75 – \$100 worth of food offered to individuals and families for just \$30 per week. The Treasure Box has partnered with churches in San Diego County to offer their congregation members as well as the general public the opportunity to share The Treasure Box with the community. The program is not limited to low-income families, but is available to everyone. *For more information, visit www.thetreasurebox.org.*

'JustFaith' Program Comes to San Diego

NORTH COUNTY — A collaborative of five North County parishes is sponsoring an introductory workshop on the nationally known JustFaith program, from 8:30 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Feb. 20, at St. Thomas More Parish (1450 S. Melrose Dr., Oceanside). The twofold objective of

Final Profession



COURTESY CARMEL OF THE TRINITY MONASTERY

Sister Ara Marie of the Eucharist, OCD (right), embraces the prioress of Carmel of the Trinity Monastery in San Diego Jan. 30. Bishop Robert H. Brom served as principal celebrant at the Mass, during which Sister Ara Marie made her final profession of vows.

JustFaith is to develop a passion for justice — as exemplified in Scripture, Church history and Catholic social teaching — and to empower participants to express this passion in concrete acts of loving service. To accomplish this goal, JustFaith works in partnership with Catholic Charities USA, Catholic Campaign for Human Development and Catholic Relief Services. Since the program was introduced in 1989, more than 12,000 people in 90 U.S. dioceses have participated. The Feb. 20 workshop will provide an overview of the program and recommendations for implementing it in parishes. Attendance does not commit participants to the program itself. Cost: \$15/person. *For more information, visit www.justfaith.org. To register, call (858) 682-1118 or email kateh-odsdon@yahoo.com.*

Catholic Educators Invited to 'Bearing Witness'

SAN DIEGO — The Bearing Witness Institute, a seminar about Holocaust edu-

cation and anti-Semitism, will take place June 28-July 1. Participation is open to Catholic educators of history, English, religion and related studies. The Institute is provided through a partnership between the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and the Diocese of San Diego and in coordination with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. "I believe that we are living in a period of great fear, where it is quite easy to marginalize different religions and ethnic groups," remarked a participant from 2007. "Almost unconsciously, we fall into generalizing about and distancing ourselves from those who are different from us. Why do we so easily forget that we are all children of the same living God with an important shared heritage?" The registration deadline is March 12. There is a \$75 fee to participate. *To register, visit www.adl.org/sdbearingwitness, or contact Marcie Denberg Serra at (619) 293-3770 or mdenberg@adl.org.*

Reflecting on *Roe v. Wade*, Bishop Promotes Culture of Life

SAN DIEGO — On the eve of the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, Bishop Robert H. Brom stressed the importance of advancing a culture of life that recognizes the inherent dignity of every human being.

Bishop Brom presided at a special Mass Jan. 21 at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, concelebrating the liturgy with the Barnabite priests who staff the parish — Fathers Steven Grancini, Louis Solcia and Joseph Tabigue.

Packing the small church, more than 300 people attended the Mass in a demonstration of their commitment to the pro-life cause. After Mass, during a reception in the parish hall, representatives of local pro-life organizations were on hand to provide information about their work.

The evening liturgy took place on the vigil of the 37th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's controversial *Roe v. Wade* decision. The 7-2 ruling, which created a constitutional "right" to abortion, was issued Jan. 22, 1973. In response to the decision, the U.S. bishops declared Jan. 22 a day of penance and prayer for life.

The following was excerpted from Bishop Brom's homily message:

Apart from God, nothing would exist; nothing could remain in existence. And in the order of creation, we cannot forget the dignity of human life as established by God.

"God said: 'Let us make man in Our image.'" Thus, "in the image of God, He created him; male and female, He created them."

But there's more: To the dignity of human life, God added sanctity.

From the beginning, God intended man — male and female — to share in the very life and love of the Trinity. And when this plan was thwarted by sin, God became flesh in Jesus for the salvation of the human race. Jesus is the gate through whom all might enter into communion with God, now and forever: "He came that we might have life



MASS FOR LIFE: Bishop Robert H. Brom delivers his homily at a Jan. 21 Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish.

and have it more abundantly ... to the full."

In plain words: God is our origin, God is our destiny, God is our companion on the journey. Human life has a dignity and sanc-

tity that cannot be denied, nor can the right to life and invitation to life in its fullness. It's God's plan. Human and holy have become inseparable.

And so, in *Evangelium Vitae*, Pope John Paul II wrote: "It is urgently necessary, for the future of society and the development of a sound democracy, to rediscover those essential and innate human and moral values which flow from the very truth of the human being and express and safeguard the dignity of the person: values which no individual, no majority and no state can ever create, modify or destroy, but must only acknowledge, respect and promote" (#71).

In other words, written by God into the very fabric of human beings is a truth about life, including essential human and moral values, which must be respected, defended and promoted. Why? For human beings to find their fulfillment as designed by God. Why? For the survival of the human race as human. Why? Because, when nature's way as established by God is violated, God might well forgive, but nature takes revenge.

And so, to be committed to a truly consistent ethic of human life and love, for all human beings in all circumstances — especially the unborn, the disabled and the elderly — this is not a disservice to society, but

actually a tremendous service to society and every member of it.

Our efforts need to begin with prayer and be sustained throughout with prayer and sacrifice.

Respect for the dignity of the human person and sanctity of human life requires a conversion of mind and heart above all, never without the grace of God, most often in heart-to-heart communication, one person at a time, after the manner of Jesus.

Our activities to protect and serve every member of our society, especially the most marginalized, voiceless and vulnerable among us, must be rooted in our faith and expressed in love for all, even for the hard-hearted who oppose us.

'Our activities to protect and serve every member of our society ... must be rooted in our faith and expressed in love for all.'

Above all, I believe we need to foster a culture of life. Parents and teachers teach, preachers preach, but cultures inculturate.

A culture of death is all too prevalent in our country and world today. It has actually won over many of our own people with its "doctrine" dressed up in the language of liberty, choice, autonomy and equality — of course, all misinterpreted. We need to do more to foster a culture of life, which will properly define liberty, choice, autonomy and equality.

Everyone in the Church is chosen and sent by Jesus to participate in His mission and evangelizing activity: the ordained primarily by ministries, the laity primarily "by engaging in temporal affairs and ordering them according to the plan of God, which they do by virtue of their baptism and confirmation" (*Lumen Gentium* #31).

To develop a culture of life, a culture which will be inculturating, the laity, according to Pope John Paul II, are to evangelize the various cultures of which they are a part, proposing and bearing witness to the truth about life, including the human and moral values which, as I have already said, must be protected, defended and promoted for human beings to find fulfillment and for the survival of the human race as human.

The lay faithful — politicians, public officials, doctors and nurses, educators, business people, common laborers, people in the entertainment world and so on and so on — must affect their environment for God. When this happens, we will answer the culture of death with a culture of life, life rooted in love, love stronger than sin and more powerful than death.

The Southern Cross

Celebrating 150 Years



San Diego priests and seminarians pose Jan. 17 during an alumni reunion at the North American College in Rome. The event marked the 150th anniversary of the college. Founded by Pope Pius IX in 1859, its students are all seminarians from North America. From left, Father Michael Robinson, Brian Frice, Father Ron Buchmiller, Father Peter McGuine, Deacon Efrain Bautista, Jay Bananal, Msgr. Lawrence Purcell, Father Henry Rodriguez, Deacon Jacob Bertrand and Msgr. Dennis Mikulanis.

COURTESY MSGR. DENNIS MIKULANIS

RCIA Process Leads Spiritual Seekers to a Happy Homecoming

By Mary Jo Waggoner

SAN DIEGO — Why do non-Catholic adults choose to enter the Catholic Church through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) process?

Despite the many people who follow this path, each bringing their own life experiences, there is really only one answer to this question: Because they have been called.

God the Father has called them, they have come to understand that Jesus loves them unconditionally, and the Holy Spirit has led them to their true spiritual home in the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

Approximately 18 months ago, catechumens and candidates from throughout the Diocese of San Diego began their journey through the RCIA. It is a process and journey of conversion in which participants inquire if this is the church for them. Through discernment, with the guidance of the pastor and RCIA team, they celebrate the Rite of Acceptance.

During the RCIA process, catechumens — those who are not baptized — and candidates — those baptized in other faiths — meet weekly with their parish RCIA team. They break open the Word of God heard each Sunday, study the teachings of the Catholic faith and make a final decision to enter the Church.

With great joy, the parish celebrates the Rite of Sending on the first Sunday of Lent, when the pastor and parishioners send them out to meet with Bishop Robert H. Brom.

This year, Bishop Brom will celebrate the Rite of Election with 345 adult catechumens and 43 children and the Rite of Continuing Conversion with 998 adult candidates and 16 children. With accompanying pastors, sponsors, godparents and team members, more than 4,100 people are expected to participate in this year's Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, which will be held Feb. 21.

After the Rite of Election, catechumens



ERIKA TORAYA

WELCOME: Catechumen Amie Scully (center) poses with her husband and sponsor Jan. 10 after the Rite of Welcoming and Acceptance at St. Brigid Parish.

are known as the Elect. They and the candidates return to their parishes for a final six weeks of Purification and Enlightenment during the season of Lent. They begin their final preparations toward baptism and full communion, which will take place at the Easter Vigil.

The journey of the Elect and the candidates will not end with their entrance into

the Catholic Church. Like all Catholics, they will be called to a life of growing fidelity to God and to the demands of the Christian life. Meanwhile, their fellow parishioners will be called to lead by example and to serve as a mentoring community to the neophytes.

The Southern Cross

Mary Jo Waggoner is director of the diocesan Office for Evangelization and Catechetical Ministry.

In Their Own Words

At this year's Easter Vigil, more than 1,400 catechumens and candidates will enter the Catholic Church in the Diocese of San Diego. What inspired them to begin the RCIA process? How has that process benefited them? What are their feelings as they prepare for one of the major milestones in their lives? The following are the reflections and comments of just a few of San Diego's catechumens and candidates.



Shawn Hobson
Candidate

St. Thomas More Parish, Oceanside

"I noticed a banner — 'Come Grow with Us' — as I drove my car past St. Thomas More in Oceanside. I pondered the thought: How does a 40-year-old Protestant man become Catholic, and why? I've read the Bible several times, but I've never had the opportunity to learn the meaning behind certain rituals. Church tradition and the Bible work together, and that's what I'm beginning to understand by going through RCIA. Why do I want to become Catholic? My answer is found in the Eucharist. The mystery of faith is present in the Body and Blood of Christ, and I'm in awe of the Lord's actual presence."



