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## EASTER – It's More Than Just One Day

Jesus has passed over from death to life; He is risen and He is still with us!

This is the Easter anthem which we sing on Easter and continue to sing as the Easter celebration is extended through 50 days.

Jesus is risen and is still with us. In His Word, in the sacraments (especially the Easter sacraments of baptism, confirmation and the Holy Eucharist), in the community of believers, He is still present to us as He was to His contemporaries: to Mary Magdalene, who thought He was the gardener; to the disciples on the road to Emmaus; to the disciples locked in for fear of the Jews; to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias.

Jesus is still with us so that, united with Him in His suffering and death, we might be transformed by the power of His Resurrection.

There is no darkness or evil so profound that it cannot be penetrated by the light of Christ. There are no burdens beyond bearing when we are supported by His love. There is no sin so serious or repeated that Jesus will not forgive us, if we but turn to Him with contrite hearts. There is no suffering so excruciating, no death so agonizing that it can destroy us, because Jesus has passed over from death to life.

He is risen, and He is still with us so that His victory over darkness and evil, sin and death might be our victory. Consequently, nothing will ever again be hopeless!

On an Easter past, in this



CNS PHOTOCROSSIERS

regard, here is what Pope John Paul II had to say: "If at times a contrary wind slows the march of peoples, or if the sea of history is tossed by storms, let no one yield to dismay and lack of trust. ... Beyond the darkness of every

Calvary rests the radiant dawn of Easter joy and hope for all time."

This is the joy and hope that we celebrate in the 50 days of Easter and that should prevail in our lives, especially in difficult and discouraging times.

"We are an Easter people, and 'alleluia' is our name." It must always be so!

Bishop Robert H. Brom

## Easter Sunday Was Just the Beginning

By Father Charles L. Fuld

Yes, Easter Sunday was celebrated on April 12 this year. Even so, before you take down all the Easter trappings and put the idea behind you, take a look at the calendar — the Church calendar. We are now in the "Weeks of Easter" and, appropriately, our celebration continues. Look carefully and you will see that the Easter season ends with the celebration of Pentecost on May 31.

According to *The Order of Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours and Celebration of the Eucharist*, "the 50 days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost are celebrated in joyful exultation as

one feast day, or better, as one 'great Sunday.' These above all others, are the days for the singing of the alleluia."

At Pentecost, Jesus who has returned to the Father, sends the Holy Spirit upon His disciples to be with them as they go out to preach the Word to the whole world.

You will notice that the Easter candle remains in the church sanctuary next to the ambo throughout these 50 days of Easter, signifying Jesus' presence. In some churches, at the end of each Pentecost Sunday Mass, the Easter candle is borne out of the sanctuary and to its usual place next to the baptismal

font. This symbolic action is a reminder that the Easter season has come to an end.

Catholics should recall their "Easter Duty" to receive Holy Communion (and the sacrament of penance beforehand) some time during this Easter season.

And because we are an "Easter people," we should continue to remember and reflect upon the Resurrection of Jesus Christ in our own hearts and minds throughout the year.

*The Southern Cross*

Father Charles L. Fuld is managing editor of *The Southern Cross*

# Sacred Oils and 'Anointed' Catholics Extend God's Love to Others

## Bishop Brom celebrated chrimsm Mass April 2

By Denis Grasska

MIRA MESA — The sacred oils blessed at the annual chrimsm Mass are a means of “extending the love of the Anointed One” to the people of San Diego, Bishop Robert H. Brom said during his homily.

Noting that the oils will be used throughout the year in sacramental celebrations, the bishop added that all Catholics are “anointed in the Spirit” at baptism and confirmation and are called to extend Christ’s love personally as living “sacraments of encounter with God.”

The chrimsm Mass was celebrated April 2 at Good Shepherd Parish.

During the annual liturgy, the diocesan bishop blesses the “oil of the sick” and the “oil of catechumens,” and consecrates the sacred chrimsm. The oils are distributed to each parish in the diocese.

The Mass also celebrates the ministry of priesthood, which was represented this year by more than 110 concelebrating priests. During the liturgy, the priests publicly renewed the promises they made at their ordination.

In his homily, Bishop Brom noted that the sacred oils are tangible signs of Christ’s love, and each one represents a different facet of that love.

The oil of the sick, used in the sacrament of the anointing of the



CHRISM MASS: Bishop Robert H. Brom elevates the blessed oils, during the annual chrimsm Mass April 2.

sick, represents the “love which heals,” the bishop said. The oil of the catechumens, used as a preparation for baptism, signifies the “love which strengthens” against the power of evil and sin. Chrimsm, a perfumed oil used in conferring the sacraments of confirmation, baptism and holy orders, represents the “love which conforms us to Jesus and transforms us to be more like Him.”

The bishop’s homily reflected on the day’s Gospel reading, in which Jesus quotes from the prophet Isaiah and declares, “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me.” Bishop Brom urged everyone at the chrimsm Mass to apply those words to themselves and live their lives accordingly.

“Anointed in the Spirit, we are to be full of love, vessels of love,” he said.

Our anointing, he said, enables us to imitate the selfless and sacrificial love of Christ.

“Christianity is not a spectator sport, is it?” Bishop Brom asked. “It’s participation in the mystery of the Anointed One by those who are anointed with His own Spirit.”

Quoting Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, the bishop said, “Once ignited by the Spirit of Jesus, we should keep the light of Jesus burning in us with the oil of our lives. Every gesture of love, every sacrifice — including perhaps some rejection — is one more drop of oil.”

The Southern Cross

## For Pope John Paul II, Beatification Process May Be on Final Lap

By John Thavis

VATICAN CITY — They brought flowers and messages to his grave. They sang songs evoking his memory. And they prayed for his beatification.

The fourth anniversary of the death of Pope John Paul II April 2 was marked by a sense of anticipation, following reports that the late pontiff would be beatified on the fifth anniversary next year.

The Vatican has played down those rumors. But among the thousands who flocked to his tomb and gathered in St. Peter’s Basilica for a memorial Mass, the feeling was strongly hopeful.

Hundreds of people jammed the crypt area of St. Peter’s Basilica April 2 to pay their respects at Pope John Paul II’s tomb. They left candles, photos and letters, and murmured prayers in many languages. On the white marble tombstone lay three red roses.

Pope Benedict XVI celebrated the commemorative Mass and said he was praying for “the gift of beatification” for his predecessor. In 2005, Pope Benedict set Pope John Paul on the fast track to beatification by waiving the normal five-year waiting period for the introduction of his sainthood cause.

That seemed to respond to the “*Santo subito!*” (“Sainthood now!”) banners that were held aloft at Pope John Paul’s funeral.

The initial diocesan phase of the cause was completed in April 2007. Last November, a team of theological consultants to the Congregation for Saints’ Causes began studying the 2,000-page “*positio*,” the document that makes the case for beatification, according to Archbishop Angelo Amato, head of the congregation.

Archbishop Amato told *Vatican Radio* that once the theological study of the “*positio*” is completed, the cause will be considered by the cardinal and bishop members of the congregation. If approved, it will then go to the pope for a final decision on a decree of “venerability,” which means the person lived the Christian virtues heroically.

Meanwhile, a presumed miracle through the intercession of the late pope — involving a French nun said to have been cured of Parkinson’s disease — is being studied in a five-step process that involves medical experts, a medical board, theological consultants, the members of the congregation and, finally, the pope.

With the decree of venerability and a confirmed miracle, beatification can take place.

Archbishop Amato emphasized that the Vatican could not promise a timetable for all this. The fact that the Vatican is expediting the cause doesn’t mean “haste or superficiality,” but on the contrary demands methodical attention to detail, he said.

Five years from death to beatification may not strike

people as “*subito*,” but it would be a modern record in the Church; even for Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who was described by many as a “living saint” and for whom the waiting period was also waived, it took six years to complete the process.

Still, no one has ruled out next April 2 as the big day. Polish Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow, personal secretary to the late pope and one of his biggest beatification boosters, was in Rome for the fourth anniversary. He told reporters that a presumed miracle had recently occurred at Pope John Paul II’s tomb in St. Peter’s Basilica.

A nine year-old Polish boy from Gdansk, suffering from cancer of the kidneys and unable to walk, was brought to the tomb by his parents, Cardinal Dziwisz said. When they left St. Peter’s, the boy told them, “I want to walk,” and began walking in good health, he said.

Vatican officials are not publicizing what are said to be 251 “inexplicable” healings or other events attributed to Pope John Paul II’s intercession, and which have been filed away. Like Archbishop Amato, the officials emphasize the seriousness of the study being undertaken and insist there are no foregone conclusions.