William Wheatley
Candidate

San Rafael Parish, Rancho Bernardo

"I was born and raised an Episcopalian and had spent the last 10 years attending Catholic Mass, so part of me felt that perhaps the [RCIA] classes would be more of a formality than anything else. Ah, the arrogance of man! Luckily, the Lord swiftly presented me with evidence to the contrary. I was very much in need of the RCIA process, more so than I had imagined, and it has turned into an experience that I would not exchange for anything in this world. I have learned more about the depth, power and peace of the Christian faith in the past few months than I thought possible."



Hastiya Labbafi
Catechumen

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Rancho Peñasquitos

"The process of becoming Catholic has been spiritual, enlightening and rewarding. Many people from the parish have made sure of that and have been very generous with their time. I am anxiously looking forward to my baptism, confirmation and first Communion. Very soon, we will be formally accepted into the Catholic faith. I look forward to that like a kid looks forward to Christmas."



Michael Medinger
Catechumen

Mission San Luis Rey Parish, Oceanside

"Having grown up agnostic, this led to spiritual conclusions that I had never considered on a serious basis. Could I continue on this path of willful uncertainty much longer? One day, I decided that I could not. The RCIA process has given me the opportunity to explore Christianity with the academic rigor and spiritual investigation that I enjoy. As with most other things in my life, I feel that I get out of RCIA what I put into it; the more I read and study, the more firm in my faith I become."



Brian Wesley
Candidate

St. Jerome Parish, San Diego

"The RCIA process has shown me that the commitment to God and the lifelong journey that I am undertaking [are] not to be taken lightly. It requires a full commitment to living out my life in the service of God, and to [continuing] to learn more about God, so that my heart is filled with His love and I, in turn, share this love with all the people that I encounter throughout my life. In a recent homily, [Father James Bahash] spoke of how you can tell someone truly loves someone: the way a husband looks at his wife, the way a parent looks at their child. This is what the RCIA experience has meant to me: I know this look, and this is the look that I want on my face each day in the service of God."



Jason Brown
Candidate

St. Michael Parish, San Diego

"At first, I was skeptical that I was [going to] benefit from [the RCIA process] at all; it didn't take long for me to realize that I was wrong. Throughout the RCIA sessions, I've really felt that I have begun to change as a person. The things I want in life are changing, my perception of the world is changing, the things I care about are changing. These changes I know are making me a better person, and I ask the Lord every night to help me to continue to stay on this path so that I may be of better service to Him."

USD Hosts National Conference on Catholic Social Thought

ALCALA PARK — A little more than a decade ago, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops issued a document clarifying and proclaiming the essential role of Catholic social thought in higher education.

From Jan. 15-17, educators and administrators gathered at the University of San Diego to explore how far they have come and still need to go toward integrating those principles into the fabric of university life.

"Transcending Borders: Catholic Social Thought in Teaching, Research and Action" was the theme of the 10th annual peace and justice meeting of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities.

About 85 representatives from Georgetown, Notre Dame, the University of San Francisco and other Catholic institutions joined their USD colleagues in studying an updated "vision statement" calling Catholic social thought "essential to the Catholic university's mission, the education and formation of its students, the research it undertakes and the conduct of its corporate and institutional life."

While much progress has been made, more can be done to integrate principles of Catholic social thought — such as respect for the dignity of each person and a preferential option for the poor — into campus life, said Kathleen Maas Weigert, executive director of the Center for Social Justice Research, Teaching and Service at Georgetown University.

Breaking down those borders requires involving not just faculty and students in activities related to Catholic social thought, but also administrators and staff.

"The culture of the institution will shift to the extent that faculty and administrators have compelling experiences that awaken their understanding and deepen their desire to live out the mission of the

institution," said Maas Weigert, who has helped lead successful service and immersion trips to Africa and Central America.

Faculty members seeking tenure also need to be rewarded and valued for implementing principles of Catholic social thought, along with their efforts toward academic excellence in teaching and research. If not, "it's never going to be totally embedded" into a university's culture, she said.

Participants also discussed how to create activities that will inspire students to make Catholic social thought a permanent part of their lives.

"It's not so much about creating a culture of Catholic social thought on campus; the real challenge is creating a culture of reflection on Catholic social thought" that will help students find "constructive and helpful ways" of addressing the poverty and injustice they observe in the world, said Michael Lovette-Colyer, director of University Ministry at USD.

Despite the challenges competing for students' time — such as their focus on technology and need to find jobs and careers — the good news is that students have "this incredible longing" for their lives to have meaning and purpose, he added.

Conference speakers also addressed areas identified in the vision statement where universities can play a constructive role, including the economy; environment; migration; gender, race and ethnicity; and human rights language.

Charles M.A. Clark, a professor of economics at St. John's University, began his talk by apologizing for his profession's role in "wrecking our economy." He talked about how principles of Catholic social thought can shed light on the current financial crisis and the need for a new understanding of wealth and business models addressing inequality and the

Construction Underway



The St. Rose of Lima Education Center, a new addition to St. Rose of Lima Parish in Chula Vista, is shown on Feb. 3 as it is made ready for its exterior plaster finish.

Designed by leading church architects Domusstudio Architecture and with construction services from nationally recognized Erickson-Hall Construction Co., the nearly 24,000-square-foot education center is expected to be completed this summer.

The two-story structure will accommodate the parish school as well as parish educational functions. It is the first of three phases planned for the parish campus. Upon completion of all three phases, the campus will also include a new two-story parish hall and a new 1,500-seat church facility.

On Jan. 31, the parish unveiled a refurbished statue of St. Rose of Lima, which had been placed atop the new education center. The statue weighs approximately 500 pounds. On Dec. 22, 2009, the statue had been removed from the parish's original school building, where it had stood since 1948. Because the older building is slated for demolition, the statue had to be moved to a new home.

growing gap between rich and poor. Microsoft founder Bill Gates "would have done everything he did for 1/1000 of the wealth he created," Clark argued.

Participants also got a firsthand look at the complex issue of immigration through a visit to the U.S.-Mexico border. Speaker David T. Abalos, professor emeritus of religious studies and sociology at Seton Hall University, discussed "Catholic

Higher Education in the Third Millennium: Race and Ethnicity in the U.S." Noting the discrimination that often greeted past immigrants to the United States, he called for universities to draw on the "rich heritage of Catholic social teaching" by honoring and respecting the ethnic heritage of today's new generation of immigrants.

The Southern Cross

Daily the Franciscan Friars pray:



"O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving, that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying, that we are born to eternal life."

It is the sincere hope of the Friars that all of the families who enter the doors of the Mission Cemetery Office are consoled, understood, & loved. All welcome.
Property now available.

MISSION SAN LUIS REY CEMETERY

Please call 760-757-3651

Upcoming Retreats

Gardening Thursdays ~ February 4, 11, 18 & 25, 2010
"Food Gardening" with Brother James Lockman, OFM

Join Brother James Lockman, OFM and learn about planting more edibles in your garden this year. Take pleasure in harvesting fresh foods from your very own garden. Enjoy the benefits of great flavor and better nutrition. Sessions are on each Thursday beginning at 10:30am – noon OR from 7pm – 8:30pm. Morning session includes an optional lunch at noon. No pre-registration—just drop in. (Free will offering)

Lenten Mondays
With Father Philip Garcia, OFM and Brother Kelly Cullen, OFM
February 22 and March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2010

Join us at Mission San Luis Rey as we begin our Lenten journey and deepen our relationship with our Maker. Here is the opportunity to intensify your prayer lives, to connect with the love of God, to find God everyday in all things. Sessions are repeated twice each Monday, beginning at 10:30-noon OR 7:00pm-8:30pm. Morning session includes an optional lunch at noon.

1st Annual Retreat for Al-Anon Women
coordinated by Brother Kelly Cullen, OFM March 5-7, 2010
"Having Had a Spiritual Awakening"

Join us for an Al-Anon women's weekend retreat beginning with dinner on Friday and ending with lunch on Sunday. We will focus on how we have had-and continue to have-a spiritual awakening as a result of our walking AND working the 12-Steps of Al-Anon. Please call to register or for additional information.

Mini Retreat—March 13 – 14, 2010
"Watercolors at the Mission" With Mary Lou Bloise

Join us for our watercolors Mini-Retreat in the beautiful environs of Mission San Luis Rey. This retreat is for folks from beginner to advance-anyone who would like to learn or improve their watercolor painting skills. Please call to register or for additional information.

For more information or to make your reservation, visit www.sanluisrey.org or call the Retreat Center Office at (760) 757-3659.



**4050 Mission Avenue,
Oceanside**

www.sanluisrey.org

Local Group's Efforts Bear Fruit — Literally — in San Diego County

By Denis Grasska

LEMON GROVE — It all started with an orange tree.

Many people might have failed to notice it at all. But Sergio Padilla, who passed the tree during his daily commute, saw something that deeply offended his sensibilities: a pile of rotting fruit at the tree's base.

What a waste, he thought, especially in a world with so many people who have little or nothing to eat.

It was because of this experience — and free time afforded by a back injury — that Padilla founded Harvest CROPs in 2001.

The organization, an acronym for Community Residential Outpour of Produce, assembles small groups of volunteers for scheduled visits to the homes of San Diego County residents. With permission, the volunteers pick fruit from the residents' trees, clearing out the rotted fruit on the ground and donating the freshly picked produce to social service agencies that assist low-income families and seniors.

It is "a win-win service," Padilla said.

Harvest CROPs is currently sponsored by the youth group at St. John of the Cross Parish in Lemon Grove. Volunteers, typically in teams of three to five, pick and deliver fruit on about three weekends each month. At a given location, there are usually between one and three trees to be picked.

Information about Harvest CROPs and its mission has spread primarily through word-of-mouth, aided by the flyers that Padilla leaves at homes with visible fruit trees. Homeowners and tenants are also learning of the ministry through its Web site, www.harvestcrops.org.

Since January 2009, the organization has collected more than 300 five-gallon buckets of fruit. By Jan. 24 of this year, Padilla said, it had visited almost 30 homes in eight cities through-



HARVEST CREW: Sergio Padilla (second from right) poses with Harvest CROPs volunteers and the lemons the group picked outside Lemon Grove City Hall.

out the county and picked fruit from more than 100 trees.