Catholic News Service

Contributing to this story was Nicole Coia in Rome.

## Social Encyclical to Be Published in May

By Carol Glatz

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI's first social encyclical is already completed and should be ready for release in early May, said a top Vatican official.

The original aim had been to have the encyclical on social justice issues ready for publication in 2007 to coincide with the 40th anniversary of Pope Paul VI's encyclical on human development, *Populorum Progressio* ("The Progress of Peoples"), said Cardinal Renato Martino, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

"Naturally, however, with the research and revisions necessary to create and have a text that would respond to today's current situation, well, it got behind schedule a little bit," the cardinal said.

"The encyclical is already ready and we hope it will be published in early May," he said.

He said the new papal encyclical will offer "a beautiful response" to the new realities and the changes that have occurred since the last papal encyclical on Catholic social teaching, *Centesimus Annus* ("The Hundredth Year"), was published in 1991 by Pope John Paul II.

Pope Benedict's social encyclical was tentatively titled *Caritas in Veritate* ("Love in Truth") and will be his third encyclical in four years.

Flying to Cameroon March 17, the pope said one reason for the encyclical's delay was the need to thoroughly deal with the current global economic crisis.

"We were almost ready to publish it when this crisis erupted and we went back to the text in order to give a more adequate response" and to examine what the Church sees as being the real problems underlying the financial crisis, he told reporters on the papal plane.

He said he hoped the encyclical could play a part in helping the world overcome its economic woes.

*Catholic News Service*

## L.I.F.E. Week Sheds Light on Issues of Human Dignity

By Michael Lovette-Colyer

ALCALA PARK — The advertising suddenly appeared on the afternoon of March 29.

"University of Life" flyers appeared on walls, bulletin boards and sidewalks throughout the University of San Diego campus. A full-color postcard was slipped under the door of every residence on campus. Banners were hung from buildings.

The message was clear: L.I.F.E. ("Living Is for Everyone") Week was about to begin.

The annual event, held this year from March 30-April 3, is a five-day educational campaign designed to raise awareness of major life and human dignity issues.

"Our goal is to educate the USD community and others on multiple issues involving promoting and respecting the sanctity and dignity of life for every human being," said Therese Kanda, the president of USD Students for Life, a student group facilitated and advised by University Ministry.

L.I.F.E. Week co-sponsors included Associated Students, Alpha Chi Omega, the Romero Center, Students for Peace, Residential Life, the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies and the Women's Center.

Jennie Kuckertz, the treasurer of Students for Life, noted that L.I.F.E. Week educates students about "issues that they may not hear about every day" and encourages them "to step outside of their comfort zone, to make a difference and do something."

During this year's event, one day was devoted exclusively to each of the following topics: human trafficking, domestic violence, genocide, poverty and abortion/adoption. Students manned information tables outside the University Center each afternoon; evening programs were planned to further highlight each issue.

L.I.F.E. Week kicked off this year with prayers for life and dignity, offered during the 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Sunday Masses, March 29, in USD's Founders Chapel.

Among the week's highlights was an interactive multimedia presentation by the Not for Sale campaign, held March 30, during a day dedicated to the issue of human trafficking,



**L.I.F.E. WEEK:** A student glances at a lawn display, April 3, during L.I.F.E. Week on the USD campus. The display represented the millions of abortion victims worldwide.

Not for Sale is a San Francisco-based non-profit that mobilizes young people to use innovative means to abolish modern-day slavery in their own backyards and around the globe.

On April 2, a day focused on the issue of poverty, Students for Life hosted a picnic-packing party during the afternoon hours. More than 100 students stopped by to make sandwiches, which were later distributed to homeless men and women by St. Vincent de Paul Village in downtown San Diego. That evening, more than 300 students gathered for a free screening of the Academy Award-winning

film "Slumdog Millionaire" and a discussion on poverty, both at home and abroad.

Elvis Babila, a USD senior, attended several L.I.F.E. Week events last year and had such a positive experience that he decided to join this year's leadership team. He assisted with planning for the pro-life movie marathon held April 3.

"Life is precious. That's what we're about," Babila said. "Students for Life is a group that is inclusive and respectful, and we approach people in a friendly but straightforward manner."

*The Southern Cross*

## Vatican Newspaper Says Experience Supports Pope's Comments on Condoms

By John Thavis

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican's newspaper said experience supports Pope Benedict XVI's comment that the distribution of condoms does not solve the problem of AIDS.

The newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, ran a front-page commentary that defended the pope against the storm of criticism that followed his remarks in mid-March as he prepared to visit Africa.

The idea that condom distribution can arrest the spread of the virus in Africa is an "ideological falsehood," said the commentary. Published March 22, it was written by Lucetta Scaraffia, a journalist and history professor who is a member of the Italian National Bioethics Committee.

Scaraffia said World Health Organization studies show that the most effective anti-AIDS campaigns in Africa have been based on efforts to promote abstinence and fidelity in sexual relations. She said this fact has been quietly accepted in the scientific community, but that the "legend" continues about condoms saving Africa from AIDS. The false sense of security condoms give can itself become a risk factor in the spread of AIDS, she said.

A related article in the newspaper detailed the experience in Uganda, which has adopted an anti-AIDS program called "ABC" — "abstain, be faithful or use a condom." The Ugandan program has been so successful, the article said, because it relies first on promoting responsible sexual behavior and sees condom use as a last resort.

The article quoted Brother Daniele Giusti, a Comboni missionary who has worked as a doctor in Uganda for 30 years, as saying the condom has proven somewhat effective among particular groups like prostitutes, homosexuals and drug addicts, but not in the wider population.

"To say that the condom is the winning strategy in a full-blown epidemic that has spread among the general population is misleading," he said.

The rate of infection with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, has dropped in Uganda from about 15 percent to about 5 percent of the population over the last 15 years. For that reason, Uganda is often held up as a model for other African countries.

"Whoever says these results were obtained by using condoms is telling a lie. Experience in the field shows the opposite,"

Brother Giusti said.

"The main factor of this success [in Uganda] is education and a change in behavior," he said. He said Ugandan young people are engaging in initial sexual activity at a later age, and the number of sexual partners reported by men and women has been reduced.

Even international agencies are now recognizing the effectiveness of campaigns based on sexual responsibility, and are changing strategies, he said.

During his flight to Cameroon March 17, the pope was asked by reporters about the use of condoms in AIDS prevention. After highlighting the Church's efforts to help AIDS victims, the pope said: "One cannot overcome the problem with the distribution of condoms. On the contrary, they increase the problem."

"The solution can only be a double one: first, a humanization of sexuality, that is, a spiritual human renewal that brings with it a new way of behaving with one another; second, a true friendship especially with those who suffer, and a willingness to make personal sacrifices and to be with the suffering," he said.

*Catholic News Service*

## Briefs

## USCCB Speaks Up for Conscience Rights

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Rather than working to rescind a regulation that gives federal protection to the conscience rights of health care providers and institutions, the Obama administration's proper role is to enforce the will of Congress as already expressed in existing statutes, said attorneys for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Anthony R. Picarello Jr., USCCB general counsel, and Michael F. Moses, associate general counsel, filed public comments on behalf of the USCCB March 23 with the Department of Health and Human Services. HHS opened a 30-day comment period March 10 on whether it should rescind a regulation that took effect two days before President Barack Obama took office. The rule codifies three longtime federal statutes prohibiting discrimination against health professionals who decline to participate in abortions or other medical procedures because of their religious or other moral objections.

## Pope Addresses Excommunication Outcry

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a letter to the world's bishops, Pope Benedict XVI expressed regret that his lifting of the excommunications of four traditionalist bishops gave rise to a storm of protests and bitterness. The pope said the controversy over Bishop Richard Williamson's statements denying the extent of the Holocaust was "an unforeseen mishap" — one that could have been anticipated, however, by paying more attention to information easily available on the Internet. The pope said he was particularly saddened at the reaction of some Catholics who seemed willing to believe he was changing direction on Catholic-Jewish relations and were ready to "attack me with open hostility." He thanked "our Jewish friends" who helped clarify the matter and restore a sense of trust. The Vatican published the 2,500-word letter in six languages March 12. The Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, called it a "unique, exceptional document" for its direct and personal style, and said it showed the pope had listened carefully to what people were saying.