St. Vincent de Paul Village has received about 60 percent of the donated fruit, Padilla said. Other recipients include Holy Spirit and St. John of the Cross parishes, San Diego Rescue Mission, Lemon Grove Lutheran Church and Embassy Church of Lemon Grove, as well as Noah Homes, a Catholic residence for intellectually and developmentally disabled adults.

The idea for Harvest CROPs came to Padilla in 2001 as he was recuperating from a serious back injury. Fighting boredom, seeking distraction from his pain and wanting to avoid self-pity, he recalled the orange tree that he used to pass on his way to and from work. He envisioned a program that could prevent such a needless waste of fruit.

Padilla ultimately produced a small booklet on his proposed program, coined the name

Harvest CROPs and even designed a logo.

From 2002 through 2004, Harvest CROPs operated under the aegis of Generations of Action, a now-defunct local nonprofit that brought together youth and seniors for community service projects. In January 2009, after his son joined the youth group at St. John of the Cross, Padilla dusted off his proposal and reintroduced it as a worthy service project for youth group members.

Padilla stresses the essential role that the youth group has played in the success and expansion of Harvest CROPs.

"It was the youth group that made it happen," he said. "All I did was facilitate."

After securing the sponsorship of the youth group, the organization's first client was Lemon Grove City Hall. Then, thanks to the publicity

generated by an article in *The Grove Gazette*, the municipal newsletter of Lemon Grove, Harvest CROPs began venturing outside the city limits.

Within four months, the organization's territory had expanded to include other communities in the East County. Within five or six months, it was decided that the organization would extend its reach beyond East County.

On Jan. 24, the organization visited a home in Vista with more than 50 fruit trees, picking about half of them and leaving with a promise to return in July.

Now with a database of volunteers, Padilla said his organization has entered its second phase: His goal is to find a local company interested in adopting the program and providing financial support.

The organization already boasts active volunteers who are not members of the St. John of the Cross youth group. But Padilla also hopes to identify individuals interested in directing their own regional Harvest CROPs teams throughout the county.

Harvest CROPs was Padilla's brainchild. Its seeds were planted years ago at the sight of an orange tree and its unclaimed fruit. The concept grew during what Padilla calls the "unfortunate opportunity" offered by his back injury. And over the past year, it has clearly borne fruit.

For Padilla, Harvest CROPs is a ministry. And he doesn't take credit for its success.

"It's not me," he says humbly. "It's God. I'm just following instructions. That's all I'm doing."

For more information on Harvest CROPs, visit www.harvestcrops.org or call Sergio Padilla at (619) 318-3423.

The Southern Cross

Catechists Learn to 'Pray Like Jesus'

SAN DIEGO — Some 153 parish catechists and Catholic school teachers gathered Jan. 23 with an interest in "Praying Like Jesus."

That was the theme of this year's Spring Forward conference, a mid-year catechetical conference sponsored by the diocesan Office for Evangelization and Catechetical Ministry.

The conference was held at St. Therese Parish in Del Cerro. It was presented by Kathleen Hendricks, an author of several books on prayer and a consultant for the Sadlier Publishing company.

The purpose of the conference was to learn more about prayer and ways of putting those lessons into daily practice.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that there are five forms of Christian prayer: praise, petition, blessing and adoration, intercession and thanksgiving.

Hendricks reminded attendees that people must find time for silence, sacred space and walking quietly with God. She suggested keeping a daily gratitude journal for at least a year. Writing in the journal every day, she said, will serve as a reminder that there is always something to be grateful for, even during the more difficult times in one's life.

Hendricks also urged the catechists to pray before meals, remembering in that prayer all those responsible for the food, including those who worked in the fields, drove trucks transporting the food to stores and prepared the food, as well as those who will share the meal together.

Too many families are so busy that they forget to share meals together, she said, calling for the restoration of family meal time and family prayer time to their rightful places in Catholic life.

Throughout the conference, attendees consciously held in prayer Bishop Robert H. Brom and all of the priests of the Diocese of San Diego, as clergy photos were projected on a continual loop.

Marcie Denberg Serra of the Anti-Defamation League also spoke at the beginning of the conference, urging Catholics and Jews to pray for and learn more about one another.

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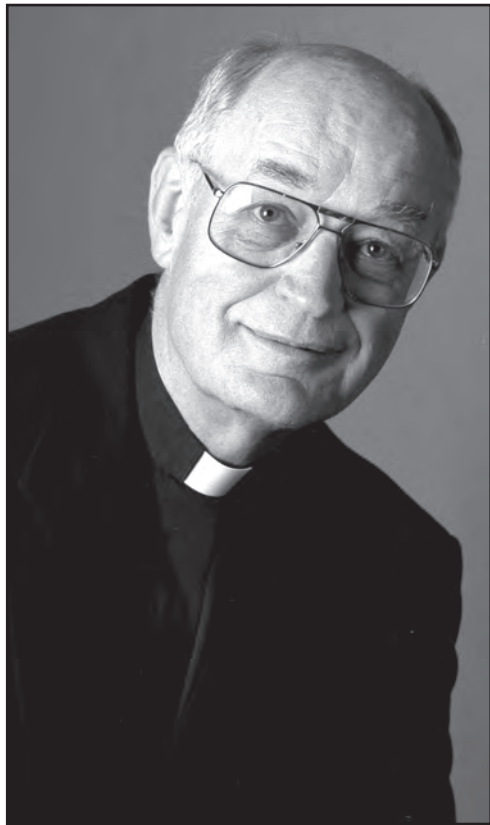
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Couples Ministry Was Late Priest's 'True Passion'

SAN DIEGO — Father William J. Ortmann, a retired priest of the Diocese of San Diego, died Jan. 27 in Sioux City, Iowa.

Father Ortmann, 77, had been diagnosed with aggressive prostate cancer.

A former director of the diocesan Office for Marriage and Family Life, he is being remembered as a gentle and kind-hearted priest who was a strong champion of the institution of marriage.



FATHER WILLIAM J. ORTMANN

"He was a fine priest and generous man. He is now enjoying the rewards of a life of fruitful service to the Lord and to the Church," said Father Peter Escalante, who serves as pastor of St. Joseph Cathedral and knew Father Ortmann for more than 30 years.

Born in 1932 in Remsen, Iowa, Father Ortmann was ordained in 1957 for the Diocese of Sioux City. He moved to San Diego in late 1968, where he served first as assistant pastor at St. Charles Parish in

Imperial Beach and then at St. Joseph Cathedral.

He was incardinated into the Diocese of San Diego in 1971.

In 1974, Father Ortmann was appointed director of diocesan personnel, with residence at St. Joseph Cathedral until 1977.

He then served briefly as associate pastor at St. Didacus, before being appointed associate pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in San Diego. He remained there until 1983, while also being appointed in 1978 as director of Marriage Encounter. He maintained a lifelong affiliation with Marriage Encounter, supporting its ministry to married couples in many ways.

In 1983, Father Ortmann was named pastor of St. Mary Parish in National City. In 1988, he was released from parish ministry to work as a counselor at Catholic Community Services (now Catholic Charities). From 1991 until his retirement in 1999, he served as director of the Office for Marriage and Family Life. He also served as special works representative to the Presbyteral Council from 1994 to 1999.

Looking back over Father Ortmann's years of priestly service, Father Escalante said that ministry to engaged and married couples was the late priest's "true passion."

"Up until just weeks before his final illness," Father Escalante said, "he devoted himself tirelessly to serving on Marriage Encounter, Engaged Encounter and Retrouvaille weekends." (Retrouvaille is a Catholic ministry to couples in troubled marriages.)

"He truly believed that marriage was a holy ministry," said Rosie Solis, coordinator of Spanish ministry in the Office for Marriage and Family Life.

Solis, whom Father Ortmann hired 18 years ago, credited the priest with starting the office's Spanish-language programs.

A vigil for the deceased was held Jan. 31 at St. Mary Parish in Remsen, Iowa. The funeral Mass was celebrated Feb. 1 at St. Mary's, Sioux City, Iowa.

In San Diego, a memorial Mass was cele-

brated Feb. 4 at St. Joseph Cathedral, with Bishop Robert H. Brom presiding. The homilist was Msgr. Dennis Mikulanis, pastor of San Rafael Parish in Rancho Bernardo.

"I know he has gone to a great reward," said Cathy Vrabel, who along with her husband, Fred, worked with Father Ortmann in

the early 1990s to bring Retrouvaille to San Diego. "I can't help but think about the thousands of couples and families his life touched, and that he will finally be able to see just how far-reaching his work on earth had been."

The Southern Cross

'Collars vs. Scholars'



COURTESY GOOD SHEPHERD SCHOOL

Father Michael Robinson (left) and Father Joseph Freeman (right) of Good Shepherd Parish display their basketball skills Feb. 2 at the parish school.

The second annual "Collars vs. Scholars" basketball game took place during Good Shepherd's celebration of Catholic Schools Week.

Father Robinson, the parish's pastor, assembled a team of fellow priests to challenge the school's eighth-graders to a friendly, yet competitive game of hoops. The team of priests included Father Freeman, associate pastor at Good Shepherd; Father Anthony Saroki, pastor of Ascension Parish; Father Chris Kintanar, pastor of Queen of Angels Parish; and Father Luke Jauregui, pastor of St. Pius X Parish in Chula Vista.

The final score? The "collars" schooled the "scholars" 28-20.

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Make God a Family Member, Not Just a House Guest, Revivalist Says

By Amy Yarnall

SAN DIEGO — Shouts of “Amen” echoed off the walls of Holy Spirit Parish, as visitors responded in praise and worship to messages of hope, healing and faith during the annual diocesan revival.

The three-day revival, led this year by Sister Anita Baird of the Archdiocese of Chicago, took place Feb. 1-3.

The event is held during the first week of Black History Month and aims to revive and strengthen one’s spirit and faith. This year was the first time a woman served as the revivalist guest speaker.

Known for her inspirational talks, Sister Baird holds a bachelor’s degree in sociology and a master’s degree in religious studies. Throughout the event, about 250 people from various backgrounds and ethnic groups came to hear her speak.

“She knocked me off my feet,” said Paul Recasner of St. Rita Parish. “She told it as it was, she was so down-to-earth, and she threw laughter in there as well.”

On the first night, Sister Baird explained the need people have for a revival in their lives. The second night’s talk focused on the healing touch of Jesus. On the third night, Sister Baird discussed how God’s people must be disciples of Christ.

During the second night’s talk, Sister Baird said, “We need to tell Jesus that we need Him to change our lives.”