## Schedule Released for Papal Visit to Holy Land

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — On his first trip to the Holy Land, Pope Benedict XVI will meet with Jewish, Muslim and

Christian leaders, stop at the Dome of the Rock and the Western Wall in Jerusalem, and visit a refugee camp in Bethlehem, West Bank, the Vatican said. The May 8-15 visit will take the pope to holy sites in Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian territories. The schedule, published March 26, said the pope would visit the new King Hussein Mosque in Amman, Jordan; stop at Jesus' baptism site at the Jordan River; and make a pilgrimage to Mount Nebo, where Moses once looked out at the Promised Land. The pope also will visit the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem and celebrate public Masses in Amman, Bethlehem, Jerusalem and Nazareth, Israel.

## Notre Dame Criticized for Honoring Obama

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Bishops from across the country continued to express their disapproval of the University of Notre Dame's choice of President Barack Obama as the May 17 commencement speaker. Their comments, in publicly released letters to Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, president of the Indiana university, have used words such as "travesty," "disappointment" and "scandal" to describe the fact that Obama would not only address graduates but would also be given an honorary degree. Critics of Obama said his support of legal abortion and embryonic stem-cell research make him an inappropriate choice to be commencement speaker at a Catholic university. In criticizing Notre Dame's decision, announced March 20, most of the bishops referred to their 2004 document, *Catholics in Political Life*, which states in part that "the Catholic community and Catholic institutions should not honor those who act in defiance of our fundamental moral principles. They should not be given awards, honors or platforms which would suggest support for their actions."

## Indulgences Available in Year of St. Paul

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As spring started showing its colors in Rome, many of the pilgrims coming out of the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls were glowing — and not only because the sun was shining brightly. Crossing the threshold of the "Pauline Doors," praying at the tomb of St. Paul, confessing their sins, receiving the Eucharist and offering specific prayers, they came away with a plenary indulgence. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* defines an indulgence as "the remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sin whose guilt has already been forgiven." Especially for the Pauline year — marking the 2,000th anniversary of the apostle Paul's birth — the Catholic Church is offering an indulgence

## Upon This Rock



A woman prays on the Stone of Anointing, April 5, after entering the Church of the Holy Sepulchre for Palm Sunday Mass in Jerusalem's Old City. Tradition holds that it was upon this stone that the body of Jesus was prepared for burial.

to pilgrims who visit his tomb at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

## Franciscans to Celebrate 800th Anniversary

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Some 1,800 Franciscan friars from all over the world were expected to converge on the Umbrian hill town of Assisi, Italy, to celebrate the 800th anniversary of papal approval of the Franciscan rule. For the first time, representatives from the four main Franciscan branches were to meet in Assisi — the birthplace of their founder, St. Francis — to take part in an International Chapter of Mats April 15-18. A Chapter of Mats gets its name from the time in 1221 St. Francis called more than 3,000 friars to the Portiuncula chapel in Assisi for a general meeting or chapter. Because the small town could not accommodate the large number of visitors, the friars lived in huts made out of reeds and slept on mats, said Father Jose Rodriguez Carballo, minister general of the Order of Friars Minor. The three other Franciscan groups participating are the Capuchins, the Conventual Franciscans and the Third Order Regular Franciscans. The chapter falls on the 800th anniversary of the formal founding of the Franciscan order when St. Francis presented his rule to Pope Innocent III for approval in 1209.

## N.Y. State Bill Targets Church over Sex Abuse

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (CNS) — The New

York State Catholic Conference has mounted a statewide campaign to educate Catholics about a bill that would temporarily waive the state's civil statute of limitations on suing individuals and private institutions over child sexual abuse. The *Child Victims Act of New York* also would lengthen the period in which alleged victims may sue individuals and private organizations for child sexual abuse in the future. The Catholic conference, which represents the state's bishops in matters of public policy, said the proposal unfairly targets the Catholic Church and other private institutions. New York's current statute of limitations requires alleged victims of child sex abuse to file civil lawsuits by the time they are 23. But separate statutes for claims against public entities — such as municipalities, public schools, public hospitals and government-run institutions — require the alleged victims in cases of any nature to file statements of their intent to sue within 90 days of the incident.

## Bishop's Arrest Is Obstacle to Dialogue

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The recent arrest of a Chinese bishop and other instances of religious persecution in China are obstacles to dialogue, said the Vatican. The arrest of 74-year-old Bishop Julius Jia Zhiguo of Zhengding was "unfortunately not an isolated case: Other clergy are also deprived of their freedom or are subjected to undue pressure and restrictions in their pastoral activity," said the Vatican in a statement released April 2. In the statement

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released after a meeting in Rome of the Vatican's Commission for the Catholic Church in China, the Vatican expressed its "deep sorrow upon hearing the news of the recent arrest" of Bishop Jia. "Situations of this type create obstacles to an atmosphere of dialogue with the competent authorities," it said, noting Pope Benedict XVI's desire for dialogue which he expressed in his June 2007 letter to Chinese Catholics. Bishop Jia, who has not registered with the government, was taken by five police officers from his residence in Hebei province March 30, the same day the Vatican commission on China began its meeting. Pope Benedict established the commission in 2007 to study issues related to the Catholic Church in China.

## Ambassador Glendon to Receive Laetare Medal

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (CNS) — Mary Ann Glendon, a professor at Harvard Law School who recently stepped down as U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, will receive the University of Notre Dame's Laetare Medal at commencement ceremonies May 17. Established in 1883, the Laetare Medal is described as the oldest and most prestigious honor given to American Catholics. It is awarded annually to a Catholic "whose genius has ennobled the arts and sciences, illustrated the ideals of the Church and enriched the heritage of humanity."

## Oregon Sees Highest Assisted-Suicide Toll

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — Oregon's annual report on assisted suicide showed

that doctors helped 60 patients take their lives in 2008. That marked the highest annual total since the *Oregon Death With Dignity Act* went into effect 11 years ago. In all, 401 Oregonians have died by the legal lethal prescriptions, which are legal only for those judged to have six months or less to live. Just north of Oregon, health officials in Washington state have filed rules to guide that state's new assisted-suicide law. The law — which closely resembles Oregon's — took effect March 5.

## Pro-life Official Criticizes Ruling on Plan B

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A U.S. District Court judge's decision giving 17-year-olds over-the-counter access to the morning-after pill known as Plan B "will put minors' health at greater risk," according to a pro-life official of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. U.S. District Judge Edward Korman, a judge in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York, said March 24 that the Food and Drug Administration had "repeatedly and unreasonably" delayed a decision on whether Plan B should be available over the counter and had been swayed by politics in ultimately deciding to make the drug available without a prescription only to those 18 or over. Deirdre McQuade, assistant director for policy and communications in the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, said the judge's decision opens up the possibility of a 17-year-old male getting "emergency contraception" for his girlfriend — "whether she's 17 or 12" — and subjects the young woman to taking "a very strong drug without any medical supervision." Plan B, containing a high dose of birth control pills,

## While They Slept



A man reacts as he awaits news about his son trapped in a collapsed building in Aquila, Italy, April 6. A powerful earthquake struck a huge area of central Italy as residents slept April 6. As of April 9, the official death toll was 275 and more than 1,000 people were injured.

CNS PHOTO/LESSANDRO BIANCHI, REUTERS

usually prevents pregnancy if taken within 72 hours of unprotected sex.

## Legionaries to Receive Apostolic Visitation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has ordered an apostolic visitation of the institutions of the Legionaries of Christ, following disclosures of sexual impropriety by the order's late founder, Father Marcial Maciel Degollado. The announcement of the unusual investigation was posted on the Web site of the

Legionaries of Christ March 31, along with the text of a letter informing the Legionaries of the pope's decision. Apostolic visitation is a form of internal Church investigation ordered by a pope and undertaken by his delegate or delegates. The pope sets the jurisdiction and powers of the visitation, which usually ends with the submission of a report to the Holy See. In February, Legionaries of Christ officials in Rome disclosed that Father Maciel had fathered a child. Sources in Rome said the order was also looking into accusations of financial irregularities by Father Maciel.

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# Vatican Supports Astronomers in Search for Truth, Understanding

By Bern Zovistoski

TUCSON, Ariz. — The Vatican supports the work of astronomers to learn “what is true” and “to show this truth is not opposed to the truth of our faith,” said Cardinal Giovanni Lajolo.

The cardinal, who has direct responsibility for the Vatican Observatory as president of the Pontifical Commission for Vatican City State, made the comments during a visit to Tucson.

The Vatican Observatory, which traces its beginning to 1578 and is located at the papal summer villa in Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome, opened a dependent research center in Tucson in the 1980s, and in 1993 inaugurated the 1.8-meter advanced technology telescope on Mount Graham.