She told the Gospel story of the woman who crawled to where Jesus was, simply to touch the hem of His garment, because she knew she would be healed. During this time, revival participants were given the opportunity to confess a healing need and have hands laid upon them in prayer.

“Wealth, education, power and fame are not prerequisites for healing in the name of Jesus,” Sister Baird said. “We need to believe

there is power in the name of the Lord.”

If we can let go and believe, she said, then we can be healed in the name of Jesus.

The last evening was Youth Night, and Sister Baird spoke to men, women and children about how to put on the full armor of God. She said people stand up sometimes when they think they should not or cannot stand up, but having faith means you stand up even if you do not readily see a solution. She explained the importance of prayer and said that people must depend on the Holy Spirit for their strength.

“If we are children of God and we are signed, sealed and delivered, then we need to pray in the Spirit and spend time with Him, so that God is not just a house guest, but a member of your family,” Sister Baird said.

Discerning one’s gifts and how to use them is made possible through prayer, she explained.

Lastly, one must be “joyful always,” she said. “Give God praise and glory and, if your prayer becomes thanksgiving, then you will become joyful always.”

She further explained that this life is simply a stepping stone to something bigger and greater, something that we cannot even begin to fathom, and that we must put our trust in God.

“We cannot give a testimony without first having a test,” she said. “Paul says don’t put out the Spirit’s fire, but let the Spirit have its own way.”

Hearing the messages relayed by Sister Baird was a source of inspiration for many who attended the revival.

“She is truly, truly blessed with the Holy Spirit,” said Lorraine Moss of Holy Spirit Parish. “It was not pretentious, not self-seeking, and the Lord does say make a joyful noise unto the Lord.”

Remembering St. Maron



COURTESY ST. EPHREM CHURCH

Bishop Robert H. Brom joins parishioners of St. Ephrem Maronite Church in El Cajon at a Feb. 9 celebration of the feast of St. Maron.

The Maronite Church, with roots in Lebanon, is one of the Eastern Catholic Churches.

St. Maron, a fourth-century monk from the region of present-day Syria, is considered the spiritual father of the Maronite Church. His feast day this year was particularly significant because it commemorated the 1,600th anniversary of his death.

Father Nabil Mouannes, pastor of St. Ephrem Church, and Deacon Georges Ghosn were among the many who welcomed Bishop Brom for the celebration. The evening included the installation of the newly elected parish council. The bishop blessed the council members as well as the entire congregation.

Bishop Brom urged the local Maronite community to strive always to imitate the example of St. Maron.

Anne Case of Our Lady of Grace Parish in El Cajon remarked that “there was a lot of fire and zeal through her speech.”

With the annual revival, “the San Diego Diocese celebrates the spiritual heritage of African American Catholics and calls to mind the diversity we enjoy in the Catholic Church,” said Rodrigo Valdivia, chancellor of the Diocese of San Diego.

The event is open to anyone and rotates among St. Rita, Christ the King and Holy Spirit parishes.

At this year’s revival, praise and worship was led each evening by the combined choirs

of the three parishes. The youth choir was led by Robin Dillard, with help from her sister and fellow choir member Rhonda Malone.

On the first night, members of the diocesan Commission for African American Catholics took part in a procession. The following night, there was a procession featuring the Knights of Peter Claver and the Ladies Auxiliary.

Prayers and blessings were given by Msgr. Roger Lechner, Father Armando Escurel, Father Tommie Jennings, Deacon Harry Guess and Deacon Robert Booth.

The Southern Cross

► CHAPEL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Bishop Brom celebrated the first Mass in the new chapel Feb. 14

of the new chapel.

The new chapel’s butterfly roof, Arviso said, evokes the tribal symbol of the dragonfly as well as the Holy Spirit, who is often depicted as a winged dove.

A curved wall inside the chapel is intended to recall a *wampkish*, a semi-circular structure constructed from willow brush and used as a place of worship during the tribe’s pre-Christian days.

Arviso said the “*wampkish* wall” in the new chapel serves “to honor and recognize that God, the creator of all peoples, knew us as Indian people even before the Church came and introduced God to us [as] the Trinity.”

The new altar was carved from an oak tree donated by the Santa Ysabel Indian Reservation. Arviso noted that the oak

tree produces the acorn, which provided a traditional source of sustenance for the Indians. He said this made oak a fitting material for constructing an altar on which Jesus becomes their spiritual food.

Wood from the same oak can also be found in a new ambo as well as a new table in the chapel’s sacristy.

The eastern and western walls of the chapel, which are composed of native earth mixed with some cement, also serve as a nod to the past.

During the construction of the previous chapel, Arviso said, the imprints of wooden boards were left in the walls. In tribute, he said, similar imprints were intentionally left in the eastern and western walls of the new chapel.

St. Bartholomew Chapel is located within the geographical boundaries of Mission San Antonio de Pala. Its members are officially parishioners of the mission, and the mission’s priests and deacons also minister at the chapel.

The new chapel is the fourth to be built on the site. The Poomacha fire destroyed the previous chapel and its adjacent social hall Oct. 23, 2007.

In the fire’s aftermath, Arviso said, the Rincon Tribal Council announced that the chapel would be rebuilt and also provided the majority of the funds for construction.

Kevin deFreitas Architects and Lusardi Construction Company were hired for the project.

On Oct. 16, 2008, Bishop Robert H. Brom presided at a groundbreaking and blessing of the construction site. Construction officially began July 27, 2009, and concluded Jan. 29.

In addition to the new chapel, a 2,385-square-foot social hall was built to replace the smaller one that had burned down in 2007. The hall is a multi-purpose building that includes a kitchen and classrooms. Between the chapel and social hall is a new meditation garden.

Bishop Brom visited the Rincon Reservation Feb. 14 to bless the new buildings and celebrate the first Mass in the new chapel.

Arviso said the construction of the new chapel, social hall and meditation garden shows that God can take “what could easily have been a tragedy and a defeat” and transform it into “something even better than what we had.”

“If you remain faithful to God and really seek to do His will, He guides you and He gives you the resources and He gives you the faith to carry through,” Arviso said. “So, the end product is, well, it’s here to be seen. And it’s from His hand.”

The Southern Cross

Book Offers Rare Glimpse into Social Lives of Tolkien, Lewis



The Inklings of Oxford

By Harry Lee Poe

Photography by James Ray Veneman

Zondervan (Grand Rapids, Mich., 2009)

171 pp., \$24.99

Reviewed by Elizabeth Rackover

You may be a fan of the English countryside, or an aficionado of English architecture. Maybe you love Britain's literary heritage, or just plain love everything about Britain. Perhaps the history and environs of Oxford College interest you, or its star faculty of the 20th century, chief among whom were C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien.

Whatever your interests, the superb *The Inklings of Oxford* tells more than just the story of Lewis, Tolkien and their literary friends who comprised the social group called the Inklings (which it does quite nicely, in sensitive educative prose by author Harry Lee Poe). Woven through the rich and interesting biographical details of Lewis and Tolkien are Poe's observations on the times (Britain from World War I through the 1960s, with a note or two on Tolkien's whereabouts up until his death in 1973) and traditions of Oxford.

Readers familiar with Lewis' writing may think they don't have much to learn from Poe; they may be surprised at how thoroughly and naturally Poe fleshes him out. A surprising and touching personal aspect of Lewis, whose extensive writings and memoirs reflect a careful palate of spiritual wisdom, humor and literary expertise, is illumi-

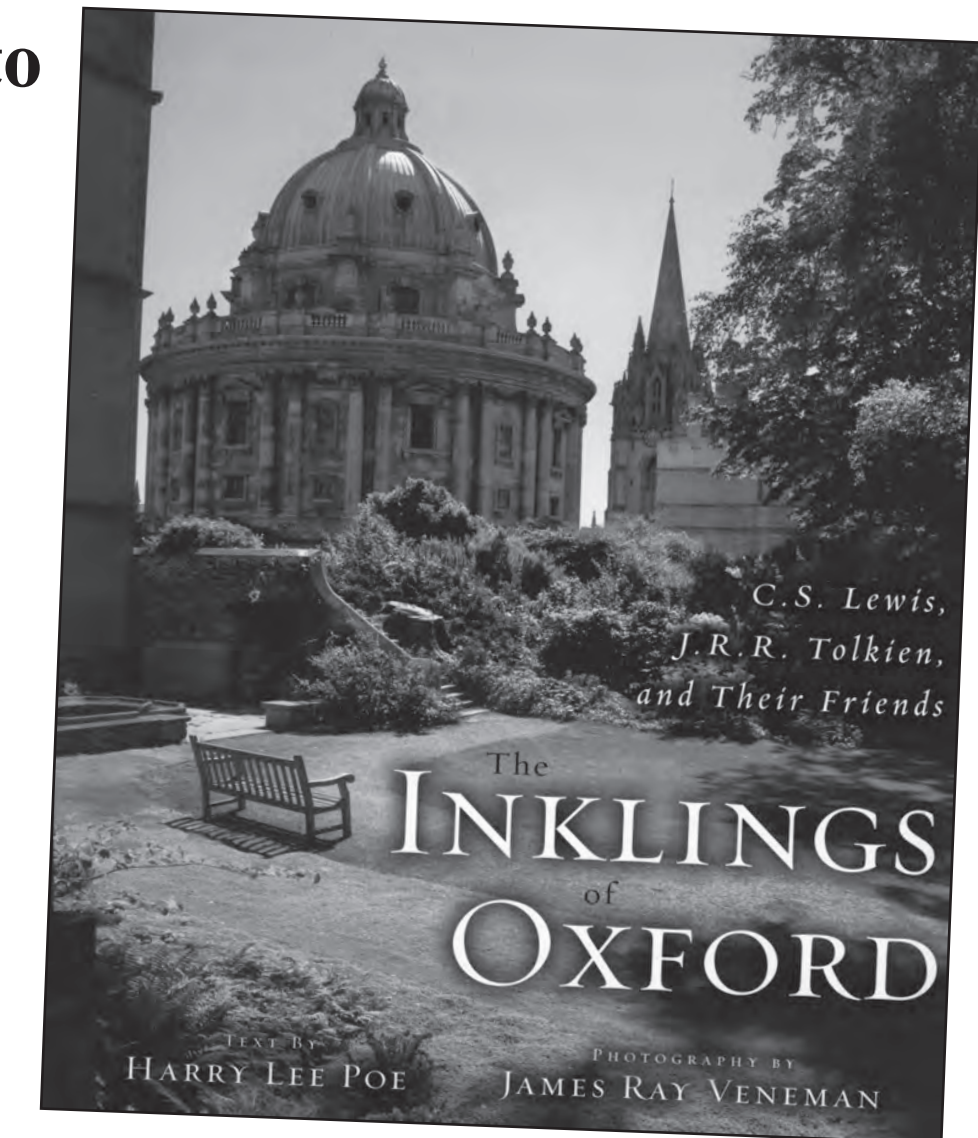
nated when Poe tells us of a promise Lewis and a young friend exchanged on the eve of World War I (in which they both served). The matter-of-fact way in which Lewis lived up to his word to his friend truly touches the heart.