The staff of the observatory, headed by Argentine Jesuit Father Jose Funes, divides its time between facilities at the papal villa and the University of Arizona in Tucson.

A tour of the Mount Graham site was “the high point of my

visit,” Cardinal Lajolo said. “It’s one of the best in the world.”

The cardinal said he came to see the telescope “to learn more of the work of the Vatican Observatory so that in the name of the Holy Father, Pope Benedict, and in the name of the people of God, whom we serve, I might better support that work.”

He said he would like to see the Vatican Observatory become “better known around the world and especially here in the United States since we have established this research group here in Tucson.”

The scientists involved do “great work and they do it with humility,” Cardinal Lajolo said. “I’d like them to be better known. They deserve to be known.”

The Arizona site was chosen for the telescope to take advantage of the area’s world-renowned astronomical facilities, and the cardinal’s visit was hosted by the University of Arizona.

“I’m impressed with the dedication of the astronomers and the University of Arizona to under-

stand the universe by scientific research,” the cardinal said.

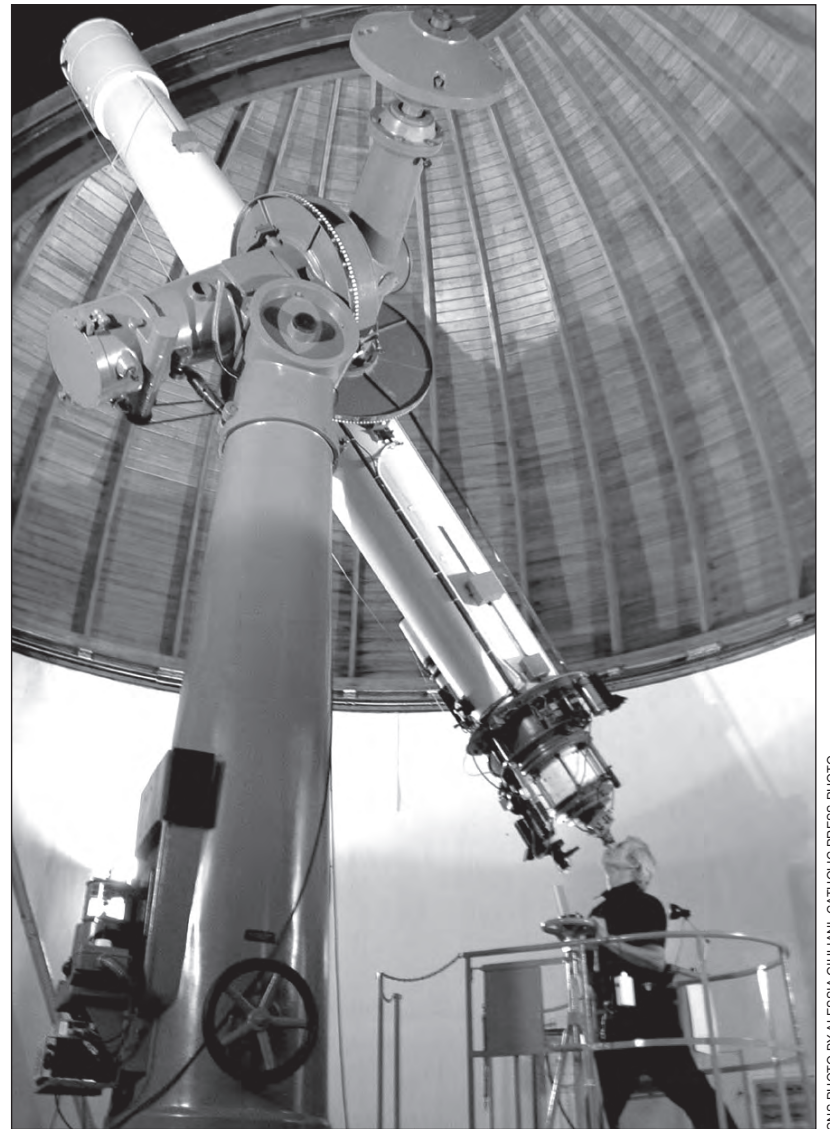
He added that he came “to also give a sign of the attention of the pope” to the work being done.

“The fact that the religious priests and brothers of the Vatican Observatory are so intensely involved with their colleagues here in one of the most important centers in the world for astronomy bears witness, I believe, to the fact that the Church has a profound appreciation for science and wishes ... to promote it,” Cardinal Lajolo said.

While the astronomers’ principal task is “to understand the universe through scientific research,” he said, “it is also important that they relate their science to other important areas of human culture and especially to religious faith.”

Cardinal Lajolo timed his visit to the U.S. to coincide with the International Year of Astronomy, which marks the 400th anniversary of Galileo’s first astronomical observation through a telescope.

Catholic News Service



CNS PHOTO BY ALESSIA GIULIANI, CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

**THE FINAL FRONTIER:** Jesuit Father Richard Boyle, astronomer at the Vatican Observatory, peers through a telescope in the observatory in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, in this 2003 file photo.

## Reiki Therapy ‘Not Compatible’ with Catholic Beliefs

WASHINGTON — Reiki therapy, an alternative medicine originating in Japan, is unscientific and spiritually inappropriate for use by Catholic hospitals, clinics and retreat centers and people representing the Church, the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Doctrine said March 26.

The U.S. bishops outlined their position in *Guidelines for Evaluating Reiki as an Alternative Therapy*. The guidelines are available online at [www.usccb.org/dpp/doctrine.htm](http://www.usccb.org/dpp/doctrine.htm).

The guidelines described Reiki as a healing technique “invented in Japan in the late 1800s by Mikao Usui, who was studying Buddhist texts.”

They stated that “according to Reiki teaching, illness is caused by some kind of

disruption or imbalance in one’s ‘life energy.’ A Reiki practitioner effects healing by placing his or her hands in certain positions on the patient’s body in order to facilitate the flow of Reiki, the ‘universal life energy,’ from the Reiki practitioner to the patient.”

The bishops’ guidelines said “Reiki lacks scientific credibility” and “has not been accepted by the scientific and medical communities as an effective therapy.”

The guidelines noted that “Reiki is frequently described as a ‘spiritual’ kind of healing, as opposed to the common medical procedures of healing using physical means.”

However, there is a radical difference between Reiki therapy and the healing by divine power in which Christians believe,

the guidelines said.

The bishops warned “there are important dangers” in using Reiki for one’s spiritual health.

“To use Reiki, one would have to accept at least in an implicit way central elements of the worldview that undergirds Reiki the-

ory,” they said.

“Since Reiki therapy is not compatible with either Christian teaching or scientific evidence, it would be inappropriate for Catholic institutions ... to provide support for [it],” the guidelines said.

Catholic News Service



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## Indian Catholic Refugees Turn to Prayer Amid Continued Threats

By Anto Akkara

TIANGIA, India — As the sun went down, dozens of Catholics gathered in the refugee camp's vacant tent in the troubled Kandhamal district of India's Orissa state. While those who came early found space in the tent — large enough for 100 people — others stood outside as a local catechist led the Way of the Cross.

With the Orissa government banning religious practice outside the tent and allowing only private worship, the refugees were forced to pray the stations and rosary inside the tent.

"Continuous prayer is helping us cope with our trials," catechist Ranjit Nayak said.

Besides an early morning Way of the Cross and an extra one on Friday afternoons, during Lent Catholics also recited the rosary together every evening inside the camp.

Extremist Hindu-led rioting and violence that began in Orissa state in August and lasted about seven weeks displaced 50,000 people, mostly Christians. The violence claimed more than 60 lives. Seven Christians were killed in Tiangia alone, and most of the houses owned by Christians in the area were looted and destroyed.

Nayak was caught in the violence. After running for his life from a Hindu mob in the mountains, Nayak eventually hid under a rock outcropping. The mob reached his hiding spot, climbed onto the rock and shouted for the others to search for Nayak.

"I was mortified and started saying [the]

rosary. By the time I finished two mysteries, heavy rain started and they went back," he recalled.

The refugee camp in Tiangia was opened by the Orissa government in early February to bring the displaced Christians closer to their villages. But Catholics in the camps say Hindus are telling them they cannot return home unless they convert to Hinduism.

Father Praful Sabapati said the situation in Tiangia "is still very tense." The priest, who works in the parish in Tiangia, spoke to *Catholic News Service* from the refugee camp run by the Missionaries of Charity at Janla, more than 150 miles from Tiangia.

Though Tiangia has more than 180 Catholic families, the first Mass in the area since August was celebrated Feb. 25, Ash Wednesday, inside the refugee camp — guarded by federal soldiers. It was also the first time a priest had been there since the August violence, said Father Sabapati.

In late February, Hindus quietly watched as refugees, accompanied by Orissa officials and police, assessed damage to their houses in a village near Tiangia. But as soon as the officials left in their vehicles, extremist Hindus took out weapons and chased the Christians, shouting "You can come back here only as Hindus," said Goliath Digal.

Half a dozen Catholic families moved to open land near Raikia and pitched tents of torn plastic sheets and leaves.

Despite such hardship, the refugees have shown "exemplary faith," said Father Bijay Pradhan, parish priest of Raikia.

"Our church is still full despite contin-



**REFUGEES:** Catholic refugee women pray the Way of the Cross inside a refugee tent at a relief camp at Tiangia, in the Indian state of Orissa, Feb. 27.

ued threats for our people to become Hindus. They are very firm in their faith," said Father Pradhan, pointing out that the

houses of 600 of the 750 Catholic families in his parish had been looted, damaged or burned during the anti-Christian violence.

"The faith our people have shown in the situation makes me think of the early Christians who were prepared to die for their faith," said Deacon Ranjit Pradhan, a native of Tiangia, whose house was torched and whose mother remains a refugee while his brothers have fled the Kandhamal district.

*Catholic News Service*

## Making Friends



A U.S. soldier shakes hands with a student after the reopening of a primary school in Latifiya, 25 miles south of Baghdad, Iraq, March 19.

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# North Dakota Bishop Praises Catholic Response to Flood

By Carol Zimmermann

WASHINGTON — Days before the predicted rise of North Dakota's Red River, Bishop Samuel J. Aquila of Fargo said he was already impressed by how Catholics in the diocese were helping people prepare for expected flooding.

When Fargo's Veteran Affairs Medical Center evacuated March 24, the Cathedral of St. Mary of Fargo provided vans to take patients to their temporary quarters in St. Paul, Minn.

Students from Fargo's diocesan Catholic schools were among teams of volunteers who spent days sandbagging around the city to prevent flood damage, and Fargo's Catholic Charities employees were preparing for potential food and shelter needs, the bishop told *Catholic News Service* in a March 26 telephone interview.

"There is a tremendous spirit among the people here," he said, adding the "people are watching out for one another" even while waiting to see how extensive the flood damage could be.

"The unknown is always unsettling, but at the same time there is a very real preparedness among the people and the city has done a great job in reaching out to people," he said.

Even the bishop's residence became a tem-

porary shelter as he took in seven seminarians who evacuated the Cardinal Muench Seminary in Fargo adjacent to the Red River.

After all the preparations were finished, he noted that the "most important thing of course is prayers and asking for God's protection at this time."

During the week, the bishop had visited sites where residents were sandbagging to let them know he was praying for them and that the diocese would help in any way it could. He said he also encouraged diocesan schools to open their doors if people needed temporary shelter.

Catholic Charities USA's Office of Disaster Response was on the ground in Fargo prior to expected flooding to help the local Catholic Charities agency set up its recovery efforts.

Initial tasks included finding volunteers to help with the sandbagging and working with other agencies to fill volunteer needs.

While the Fargo Diocese in the eastern half of North Dakota was anticipating the rising river to crest up to 41 feet during the March 28 weekend, other parts of the state, including the Bismarck Diocese in the state's central region, had already experienced massive flooding.

"Stories of people who are offering them-



**FLOODING:** An aerial view shows houses in a development surrounded by floodwater along the Red River near Fargo, N.D., March 29.

selves to assist their neighbors in need are both encouraging and uplifting," said Bishop Paul A. Zipfel of Bismarck in a statement on the diocesan Web site. "For all who are suffer-

ing due to the flood waters, let us ask for God's protection and grace. Through it, may we grow in our love for God and each other."

*Catholic News Service*

# Kenyan Diocese Promotes Alternative to Female Circumcision

By Liz Quirin

MERU, Kenya — A Kenyan diocese is giving girls a chance to grow up without participating in the traditional tribal rite of female circumcision, a practice that carries the risk of disease or death.

Catholic workers in the Diocese of Meru developed *An Alternative Rite of Passage*, pulling elements from the traditional rite.

In other areas of Kenya, programs to stop the circumcisions were tried and failed. Meru diocesan officials decided to begin slowly. They began by talking to each group of what they described as "stakeholders" in the practice and educating them about the dangers of female circumcision.

Joseph M'Eruaki M'Uthari, the diocesan social development director, and Martin Koome, program coordinator, said they spoke with community leaders, members of the councils of elders, parents and the girls themselves to make sure they knew the diocese did not condemn the people's culture.

Diocesan literature defines the traditional rite of passage as "a range of practices involving the complete or partial removal or

alteration of the external genitalia for nonmedical reasons. The procedure may involve the use of unsterilized, makeshift or rudimentary tools."

The traditional rite is practiced on girls ages 12-17 or even younger, depending on the parents' wishes, since girls can be ready for marriage at these ages. Girls are taken into seclusion for about one week, taught about courtship, marriage and relationships. Then they are cut by a circumciser and given a few days to heal before returning home.

By 2001, Kenya had outlawed the practice of female circumcision — which is considered genital mutilation — but the fines and penalties were minimal. The circumcisions continue because families believe this is the only way to find a husband for their daughters.

"The cut is harmful, but part of the [traditional] seclusions were good," M'Eruaki said. "They gave the girls education in responsibility, respect and life skills."

To date, the diocese has facilitated five programs — also called seclusions — with diocesan and parish staff and two women

from the community attending each session to keep false information from circulating.

The alternative rite is ecumenical, and members of other faiths and their pastors have been invited to participate, M'Eruaki said.

The diocese has initiated quarterly support forums for the girls who attended the alternative rites, so they have the opportunity to discuss issues that arise. Girls who attended the alternative rite faced criticism from girls who had participated in the traditional seclusions, and they faced the possibility that their families would receive no dowries because they were uncircumcised.

The diocese has facilitated the alternative rite with 641 girls, and an additional 87 also went through the program when one parish facilitated its own seclusion.

The diocese has also introduced children's rights clubs to begin educating those younger than 12 about their human rights.

"The most exciting" part, M'Eruaki said, is "to see the change, a shift in attitude in the people. They see a different way of life, a better way of life is possible."

*Catholic News Service*

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## Bad Day for Baseball

Michael Ochab's 20-year streak of rooting for the Detroit Tigers as part of the opening day crowd recently came to an end. Home opening day this year fell on Good Friday, April 10.

"It's a no-brainer for me," said the 47-year-old lifetime resident of Hamtramck, Mich. "He died for us on that cross."

Prior to Holy Week, Ochab said that, when the first pitch crossed the mound at Comerica Park, just after the 1:05 p.m. start time, he would be in St. Florian Church for Good Friday services. He and his eight siblings grew up in the parish, attended the grade school and high school, and he said he spent years there as an altar server.

"I like to have fun on opening day," said the social studies teacher for Detroit City High, an alternative school. "I like to watch the revelries and all. But it just doesn't seem appropriate this year."

When the Tigers' opening day fell on Holy Thursday in 2004, Ochab was there as the Tigers beat the Minnesota Twins 10-6, "but it didn't really feel as festive." After the afternoon game, he headed to Mass.

Spiritual Father Ed Vilkauskas, pastor of Old St. Mary Church in Detroit's Greektown, said having opening day on Good Friday "is kind of appalling."

"I think it's a pretty big affront to Christians," he said. "It's one of the most sacred and solemn days of the Christian calendar and to do that is insensitive to our faith."

"Not too many years ago, stores actually closed noon to 3 p.m. Even banks were closed," said Father Vilkauskas.

Prior to the game, Ochab said he was "praying for rain."

*Catholic News Service*

## Thanks for the Turtle

Pope Benedict XVI and Vatican aides decided that the live turtle given to the pope by a group of Pygmies from Cameroon should stay in Africa.

Although Vatican officials initially spoke about finding a home for the turtle in the Vatican Gardens, in the end they asked staff members of the Vatican Embassy in Luanda, Angola, to find it a proper home, said Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman.

A group of 15 Pygmies from the Baka ethnic group came to the pope's residence at the apostolic nunciature in Yaounde, Cameroon, March 20 as the pontiff was preparing to leave for Angola. They built a ceremonial hut out of leaves in the garden of the residence, and the pope came out to

greet them.