Generous photographs of the sprawling estate Lewis called "the Kilns" and the surrounding countryside also offer a window into the scholar's psyche. Poe tells us that Lewis was a champion walker who considered long strolls through open country to be an essential part of his days.

Those who prefer the works of Tolkien to Lewis' will be drawn to the many photos of Tolkien's various residences as he moves up in the world as the years and his status at Oxford progress. Poe walks the reader through the literary progress of both men, marking publishing triumphs, disappointments and of course their setbacks — which can't help but surprise someone acquainted only with both men as established stars of fantasy fiction.

The sumptuous photographs by James Ray Veneman are marvelous. They essentially transport the reader into the village of Oxford, with its beautiful pubs and colorful streets; Oxford college life, including today's contemporary students; and the estate Lewis shared with his brother and eventually his wife, Joy Gresham.

The lush, lively, crisp and evocative photos of life in and around Oxford could make even the most reticent traveler trip over himself to arrange a flight, train, bus or car to Oxford after leafing through this book. Each season is brought to life; no angle of



the marvelous campuses, town and countryside goes unstudied. The illumination of the remarkable Inklings, their lifestyles and their surroundings are joyously celebrated in these photographs.

There are several authors whose contributions to the Inklings are given short shrift in this review. That is because Poe does such a superb job of giving everyone their place in his (and the Inklings') prose.

The inside flap of the book promises a

guided tour through Oxford past and present, introducing readers to the "fascinating world of the Inklings, matching their words to beautiful photographs of the places that played important roles in their lives." Poe himself says his goal was "a picture book for the average person." Between his informative, accessible prose and Veneman's photography, it is a job well done.

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When in Rome ... You Can Fall in Love with Kristen Bell

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.

“When in Rome”

(Touchstone) Perky romantic comedy about a work-obsessed New York museum curator (Kristen Bell) who travels to Rome for her sister's (Alexis Dziena) wedding and falls for the best man (Josh Duhamel), but their path to bliss takes a detour when she defies local custom by removing several coins from the “Fountain of Love,” causing the quartet of eccentric strangers who deposited the change (Danny DeVito, Will Arnett, Jon Heder and Dax Shepard) to become hopelessly infatuated with her. Brief nongraphic marital lovemaking, mildly irreverent portrayal of a clergyman and a few crass expressions. *USCCB classification — adults. MPAA rating — PG-13.*

“The Wolfman”

(Universal) Alternately spooky, savage and silly, this remake of the 1941 monster classic tells of a decent if troubled man (Benicio Del Toro) periodically transformed into a hirsute beast after returning to his ancestral estate in England following the brutal murder of his brother in 1891. Moderately graphic violence, including fleeting images of human entrails, decapitations and severed limbs, and an instance of partial upper female nudity. *USCCB classification — adults. MPAA rating — R.*

“Dear John”

(Screen Gems) This frequently sentimental drama, set in South Carolina, charts the love-at-first-sight romance between a Special Forces sergeant (Channing Tatum) home on leave to visit his mildly autistic father (Richard Jenkins) and an affluent college student (Amanda Seyfried), their prolonged separation due to his reenlistment following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and their efforts to maintain their bond by long-distance letter writing. Nongraphic premarital sexual activity (with partial nudity) and some profanity. *USCCB classification — adults. MPAA rating — PG-13.*

“Edge of Darkness”

(Warner Bros.) Reasonably absorbing but gritty drama in which a Boston police detective (Mel Gibson) investigates his murdered daughter's (Bojana Novakovic) secretive work for a nuclear research firm (led by Danny Huston), aided by her fearful boyfriend and co-worker (Shawn Roberts) and by a shadowy fixer (Ray Winstone) whose loyalties are ambiguous. Complex moral issues, considerable violence, an implied premarital relationship and much rough language. *USCCB classification — limited adult audience. MPAA rating — R.*

“Extraordinary Measures”

(CBS Films) Engaging medical drama, based on actual events, about the often prickly partnership between a successful pharmaceuticals executive (Brendan Fraser) — two of whose children (Meredith



FOUNTAIN OF LOVE: Josh Duhamel and Kristen Bell star in a scene from the movie “When in Rome.”

Droeger and Diego Velazquez) are afflicted by the same rare and fatal disease — and the eccentric scientist (Harrison Ford) whose pioneering but underfunded research may offer the only hope of saving the kids. Brief nongraphic marital lovemaking and some crude language. *USCCB classification — adults. MPAA rating — PG.*

al references and brief scatological humor. *USCCB classification — adults and adolescents. MPAA rating — PG.*

Catholic News Service

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The two themed DVD collections were released Jan. 26. Each includes four episodes of the popular CBS drama, which tells the story of two angels sent by God to bring the message of His love to people in difficult situations. Each episode is introduced by executive producer Martha Williamson.



The Southern Cross

Don't Bother!

The following films have been classified “morally offensive” by the USCCB:



“Daybreakers”
(Lionsgate)

“From Paris With Love”
(Lionsgate)

“Legion”
(Screen Gems)

“Valentine's Day”
(New Line)



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In a recent interview with Eleanor Clift in *Newsweek* magazine (Dec. 21, 2009), House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was asked about her disagreements with the U.S. Catholic bishops concerning Church teaching. Speaker Pelosi replied, in part: “I practically mourn this difference of opinion because I feel what I was raised to believe is consistent with what I profess, and that we are all endowed with a free will and a responsibility to answer for our actions. And that women should have the opportunity to exercise their free will.”

Archbishop George H. Niederauer

Embodied in that statement are some fundamental misconceptions about Catholic teaching on human freedom. These misconceptions are widespread both within the Catholic community and beyond. For this reason, I believe it is important for me as archbishop of San Francisco to make clear what the Catholic Church teaches about free will, conscience and moral choice.

Catholic teaching on free will recognizes that God has given men and women the capacity to choose good or evil in their lives. The bishops at the Second Vatican Council declared that the human person, endowed with freedom, is “an outstanding manifestation of the divine image” (*Gaudium et Spes*, No. 17). As the parable of the Grand Inquisitor in Dostoevsky’s novel *The Brothers Karamazov* makes so beautifully clear, God did not want humanity to be mere automatons, but to have the dignity of freedom, even recognizing that with that freedom comes the cost of many evil choices.

However, human freedom does not legitimate bad moral choices, nor does it justify a

Free Will, Conscience and Moral Choice: What Catholics Believe

Human freedom does not legitimate bad moral choices, nor does it justify a stance that all moral choices are good if they are free.

stance that all moral choices are good if they are free: “The exercise of freedom does not imply a right to say or do everything” (*The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, No. 1740). Christian belief in human freedom recognizes that we are called but not compelled by God to choose constantly the values of the Gospel — faith, hope, love, mercy, justice, forgiveness, integrity and compassion.

It is entirely incompatible with Catholic teaching to conclude that our freedom of will justifies choices that are radically contrary to the Gospel — racism, infidelity, abortion, theft. Freedom of will is the capacity to act with moral responsibility; it is not the ability to determine arbitrarily what constitutes moral right.

What, then, is to guide the children of God in the use of their freedom? Again, the bishops at the Council provide the answer — conscience: “Deep within his conscience, man discovers a law which he has not laid upon himself, but which he must obey. Its voice, ever calling him to love and to do what is good and to avoid evil, sounds in his heart at the right moment ... For man has in his heart a law inscribed by God ... His conscience is man’s most secret core and his sanctuary. There he is alone with God, whose voice

echoes in his depths” (*GS*, No. 16).

Conscience, then, is the judgment of reason whereby the human person, guided by God’s grace, recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act. In all we say and do, we are obliged to follow faithfully what we know to be just and right.

How do we form and guide our consciences? While the Church teaches that each of us is called to judge and direct his or her own actions, it also teaches that, like any good judge, each conscience masters the law and listens to expert testimony about the law. This process is called the education and formation of conscience.

Catholics believe that “the education of conscience is a lifelong task” (*CCC*, No. 1784). Where do we go for this education of our consciences? Our living tradition teaches us that, “In the formation of conscience, the Word of God is the light for our path; we must assimilate it in faith and prayer and put it into practice. We must also examine our conscience before the Lord’s cross. We are assisted by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, aided by the witness or advice of others and guided by the authoritative teaching of the Church” (*CCC*, No. 1785).

Our Catholic beliefs about free will, con-

science and moral choice are rooted in the Good News of Jesus Christ’s teaching and His redemptive life, death and resurrection: “For freedom, Christ has set us free” (Gal. 5:1); “Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom” (2 Cor. 3:17); we glory “in the liberty of the children of God” (Rom. 8:17).

Common caricatures of Christian morality portray believers as living in fear of punishment or concerned only with an eternal reward. Long ago, however, St. Basil the Great, a fourth-century bishop and theologian, taught that the Christian, in living a moral life according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, “does not stand before God as a slave in servile fear, nor a mercenary looking for wages, but obeys for the sake of the good itself and out of love for God as His child” (*CCC*, No. 1828).

As participants in the life of the civil community, we Catholic citizens try to follow our consciences, guided, as described above, by reason and the grace of God. While we deeply respect the freedom of our fellow citizens, we nevertheless are profoundly convinced that free will cannot be cited as justification for society to allow moral choices that strike at the most fundamental rights of others. Such a choice is abortion, which constitutes the taking of innocent human life, and cannot be justified by any Catholic notion of freedom. Because of these convictions, we commit ourselves to a continuing witness to, and dialogue about, the Gospel values that underlie our understanding of freedom, conscience and moral choice.

George H. Niederauer is the archbishop of the Archdiocese of San Francisco. This commentary first appeared in the Jan. 15 issue of his archdiocesan newspaper, Catholic San Francisco.

Health Care Reform and the Pro-Life Agenda

Due in part to a Senate seat switching parties in a recent special election, health care reform legislation may be stalled in Congress for now. Many had hoped that long-overdue reform, extending affordable health coverage to tens of millions of people who lack it now, was on the horizon. And some, disappointed at the current impasse, are looking for scapegoats.