The Pygmies, including grandparents, parents and children, sang songs and danced to the beat of drums, then gave the pope three gifts: a basket, a cloth mat and the turtle, which is a symbol of wisdom in Cameroon.

The Baka Pygmies inhabit rain forests in southern Cameroon. A hunting and gathering people, they number fewer than 30,000.

Leaving Angola March 23 for the flight back to Rome, Father Lombardi told reporters the turtle was "in good hands" with the staff of the nunciature in Angola because it was decided the African turtle should live in an African habitat.

*Catholic News Service*

## Q Quotable Quotes Q

### Who Hates Science Now?

"Abortion-rights activists sneer about anti-abortion advocates ignoring science. But the reality is that science is not on the side of NARAL or their ilk, and they know that. That's why they don't want women looking at ultrasounds or hearing that what they call a 'little clump of cells' has a heartbeat at three weeks."

— Democratic political analyst Kirsten Powers, a political liberal, defends crisis pregnancy centers and their use of ultrasounds. Powers made her comments in an April 1 blog entry on "The Fox Forum."

### The Gift of a Council

"The [parish] council is a gift of the Holy Spirit, and the pastor — and even more a pope — needs advice, needs help in making decisions. And so these [parish] councils are also a work of the Holy Spirit and a witness to the Spirit's presence in the Church."

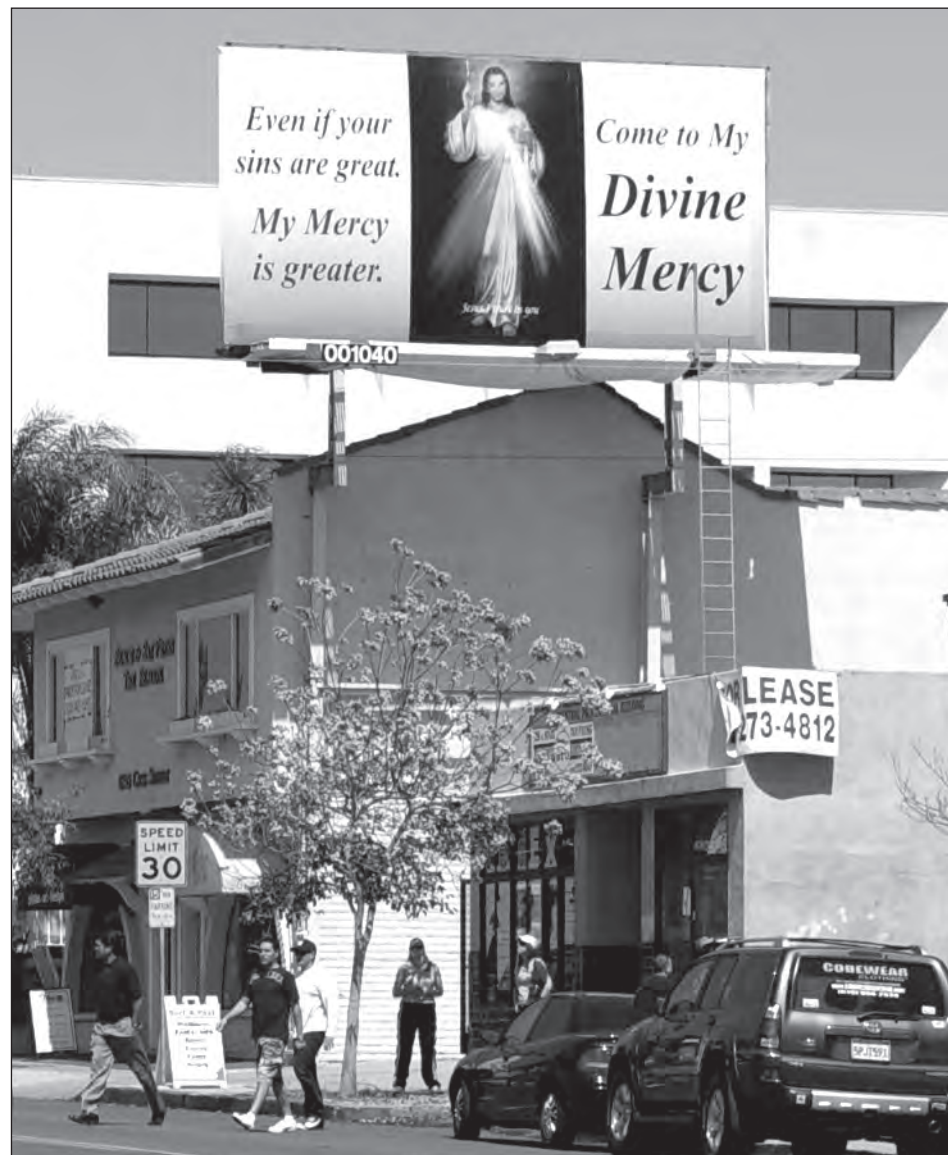
— Pope Benedict XVI, praising the value of parish councils, during a March 29 visit to the Holy Face of Jesus Parish in Rome

### A Dubious Honor

"To our distinguished secretary of state, I respectfully ask: Are you kidding? In 'awe' of [Planned Parenthood founder] Margaret Sanger, who ... said in 1922, 'The most merciful thing that a family does to one of its infant members is to kill it?'"

— Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., on Hillary Clinton's recent acceptance of Planned Parenthood's Margaret Sanger Award. While accepting the award, Clinton said she was "in awe" of Sanger, a known promoter of eugenics.

## Message of Mercy



Pictured, a billboard spreading the Divine Mercy message towers above Pacific Beach near the intersection of Cass and Felspar streets.

Measuring 12 by 24 feet, the billboard includes an 8-foot Jesus and the following message: "Even if your sins are great, My mercy is greater. Come to My Divine Mercy."

The billboard was erected March 18 for a five-week period.

Other billboards, featuring the same text and graphics, can be seen near the intersections of Grand Avenue and Ingraham Street, also in Pacific Beach; Mission Boulevard and Wave Crest Court, in Mission Beach; and Sunset Cliffs Boulevard and Point Loma Avenue, in Point Loma.

The billboards are erected each year during the Easter and Christmas seasons.

*The Southern Cross*

## Home Again, Home Again

An estimated 92,000 inactive Catholics in the Phoenix Diocese have come back to the Church in the last year thanks in large part to a groundbreaking television advertising campaign called "Catholics Come Home."

The promotional spots featured people and locations from around the Phoenix Diocese to promote the Church during prime-time television. The cornerstone of the campaign, the "Catholics Come Home" Web site, addresses often misunderstood aspects of the faith.

The commercials, which ran during Lent in 2008, detail the good works of the Catholic Church throughout history. They also offer real-life testimonials of local fallen-away Catholics explaining what turned them away and what drew them back.

"Catholics Come Home" is currently based in Georgia.

More than half a million different visitors from all 50 states and 80 countries have visited the Web site [catholiccomehome.com](http://catholiccomehome.com) since

the spots first aired.

The response was so positive that other dioceses around the country are looking to Phoenix for ideas on bringing Catholics back to the Church.

The "Catholics Come Home" spots will appear in more than a dozen other dioceses around the country later in 2009 or early 2010. By the time Advent rolls around in 2010, organizers say they'll go national on major networks.

The Diocese of Phoenix has witnessed increased interest in the Church, which leaders are attributing to last year's campaign.

Six months after the media campaign ended, a comprehensive analysis of its impact revealed a 22 percent increase in Mass attendance at nine sample parishes. Throughout the diocese, the average increased Mass attendance — returned and new Catholics — was 12 percent. That's despite a flat population growth in the diocese during that period.

*Catholic News Service*

## Briefs

## California Knights to Convene in San Diego

SAN DIEGO — Knights of Columbus from throughout the state of California and from the organization's national headquarters will gather for their annual state convention, May 14-16, at the San Diego Town and Country Hotel and Convention Center. "This will be a great opportunity to review all that the Knights have accomplished during the past year, review the challenges for the year ahead, present numerous awards, and elect next year's new state leaders," said State Deputy Robert J. Villalobos, the state leader of more than 65,000 Knights in California. Convention chairman Frank Nigro promises that the event will also include fun for the whole family, including a country-western dance and tours of Old Town San Diego. Bishop Robert H. Brom will celebrate one of the convention liturgies. *For more information, contact Michael Brault at (619) 548-3190 or michael.brault@suhdsd.k12.ca.us.*

## 'National Day of Prayer' Observed May 7

SAN DIEGO — The National Day of Prayer, observed on the first Thursday in May, will take place May 7 this year. On that day, all Americans are invited to unite in prayer; prayers for the nation are especially encouraged. In 1952, President Harry S Truman signed into law a congressional resolution that required every subsequent president to declare a National Day of Prayer; in 1988, President Ronald Reagan set the date as the first Thursday in May. In the Diocese of San Diego, the entire student body of St. James Academy in Solana Beach will mark the occasion by gathering for Benediction at 10 a.m., May 7, in the parish church.

## Parish Bazaar to Feature 'Radio Disney' Stars

IMPERIAL BEACH — St. Charles Parish's 60th annual parish bazaar, June 5-7, will include a concert performance by "Radio

Disney" stars Jonnie and Brookie Allen. The teen duo will perform at 1 p.m., Saturday, June 6, on the main stage. The free concert will benefit the San Diego Food Bank. All concert-goers are asked to bring one canned food item to support local families in need. The first 50 children to bring a canned food item will receive a free surprise. A meet-and-greet with the two singers will follow the concert. The parish bazaar will also include a \$5,000-grand-prize raffle drawing, rides, games, food and craft booths, and other entertainment. The bazaar hours are: 6-10 p.m., Friday, June 5; 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday, June 6; and 9 a.m.-7:30 p.m., Sunday, June 7. Admission is free. The St. Charles festival grounds are located at 929 18th St., San Diego. *For more information, a full schedule of events, or vendor inquiries, call (619) 423-0242.*

## Maritime Ministers Attend Training

SAN DIEGO — Bob Condes and Martha Crawford, volunteer maritime ministers at the Stella Maris Seafarer's Center in San Diego, recently attended a two-week chaplaincy training course in Houston, Texas. The class consisted of 13 students from all over the United States and Canada, and included representatives from several Christian maritime agencies and denominations. Condes and Crawford received scholarships from the Apostleship of the Sea (AOS) to attend the course. AOS is a worldwide Catholic ministry to seafarers, which was founded in 1890. The Stella Maris Seafarer's Center, which serves this constituency in San Diego, is headed by Father Jim Boyd, port chaplain, and Deacon Sam Martinez, director. *For information, call (619) 702-4703 or email smscsd@sbcglobal.net.*

## Local Catholic School Searching for Alumni

ENCINITAS — St. John the Evangelist School in Encinitas is trying to gather the names and addresses of alumni from the past 51 graduating classes. Alumni can call the school at (760) 944-8227 or visit the school's Web site, [www.saintjohnschool.com](http://www.saintjohnschool.com), and click on the alumni link for further instructions. All alumni are invited to

## Academic Decathlon



LA JOLLA — The academic decathlon team at Stella Maris Academy will represent the Diocese of San Diego in the annual statewide competition next month. The competition will take place Saturday, May 2, in Orange County. The 10-member team, which is composed of students in the sixth through eighth grades, took first-place-overall in the Junior High Academic Decathlon March 7. The decathlon focused on specific areas of independent study, as well as team events. Competing against 18 other area schools and one from Las Vegas, the team not only scored first- and second-place honors, but took five other honors, as well.

The team placed second-overall in last year's competition.

Stella Maris Academy is the parochial school of Mary, Star of the Sea Parish in La Jolla.

Pictured: (from left) Emily Fuster, Libby Noya, Eileen Kitrick, Luke Bucon, Abby Balmert, Collin Dillingham, Storm Star, Jeremy Slupski, Julia Slupska, Daniela Anastasi, faculty advisor Jan Zipp, and Michael Wayne pose immediately after learning that their team had won the March 7 decathlon.

*The Southern Cross*

attend the school's annual dinner/auction on Saturday, May 2, at La Costa Resort. Other alumni events are planned for the future. *For more information or to purchase tickets, call (760) 944-8227.*

## Humanitarians to Receive USD Alumni Honors

ALCALA PARK — University of San Diego graduates who have worked on humanitarian missions around the globe will be honored May 2. Honorees include Denise M. Boren, a member of the Navy Nurse Corps who has helped fight AIDS in Africa through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, and Judy Kamanyi, an activist in Uganda for democratic development and human rights. Both will receive the Author E. Hughes Award for Career

Achievement. Sandy M. Cassell Farrell, a retired family therapist, will receive the Bishop Charles Francis Buddy Award for Contributions to Humanitarian Causes, named in honor of USD's co-founder. Farrell has helped raise funds for the Water Wells in India Project and provided shelter boxes for disaster areas. L. Douglas Robert, a San Diego executive with ITT Corp. and former president of the USD Alumni Board of Directors, will receive the Mother Rosalie Clifton Hill Award for Exemplary Service to USD. *For information, visit [www.sandiego.edu/alumni/honors](http://www.sandiego.edu/alumni/honors).*

## All Hallows to Honor Mary at Afternoon Tea

LA JOLLA — The women of All Hallows Parish will host a "Golden Anniversary



## The following has been announced by the Office of the Bishop:

**Rev. Armando Escurel** has been appointed pastor of St. Rita's Parish, effective July 1, 2009.

**Rev. Joseph Viet Hoang** has been appointed associate pastor of St. Rita's Parish, effective July 1, 2009.

**Rev. Edward Kaicher** has been appointed pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Vista, effective July 1, 2009.

**Rev. William Kernan** has been appointed pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, effective July 1, 2009.

**Rev. Emilio Magaña** has been appointed pastor of St. Patrick's Parish, Calipatria, including the mission of Immaculate Heart of Mary, Niland, effective July 1, 2009.

**Rev. Elmer Mandac** has been appointed administrator of St. Stephen's Parish, Valley Center, effective July 1, 2009.

**Rev. Ramon Marrufo** has been appointed pastor of St. Peter Parish, Fallbrook, effective July 1, 2009.

**Rev. Edward McNulty** has been appointed pastor of St. Agnes Parish, effective July 1, 2009.

**Rev. José Alfredo Moreno** has been appointed associate pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, El Centro, effective July 1, 2009.

**Rev. Pedro Rivera** has been appointed pastor of St. Jude Shrine of the West Parish, effective July 1, 2009.

Effective June 1, 2009, St. Joseph's Parish, Westmorland, will be administered by Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Brawley.

Tea," from 3-5 p.m., Friday, May 1, at the La Jolla Historical Society's Wisteria Cottage. Wisteria Cottage is located at 7846 Eads Ave., in La Jolla. The event will feature a historical photo exhibit of the parish, a fashion jewelry sale and an art display by Madonna Arts. Proceeds will benefit the restoration of the Blessed Mother's shrine and the Diocesan Homeless Women's Services. Tickets: \$35, adults; \$15, children under age 16. *RSVP by April 24 by calling (858) 459-2975.*

## Immaculata to Hold 50-Year Jubilee Mass

ALCALA PARK — The Immaculata Parish will continue its yearlong 50th anniversary celebration with a jubilee Mass at 4:30 p.m., May 2. The Mass, which will be celebrated by Bishop Robert H. Brom with some of the parish's former pastors, will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the church's dedication, which took place May 5, 1959. Following the Mass, a special reception will be held in the courtyard. The Immaculata will continue its anniversary celebration with other events throughout the year, culminating with another Mass Dec. 8. *For more information, visit <http://www.sandiego.edu/immaculata/50th.php> or call (619) 574-5700.*

## Catholic Radio Host to Lecture on 'Sex Au Naturel'

POWAY — Patrick Coffin, author and host of the *Catholic Answers Live* radio show, will give a public lecture at 4 p.m., Sunday, April 26, at St. Gabriel Parish in Poway. His presentation will be titled "Sex Au Naturel: The Meaning of the Theology of the Body." The talk is geared toward anyone who wants to understand and explain the Church's teaching against artificial contraception, the positive impact this teaching has on marriage, and the scriptural roots of its message. St. Gabriel Parish is located at 13734 Twin Peaks Rd., Poway, CA 92064. Free admission with a good-will offering. *For more information, call (818) 943-4964.*

## Parent/Child Events Offer Chastity Education

SAN DIEGO — The diocesan Office for Marriage and Family Life is sponsoring two upcoming chastity education events for parents and their children. A Mother/Daughter Chastity Education Program and Tea will be held from 1:30-5 p.m., Sunday, April 26; the event is intended for girls in the seventh through ninth grades. A Father/Son Chastity Education Program, designed for boys age 11-14, will be held from 1:30-5 p.m., Sunday, May 3. Both programs will take place at Ascension Parish, 11292 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., in San Diego. Speakers will discuss the physical and emotional changes of early adolescence, the virtue of chastity and open communication between parents and children. Refreshments will be served. Cost: \$20 per family. Reservations required by the Wednesday prior to each event. *For more information or to RSVP, call (619) 448-0467.*