Richard M. Doerflinger

One charge is that the Catholic Church doomed health care reform by its opposition to federally funded abortion coverage. One *New York Times* reporter, commenting on the bishops’ new letter urging Congress not to give up on authentic reform, described the bishops as switching to the “other side” of the issue after helping to bring the legislation near death.

The charge runs counter to a number of well-established facts.

First, the Catholic bishops have supported national health care reform for decades. Catholic teaching sees health care not as a commodity, but as a support for life and health that every human being deserves as a matter of right. The bishops wrote to Congress numerous times in the past year, urging progress toward authentic reform

What does the future hold? To Catholics, abandoning helpless unborn children is not an option.

— reform that would make health care more affordable, ensure access to health care for immigrants, and respect life from conception to natural death while upholding rights of conscience. They urged that the legislation comply with policies on abortion and conscience rights that have long governed other major federal health programs. Making this bill into a vehicle for weakening or changing federal policy on abortion, they warned, would threaten the real goal of expanding access to basic health care.

Second, opinion surveys showed that others agreed. Most American women and men don’t want abortion in their health coverage, and don’t want the government funding or promoting abortion. Legislation ignoring this strong sentiment would garner public distrust.

Third, the inclusion of clear language against federally funded abortion coverage is what saved health care reform legislation in the House of Representatives. The bill did not have the votes to pass, until the last-minute approval of the Stupak amendment allowed pro-life

Democrats to support the bill in good conscience. The Senate refused this language, instead crafting a “compromise” that has failed to win support from groups on either side of the issue.

Fourth, it is the pro-abortion movement that has announced opposition to all current health care reform bills. The National Organization for Women, for example, opposes even the weak and loophole-filled Senate language on abortion, accusing Congress of “throwing women under the bus” to pass health care reform legislation. It is not difficult to see which groups want to hold reform hostage to impossible demands.

What does the future hold? To Catholics, abandoning helpless unborn children is not an option. Nor is abandoning millions of people who lack access to health care. Members of Congress made some progress last year toward reform that respects the life, health and conscience of everyone. They should not abandon the task, but try to work together on authentic reforms that can earn the support and trust of Americans who appreciate the dignity of each and every human life. The bishops would be the first to applaud that effort.

USCCB

Richard M. Doerflinger is associate director of the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. To learn more about the bishops’ pro-life activities, visit www.usccb.org/prolife.

We're surrounded by noise. At Miami International Airport recently, I counted five sources of noise — TSA announcements, airline announcements, airport announcements, Muzak and the ubiquitous CNN-Airport channel. And that's before we get to squawking children, loud conversations and passengers who address their cell phones the way Hitler "talked" to the Nuremberg rallies.



George Weigel

Stores and restaurants are full of canned music; an NBA or NHL game is an exercise in noise-pain management; there is virtually no public space, outside art museums and courtrooms, where our aural senses are not under assault.

Churches should be different. To enter the body of a Catholic church should be to experience a change in location: to cross a portal into a different kind of space than the space in which we live our daily lives. Yet, as I get around the country, I can't help but notice that the contemporary American noise culture has invaded and distorted what used to be understood as space in which we sometimes listened to God speaking in the sounds of silence.

Chatter, if low-key, is constant, not simply in the narthex or vestibule (which is fine), but in

Rediscovering the Sounds of Silence

To enter the body of a Catholic church should be to experience a change in location: to cross a portal into a different kind of space than the space in which we live our daily lives.

the body of the church before Mass. Immediately after the recessional hymn is sung, the chatter breaks out again, often louder — despite many a choir's noble efforts to sing a choral postlude. The exchange of peace is another opportunity, rarely spurned, for the chatter to recommence.

And then there are the kids. The idea that crying babies or fussing children should not interfere with the celebration of Mass seems to have been lost on an entire generation of parents — and this, despite the (expensive) efforts of many churches to build cry-rooms. Pastors who point out that fractious children really don't belong in church during services are accused of callousness or (gasp!) insensitivity; parents have been known to leave congregations because the pastor, in the kindest possible way, reminded them that the cry-room was built for a purpose.

So here's a suggestion for Lent, just around

the corner: Rediscover the sounds of silence in church.

Refrain from chattering with friends when you leave the narthex (I almost said "gathering space"!), and remind yourself that to cross the threshold between the vestibule and the body of the church is to pass one of those permeable borders between the natural and the supernatural that constitute the physical texture of Catholicism's sacramental imagination: that way-of-seeing-things that teaches us that the extraordinary lies just on the far side of the ordinary.

Don't begin chattering with neighbors as soon as the recessional hymn ends; preserve a dignified silence as you leave the church, as a reminder that we're about to return to "the world," as a gesture of courtesy to fellow-Catholics who wish to offer prayers of thanksgiving after communion, and as an act of respect to the choir singing (or the organist

playing) the postlude.

Parents with small children: Use the cry-room, if your parish has one; take the squawking kids out of the body of the church when they start caterwauling, if there's no cry-room; or consider leaving small, fractious children at home, with the parents attending different Masses — a sacrifice, I know, but a kindness to others and a way to ensure that you actually get a chance to pray yourself.

Liturgists and organists: There is no need to fill every second of Mass with vocalized prayers, songs or organ solos. The Roman Rite has always made room for silence; silence after communion is particularly appropriate. It doesn't have to be all noise, all the time.

Recovering a sense of sacred space is as important as rediscovering sacred time in the renewal of the liturgy. All the more reason then, to welcome a splendid new book by Denis R. McNamara of the Liturgical Institute of the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary: *Catholic Church Architecture and the Spirit of the Liturgy* (Hillenbrand Books). Full of both insight and illustrations, McNamara's new study is a reminder of what sacred space is and why it ought to nourish an attentive listening to the sounds of silence.

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

Lent: A Time to Take Stock

My experience has been that far too much of our lives are often spent running in the fast lane. Many people, myself included, seem to go from one thing to the next without much time for reflection in between. There are times when I actually long for the days when I would complain to my mother that I was "bored." I had a hard time doing "nothing."



Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC

Although my actions don't always witness to it, I am convinced that we are not meant to live at such a rapid pace. We need time to reflect on our experiences and on our relationships, especially with God.

The season of Lent affords us a great opportunity to pull over out of the fast lane. We are invited to slow down and fill in the spiritual potholes in our lives. Every year the Church, in its wisdom, gives us 40 days as kind of an annual retreat to spend the time to examine our spiritual lives and our relationship with God. Lent is a yearly opportunity to reflect on how well we are living out our baptismal commitment and whether our actions are in line with the Gospel message.

Our Catholic tradition guides us to use the disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving as ways to renew our spiritual lives during Lent — actually not just in Lent, but throughout our lives. Lent is a good time to do an assessment of how we live our faith and take stock of our lives.

As far as prayer goes, we might look at how much quality time we give to the Lord. Maybe our prayer life is limited to Mass on Sunday and a quick prayer before meals, if we remember and not too many people are looking at us. Maybe we pray primarily when we need a favor, like a good mark on a test that we aren't prepared for. During Lent, we can try to slow down enough to have a real conversation with God and give him a bit of our time.

No relationship can deepen and grow unless we are willing to listen and share ourselves with the other person. God is no exception. During Lent, if you don't already, set aside 15 minutes of your quality time each day to be with God. Go to a quiet place,

slow down, and let God love you. Read and reflect upon some Scripture each day and get to know Him better.

I know this is not always easy for us at first. I remember when I first went into the convent and was expected to make an hour of silent contemplation every day. I wasn't used to being quiet that long and, at first, it seemed like an eternity to me. I don't suggest starting with an hour.

The second Lenten tradition is fasting. The majority of people think fasting means to give up some kind of food, like candy or ice cream, but there is more than one way to fast. It depends on us what type of fasting would best benefit our spiritual lives. Maybe it would be more beneficial for us to fast from gossip or negative words or some other behavior that only God and we know. Or perhaps we need to talk less and become better listeners. Those in the fast lane rarely have time to really hear what people say to them. They usually are preoccupied and rushing to the next "important" event or checking off their to-do lists.

Lastly, there is the discipline of almsgiving. It can be much easier to give our loose change to a charitable cause than to give the precious gift of our time. Lent calls us to give of ourselves, not just our money. We can look at our lives and see who we need to spend more quality time with and who could benefit from our gifts and talents. Lent is an opportunity to get our focus off ourselves and reach out in love to our brothers and sisters.

Besides our time, another thing we may be called to give during Lent is forgiveness to someone who has hurt us. It might even be someone who has died. Or maybe we need the grace to ask for forgiveness from someone we have injured. This is another way to give alms and is a sacrifice pleasing to God. Reconciliation is an integral part of the Gospel message.

So as this season of Lent begins, let us slow down and try to be more reflective. It is difficult to get out of the fast lane, but in the long run, it will benefit our Christian journeys. Meetings, jobs, term papers and classes will pass away, but our relationship with God is forever. Have a happy and holy Lent.

Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC, is a writer/editorial assistant for the Sisters of the Holy Cross, Notre Dame, Ind. Her congregation's Web site is www.cscsisters.org. Email her at mlavonis@cscsisters.org.

Lenten Sacrifice



ABSTINENCE

No meat can be taken by those 14 and older on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays.



FASTING

A limit of one full meatless meal by those 18-59 on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.



SELF-DENIAL

Voluntary acts of self-denial are recommended on weekdays during Lent.



PRAYER AND CHARITY

Can include daily Mass, Scripture study, Stations of the Cross, almsgiving and showing mercy and kindness to others.

‘I’m Against Abortion, But ...’

By Bryan Kemper

“I’m against abortion, but ...”

I think the statement that bugs me most when talking to people about abortion is, “I’m against abortion, but ...” I can actually respect someone’s total pro-abortion position more than someone who tells me, “I’m against abortion, but ...” It just makes no sense to me at all; how can they be against something as vile and deadly as abortion and have a “but”?

My first response to them is always to ask them first why they are against abortion. What is it about abortion that would make you start your statement with “I’m against abortion”?

It amazes me when they start telling me how killing a baby is so wrong, life is so precious and we should respect it, and babies are innocent and don’t deserve to die. It would seem they have a firm grasp on the pro-life perspective, but ... There it is, that little three-letter word that destroys the very foundation of what they just explained to me.

I am boggled at how in one breath you can call killing a baby “murder” and in the next breath you can justify this murder because you don’t want to tell others what to do. I cannot fathom how someone can say that life is precious and should be protected, then turn around and support “the choice” to destroy that very life.

I have said this in past commentaries and I will say it again; this is why people can add the word “but” into a sentence about being against abortion. The problem is we are allowing abortion to fall into a different category than every other act of homicide. But abortion is not a different act; it is a different method of the act of homicide. It is still one person killing another person. Therefore, if we would feel compelled to take action to stop acts of homicide such as those in Darfur, the Congo or anywhere else, shouldn’t we also take action to stop

the acts of homicide that take place in abortion clinics?

So many are refusing to take action because they have been able to infuse the word “but” in order to free themselves of the responsibility of standing against evil. As long as they can insert that word, they can deflect or hide from the truth that is staring them in the face: Innocent little babies are being destroyed.

Let’s play a game I like to call “ridiculous analogies.” In this game, I switch the word “abortion” for some other grave evil and see if you can justify a way to insert the word “but” into the sentence.

1. I am against child molestation, but ...
2. I am against what happened to the Jews during the Nazi Holocaust, but ...
3. I am against men beating their wives, but ...
4. I am against slavery, but ...
5. I am against rape, but ...

Can you think of any situations where you can use the word “but” to justify any of these evil, deplorable actions? How about this:

A. I am against slavery, but who am I to tell someone else they can’t own slaves?

B. I am against rape, but who am I to take away a man’s right to choose?

I hope you find these last two sentences make you cringe with disgust. That is the same way I feel when I hear someone say, “I am against abortion, but ...”

Abortion is the act of destroying the life of an innocent human being, and there is just no justification for committing this act of homicide. Just as justifying exceptions for these other horrifying acts is unthinkable, so should justifying the act of killing babies.

I truly believe that, if the majority of people who claim to be against abortion (with a “but”

or not) would start acting the same way we would if something like slavery was suddenly made legal again, we would see an end to the slaughter of the innocents.

When I visited Auschwitz-Birkenau, a concentration camp in Poland, I stood outside the gas chambers for some time. I had just gone through most of the camp and was emotionally wrecked, to say the least. As I stood outside this building, I was looking at houses in the distance and wondering what I would have done if I lived in those houses during the time of the Nazi Holocaust. Would I have stood up and taken action, or would I have found a way to insert the word “but” into any statement I made about the mass killing taking place in my backyard?

What I realized is that I do live in those houses; there is a mass killing taking place in

my backyard. There in another holocaust taking place to which I must decide how I will respond. There is a holocaust taking place in all our backyards as almost 4,000 people are killed every day in our cities and towns.

I want you to all imagine what it would be like to have a house right next to a concentration camp in Poland during the Nazi Holocaust; would you have used the word “but”? Even more important, knowing that you do have a holocaust happening in your own backyard right now, how will you respond? Will you stand up, or will you find a way to say “but ...?”

LifeNews.com

Bryan Kemper is the president of Stand True Ministries, a pro-life group that reaches out to youth and young adults. He is the author of a new book, Social Justice Begins in the Womb.

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EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHETICAL MINISTRY

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Leadership In-Service

“Multi-Cultural Parishes: Culture and Catechesis in a Unity of Faith” (presented by Victor Valenzuela) will be held 9:15 a.m.–noon, Thursday, March 4, at the diocesan Pastoral Center. No fee.

Adult Faith Formation

Course starts 6-9 p.m., Friday, March 5, and continues 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, March 6, and 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, April 10, at St. Anthony of Padua in Imperial. Fee: \$40.

Spanish Workshops and Courses:

Taller de El Sacramento de Reconciliación

Taller, de 6:30-9 p.m., 25 de febrero, en el Centro Pastoral. Costo: \$10.

Reunión para Liderazgo de Ministros Eclesiales

“Cultura y Catequesis: La Unidad de la Fe” (con Victor Valenzuela), de 6:15-9 p.m., 3 de marzo, en el Centro Pastoral. No hay costo.

Taller de El Sacramento de Reconciliación

Taller, de 6:30-9 p.m., 7 de marzo, en la parroquia el Mission San Antonio de Pala. Costo: \$10.

DIOCESAN PROGRAMS

Conferencia de Evangelización

“Estudio de la Biblia de Little Rock” (con Susan McCarthy, RDC), de 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., 13 de marzo, en el Centro Pastoral. Costo: \$15 (incluye almuerzo).

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

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

Natural Family Planning Classes

Sympto-Thermal Method

• Wednesdays – 7-9 p.m. – 3/7; 3/31; 4/28; 5/26 – Clairemont area

• Mondays – 7-9 p.m. – 4/12; 4/26; 5/24; 6/21 – Clairemont area

• Wednesdays – 7-9 p.m. – 5/5; 5/19; 6/16; 7/14 – Clairemont area

• Wednesdays – 7-9 p.m. – 6/9; 6/23; 7/21; 8/18 – Clairemont area

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

For more information, visit www.yamsd.org, or call (858) 490-8260 or e-mail cgiebel@diocese-sdiego.org.

Regional Young Adult Group

All young adults (age 18-35) are invited to attend Mass and dinner on the third Sunday of each month; the location of the Mass rotates among several North County parishes. For a calendar of the group’s activities, visit www.yamsd.org. For more information, contact Carrie at cgiebel@diocese-sdiego.org or (858) 490-8260.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Crime Victim or Family Member?

If you are in need of spiritual support and would like give or receive support from other people like you in similar circumstances, please contact the diocesan Office for Social Ministry’s Restorative Justice Program at (858) 490-8375; en Español, (858) 490-8327; or email jwalsh@diocese-sdiego.org.

sdiego.org. For more information, visit www.diocese-sdiego.org/restore.

Friends/Family of Incarcerated

Ongoing support for the hidden victims of crime, sponsored by the diocesan Office for Social Ministry’s Restorative Justice Program. Call (858) 490-8375; en Español, (858) 490-8327; or email jwalsh@diocese-sdiego.org. For more information, visit www.diocese-sdiego.org/restore.

Ministry to the Incarcerated

Catholic adults can serve on teams ministering to Catholic inmates in a variety of detention facilities. For information, visit www.diocese-sdiego.org/restore, email jwalsh@diocese-sdiego.org or call (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).

ADULT FAITH COURSES OFFERED BY DIOCESAN INSTITUTE

For a schedule of evening faith education courses offered for adults, in English and Spanish, visit www.diocese-sdiego.org/SDDIRegister. Register online or by calling (858) 490-8212.

PARISH EVENTS

Perpetual Adoration

• The perpetual adoration chapel at Holy Spirit Parish (2725 55th St.) is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Member card needed for night entrance; membership obtained through parish office. For information, call (619) 262-2435.

• Perpetual adoration at St. John the Evangelist Parish, 1001 Encinitas Blvd., Encinitas. Open 24 hours daily, except during Sunday Mass. For information, call (760) 635-2573.

Healing Prayer

Held at St. James Parish in Solana Beach. Every Sunday after 9 a.m. Mass, on second Tuesdays from 6-7:15 p.m., on third Saturdays after 5 p.m. Mass. All are welcome. For information, call (858) 481-6911.

Rosary Procession

A monthly rosary procession takes place from 2:30-4 p.m., every first Sunday of the month, at The Immaculata Parish. For more information, contact Richard Boothby at (619) 476-8014.

Catholic Montessori Education

Mission San Luis Rey Parish's Old Mission Montessori School is accepting applications and scheduling tours for parents interested in a Catholic Montessori education for their children pre-K through 8th. Call (760) 757-3232 for more information.

Lenten Scripture Study

Mission San Diego de Alcala will host "Soup 'N' Luke," a Lenten meal and study of Luke's Gospel on Friday evenings of Lent. For more information, call (619) 283-7319 or email secretary@mission-sandiego.com.

PARISH EVENTS

Concert and Parish Mission

Catholic lay evangelists John and Katrina Rae Daughenbaugh will perform in concert March 7 at San Rafael Parish in Rancho Bernardo and conduct a parish mission, titled "Changed in His Glory," March 8-10. Both events begin at 7 p.m. For information, email adulated@sanrafaelparish.org or call (858) 674-1145.

Gala Dinner/Dance

Our Mother of Confidence will hold its St. Patrick Gala Dinner/Dance at 6:30 p.m., March 13. Featuring Irish band, dancers and dinner. Cost: \$30/person. For information or registration, call (858) 453-8817.

GROUPS

High School Play

St. Augustine High School will be performing the mystery comedy "Three Murders and It's Only Monday," a spoof of classic private-eye movies. Performances will be at 7 p.m., March 4-6, and at 1 p.m., March 7, at the Coronado School of the Arts (650 D Ave., Coronado). Tickets: \$15/\$10, available at www.showboxoffice.com or at the door for each performance.

Temporary Store Closing

Pauline Books & Media (5945 Balboa Ave.) will be closed temporarily for renovations from Dec. 28-March 15. Pauline Books & Media is also located at 3908 Sepulveda Blvd. in Culver City; items can be shipped from this store or ordered online at www.pauline.org. For information, call (858) 565-9181.

School Open House

St. Mary, Star of the Sea School (*Facility # 72006368*) will host a preschool and kindergarten open house from 10 a.m.-noon, Feb. 21, at 515 Wisconsin Ave.,

GROUPS

Oceanside. For information, call (760) 722-7475.

Luncheon/Card Party

Good Shepherd Women's Club (in Mira Mesa) will hold a card party and luncheon from 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m., March 13, at the Good Shepherd parish hall. Donation: \$8/person. To RSVP, call (858) 271-7080.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

• Court Immaculata 1854 will hold its next monthly meeting at 10 a.m., March 11, in St. Mary Magdalene Conference Room (1945 Illion St., San Diego 92110).

• Membership Drive: Catholic women are invited to learn about the Catholic women's organization on March 21, following the 7, 9:30 and 11 a.m. Masses at Our Mother of Confidence parish hall (3131 Governor Dr., San Diego 92122).

• For information, call (619) 275-0094.

Council of Catholic Women

The Oceanside Deanery chapter will hold a meeting/luncheon at 11 a.m., March 10, at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Vista. Cost: \$5. RSVP by March 5. Call (760) 940-8988.

Serra International

Serra International is holding its annual spring retreat from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., March 24, at Our Lady of Grace in El Cajon. The retreat master will be Abbot Charles Wright. Includes continental breakfast and lunch. Cost: \$15. All are welcome. For information, call (619) 445-3600.

'Love Our Priests'

The prayer group's next Mass will be at 10 a.m., April 10, at Ascension Parish in Tierrasanta. Guest: Father James Schorr,

GROUPS

chaplain at Scripps Mercy Hospital. For information, call (858) 560-7132.

Annual Auction

Nazareth School will hold its annual auction May 22 at the Mission Valley Marriott. Includes live and silent auctions, dinner and dancing. By donating auction items, attending or serving as an event sponsor, you can assist the school. All contributions are tax-deductible. For information, call (619) 641-7987.

Women's Christian Fellowship

The fellowship is hosting a healing Mass with Father Mike Barry at 9:30 a.m., March 25, at St. Elizabeth Seton parish hall in Carlsbad. For on-site childcare, call (858) 279-8450.

Holy Spirit Ministry

• Mass/healing service, 7:30 p.m., March 5 and 15, at Holy Spirit Parish. Healing service includes Eucharistic adoration.

• "Healing the Family Tree" workshop begins at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 8 and continues through April 12 at Holy Spirit Parish.

GROUPS

• Retreat, Feb. 26-28, in Bay St. Louis, MS.

• Six-day contemplative retreat, March 9-14, at Holy Trinity Hermitage in

Boulevard, CA. Other retreat dates: April 20-25 and May 11-16.

• Retreat, March 19-21, in Santa Barbara, CA.

• For information, call (619) 262-9685 or visit www.holyspiritministry.net.

WORKSHOPS, RETREATS AND CONFERENCES

Silent Ignatian Retreats

Preached by Miles Christi priests. For women: March 31-April 4 (Holy Week) in Santa Barbara; June 25-27 in Oceanside. For men: April 30-May 2 in Oceanside; June 11-13 in Danville, Calif. Includes spiritual talks, Eucharistic adoration and daily Mass. For information, email california@spiritualexercises.net or call (209) 357-0128.

WORKSHOPS, RETREATS AND CONFERENCES

'Awakening Faith'

San Rafael Parish in Rancho Bernardo will offer six "Awakening Faith" sessions on Thursdays, from 7-9 p.m., beginning Feb. 25. Awakening Faith assists those who wish to return to a more active practice of their faith. For information, call (858) 674-1145 or email adulated@sanrafaelparish.org.

Day of Recollection

Men and women from throughout San Diego are invited to the La Jolla Deanery's day of recollection, held from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., March 23, at Prince of Peace Abbey. For information/registration, call (619) 276-3730.

Married Couples Retreat

St. Mark Parish in San Marcos will hold its annual Marriage Retreat from 7-9 p.m., April 9, and from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., April 10. For information or registration, call (760) 690-2862.

BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Bulletin Board is a free service of *The Southern Cross* newspaper.
- **All announcements appear on a space-permitting basis.**
- Announcements (30 words maximum) can be emailed to dgrasska@diocese-sdiego.org. Those intended to appear in a particular month's issue should be received — at the very latest — by noon on the first Friday of that month.
- Announcements will appear for at most three months, after which they must be re-submitted via email or fax (email preferred).
- To be listed in the "Groups" section, a group must be able to present the endorsement of their pastor, the diocese or a recognized national/international Catholic entity.

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

A listing of services provided by businesses and professionals in the San Diego area. Also see your 2010 Catholic Directory Yellow Pages

CATERING

Manquero Catering
Family Owned Business
Specializing in Small Group Events
(619) 302-8709 or (619) 691-1256

CONSTRUCTION

Saranna Construction Inc.
Interior and exterior painting
Kitchen cabinet refinishing
Kitchen and bath remodeling
Free estimates (858) 254-7998

COUNSELING

Marilyn M. Marshall, Ph.D.
La Jolla Village Professional Ctr.
8950 Villa La Jolla Dr, Ste A110
La Jolla, CA 92037
(858) 458-1060
See ad in annual directory

COUNSELING

Shirley Pera, Ph.D.
2558 Roosevelt, Ste 203
Carlsbad, CA 92008
(760) 400-0197, (760) 500-7591
Catholic Counselor

COUNSELING

Jim Benefield LMFT
4551 Moraga Ave., SD 92117
(858) 581-0952 jimbenefield@juno.com
Catholic therapy & healing prayer

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Carl H. Smith, D.D.S.
8899 University Ctr. Ln. #185
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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Priests, Nuns Carry Burden of Haiti's Recovery — Need Support from US Catholics

Father Marc Boisvert has served the poor of Haiti for more than 10 years, but never under the kind of pressures and demands the nation's recent earthquake unleashed.

"Haiti's Catholic missionaries now describe their lives in terms of 'pre-earthquake' and 'post-earthquake'. Ask them when they did a certain thing or started a certain program, and they'll say something like, 'that was a pre-quake project' or 'these orphans were added after the quake.' That is how profound this disaster has been for us," Father Marc said. "It has changed our lives dramatically, and it will impact us for many years to come."

The priest described the days following the earthquake as "tragic," "heart breaking" and "tumultuous."

"Our program for orphans is located in Les Cayes, some distance away from the capital of Port-au-Prince. We were lucky. We felt it, but the shaking didn't bring down all the buildings here," he explained. "That said, the earthquake did have a huge emotional and economic impact in us, and within 48 hours we were dealing with the hardships. We had shortages of food, problems obtaining fuel and the needs of victims to contend with. Almost immediately, a stream of refugees began flooding into our area, and we became part of the outreach to help them."

Back in the United States, one of Father Marc's supportive partners, Cross International Catholic Outreach, was also racing to respond to the crisis and to the unexpected hardships it was producing

help him, both in terms of supplying the orphanage and in terms of supporting any work he was doing for the earthquake victims that were pouring in to his area," recalled Jim Cavnar, the president of Cross International Catholic Outreach. "One of the first things Father Marc did was to take in additional children who had been orphaned by the disaster. He knew the crisis would be a major problem for his own program too, but he didn't focus on that. Instead, he made sacrifices to help the refugees. He put their needs first."

All over Haiti, this kind of selfless reaction was repeated over and over, as priests and nuns throughout the crippled nation scrambled to launch new outreaches that would help earthquake victims. Their lives — already difficult — became even more challenging, but they never backed down or faltered.

"These Catholic programs are sharing food. Their clinics are welcoming volunteer doctors and their facilities are available for emergency surgeries. In almost every case, the priests and nuns have set aside their own goals so they can pursue the 'greater good' — doing whatever is asked of them for the benefit of the earthquake victims," Cavnar said.

"Knowing how difficult life in Haiti is for everyone now, I can't help but be proud of the Church and the individual priests and nuns who have redoubled their efforts to help during this disaster," he added. "As a Catholic, I have always appreciated the dedication of the clergy, but this crisis has produced a level of commitment even



A young man walks through a landscape scarred by earthquake debris. Many travelers use masks to lessen the smell of decaying bodies and to protect from diseases that the aftermath may bring.

to provide more than \$50 million in aid within the first few weeks of the earthquake, and the priests and nuns who benefited were very grateful. They had asked for food, medicines, fuel for vehicles and assistance providing shelter to those left homeless. We were able to accomplish all of those things, and Catholic donors in America made that possible," he said.

Still, there is one concern — *donor fatigue*.

"Donor fatigue is a phrase coined by the media to describe people who get tired of hearing about a disaster or social problem and turn their backs on the issue," Cavnar explained. "Every time I hear that term, I cringe — not because I don't believe it happens, but because I wonder how people like Father Marc must feel about it. He has cared for hundreds of orphans in Haiti for years, and he is opening his doors to more in response to the earthquake. Imagine if he said, 'Sorry, I have giving fatigue, so I'm not interested in taking these children. In fact, I'm closing this whole program down because I'm tired of helping.' Thank God he would never do that, but imagine how he feels when donors say that kind of thing after dealing with a problem for just a few months. That must be unbelievably discouraging for him and the other priests and nuns serving there in Haiti."

Fortunately, Cross International Catholic Outreach has no intention of slowing its efforts in Haiti or its support of the priests and nuns working in the trenches there. And Cavnar said he believes that Cross Catholic's donors will support that decision with their prayers and gifts.

"American Catholics have strong ties to the priests and nuns working in Haiti and they're very familiar with the challenges of international mission work. They don't see the Church's mission

as just another humanitarian effort. They consider these priests and nuns champions of the faith — special people called by God to serve," Cavnar said. "For that reason, I don't believe they will reject the pleas of the clergy serving in Haiti. They will stand with these priests and nuns for as long as it takes to respond to the crisis."

With food and medical emergencies in Haiti finally beginning to wane, Cross International Catholic Outreach is beginning to plan for the long-term recovery stages of their outreach. This will concentrate on housing, reestablishing educational systems and other community stabilizing projects.

"Thousands are homeless and the entire school system has been disrupted," he said. "These are more complicated and costly issues than our food and medical relief has been, but we fully intend to address those problems with our donors' help."

One feels compelled to ask the question — isn't Cross International Catholic Outreach tired and discouraged on some level by that daunting task? Cavnar answers quickly and with a renewed strength of purpose in his voice.

"God's hand is in this work, and we will all draw from his strength and unending compassion," he said. "Whenever I am tempted to think otherwise, I remember the words one missionary shared with me just days after the earthquake: '*We trust in our heavenly father to raise up a New Haiti — to bestow on us a crown of beauty, instead of ashes; the oil of gladness, instead of mourning; and a garment of praise, instead of a spirit of despair. We will be called Oaks of Righteousness; a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor.*' How can you wilt in the face of that kind of faith?"



The children in Father Marc's orphanage gather to pray. They thank God that their own buildings did not collapse and they ask for mercy on behalf of the children who were not as fortunate.

for the priest and nuns serving in Haiti. Some were struggling with "front line" efforts to save lives and supply food within Port-au-Prince. Others, like Father Marc, were mobilizing to help refugees and preparing for the difficult challenges that the recovery stage would bring.

"As long-time supporters of Father Marc's orphanage, Pwoje Espwa (Hope Village), we realized immediately how devastating this disaster would be for the priests and nuns working with the poor. Within hours of the quake, we were in contact with Father Marc — looking for ways to

I didn't expect. The earthquake's aftermath represents a mammoth burden — one no one should have to bear — and yet these priests and nuns accept the hardships in faith, giving everything they have to serve the people in need."

Cavnar is also confident that American Catholics will rise to the occasion as they have so far by contributing generously for the work Cross International Catholic Outreach is organizing in Haiti.

"Thanks to the support we've already received from donors in the U.S., Cross Catholic was able

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