## Concert to Celebrate USD's 60th Anniversary

ALCALA PARK — The University of San Diego will host 60th anniversary symphony concerts at 8 p.m., Friday, April 24, and 2 p.m., Sunday, April 26. Both concerts will take place in Shiley Theatre, located in Camino Hall on the USD campus. Tickets at the door: \$10, general admission; \$8, seniors, staff and alumni; and \$5, students with IDs. *For more information, visit [www.sandiego.edu](http://www.sandiego.edu), email [aye-ung@sandiego.edu](mailto:aye-ung@sandiego.edu) or call (619) 260-4106.*

## Conference Addresses Migrant Experience

ALCALA PARK — The Trans-Border Institute at the University of San Diego, with support from the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies, is hosting a major international conference April 15-16. The conference, titled "Migration, Religion and National Identity: Exploring Faith and Belonging in the Migrant Experience," will take place at the Joan B. Kroc Theatre on the USD campus. From the decision to

## High School Visit



COURTESY CATHEDRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

CARMEL VALLEY — Joined by more than 20 priests, Bishop Robert H. Brom celebrated Mass March 19 with the students and staff of Cathedral Catholic High School.

The liturgy took place on the Solemnity of St. Joseph, the husband of Mary — a significant feast for the school, which honors St. Joseph as its patron saint. A congregation of almost 2,000 people, including students, staff and others, listened as Bishop Brom delivered a homily praising the saint whose life-size bronze image graces the school's entrance.

"This was a great occasion that provided us with an opportunity to celebrate our religious values and our Catholic tradition," said James Tschann, the school's president.

After the liturgy, the bishop and priests were invited to stay and have lunch with the students and staff.

"It was awesome to spend time with Msgr. [Neal] Dolan in a casual setting outside of Mass and get to know him better as a person," said Nick Madden, a junior at Cathedral and parishioner at St. Michael Parish in Poway.

Others present were equally moved by the experience.

"Father Nick [Dempsey] does a lot for students at Notre Dame Academy. It was great to see him here at Cathedral, too," said freshman Luke Lee, a parishioner at St. Therese of Carmel. "I think he cares about all of us."

Katie Wilson, who leads the drama department at Cathedral, said, "Father [Frederick] Florek was an inspiration to me growing up at St. Therese [in Del Cerro]. He still motivates me now that I am teaching. He made an important impact that I hope I can pass along to students. Seeing him participate on campus reinforces my faith."

The liturgy and luncheon with local diocesan priests was the first of what the school hopes will become an annual event.

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leave one's home country to the reactions of receiving communities, religion has long been a significant factor in the relocation and integration of migrant peoples around the globe. The conference examines these topics from a historical and comparative

perspective, and features accomplished academic and religious experts from the United States and abroad. *For more information, email [lawrence-09@sandiego.edu](mailto:lawrence-09@sandiego.edu), call (619) 260-4166 or visit [www.sandiego.edu/tbi](http://www.sandiego.edu/tbi).*

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### Upcoming Retreats

**Twilight Retreat, Wednesday, April 15, 2009 at 6pm**  
"He is Risen"

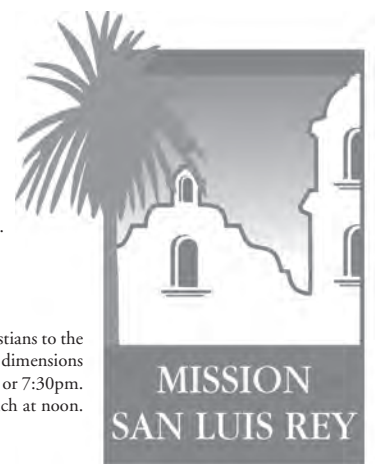
This retreat will focus on the meaning of the Resurrection of Christ in Human history. All participants will be invited to meditate on the transformation of the resurrection in his or her own life. The communal dimension of the Resurrection will also be explored. Retreat begins at 6pm with Mass in the Mission Church followed by dinner at 6:45pm and the presentation is from 7:30pm – 9:00pm. Please pre-register.

**Spring Monday's May 4, 11, 18 and June 1, 8 and 15, 2009**  
"Introduction to the Old Testament Writings"

James Lockman, OFM will present six 90 minutes classes to introduce adult Christians to the origins and meaning of Old Testament literature. Both scholarly and prayerful dimensions will be explored. Sessions are repeated twice each Monday, beginning at 10:30am or 7:30pm. Come to one, two, or all the sessions. Morning sessions includes an optional lunch at noon. No pre-registration—just drop in.

**Mother-Daughter Retreat, May 8-10, 2009**  
"Dancing in Her Footsteps"

Our annual Mother-Daughter Retreat with Tina and Brianna Ortiz and Bro. Mark Schroeder offers an opportunity for all generations of mothers and daughters to celebrate that special bond that God has provided for them. Spend time together within the serenity of the Mission grounds. Acknowledge God's gift through praying, sharing and reflecting. Invite your family to join you for Mother's Day brunch and closing Mass. Retreat begins Friday evening and ends with Sunday brunch. Please pre-register.



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[www.sanluisrey.org](http://www.sanluisrey.org)

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

# San Diego Bids a Fond Farewell to Auxiliary Bishop



**SAYING GOODBYE:** (above) Bishop Salvatore J. Cordileone receives a congratulatory hug March 29 before a celebration of Evening Prayer with the people of San Diego; (below) Bishop Cordileone shortly after his ordination as auxiliary bishop of San Diego.

## 'Native son' of San Diego named bishop of Oakland

SAN DIEGO — After almost seven years as an auxiliary bishop in San Diego, Salvatore J. Cordileone has been entrusted by Pope Benedict XVI with a diocese in which he will be chief shepherd.

On March 23, it was announced in Rome that the pope had appointed Bishop Cordileone as the fourth bishop of the Diocese of Oakland. As successor to Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron, Bishop Cordileone will be formally installed May 5 at the Cathedral of Christ the Light.

Speaking on behalf of the Diocese of San Diego, Bishop Robert H. Brom said, "We are grateful to God for Bishop Cordileone's years of ministry as both priest and bishop in our diocese, and for the service he rendered to the Holy See. Above all, we want to assure him of our support and prayers as he assumes his responsibilities as bishop of Oakland."

Bishop Cordileone responded to his appointment with gratitude for the trust Pope Benedict had placed in him.

"I am also grateful," he said, "to Bishop Brom, Bishop [Gilbert E.] Chavez, my brother priests and all with whom I have ministered in the Diocese of San Diego, which will always have a special place in my heart."

He added, "I now look forward to ministry with the priests and priestly people of the Diocese of Oakland."

A native son of the Diocese of San Diego, Bishop Cordileone was born June 5, 1956. With his family, he was a member of Blessed Sacrament Parish.

He received a bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University of San Diego in 1978. He then went on for theology studies in Rome, where he was a seminarian at the Pontifical North American College. He earned a bachelor's degree in sacred theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in 1981.

Ordained a priest for the Diocese of San Diego by Bishop Leo T. Maher on July 9, 1982, Bishop Cordileone served for three years as associate pastor of St. Martin of Tours Parish, after which he returned to the Gregorian University in Rome for canon law studies, completing a doctorate in

canon law in 1989.

Returning to San Diego, Bishop Cordileone held diocesan positions for two years before serving as pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Calexico, from 1991-1995.

In the summer of 1995, Bishop Cordileone returned to Rome to work as an assistant at the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura, the Church's highest court.

Bishop Cordileone was appointed by Pope John Paul II as an auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of San Diego on July 5, 2002, and was ordained a bishop on Aug. 21, 2002 by Bishop Brom.

In late March, three diocesan farewell events were held for Bishop Cordileone, providing opportunities for various constituencies to congratulate him, offer prayers and wish him well in his new assignment.

On March 26, Bishop Cordileone attended a lunch with diocesan staff members at the Pastoral Center.

There were also two celebrations of Evening Prayer, followed by receptions. The first was for priests of the diocese and held March 26 at the Pastoral Center; the second was



for the entire Catholic community of San Diego and held March 29 in the St. Francis Center at Mission San Diego de Alcala.

At the conclusion of Evening Prayer with his fellow priests, Bishop Cordileone spoke about the difficulty he experienced in discerning his vocation.

"The decision to enter the seminary was not an easy one for me. I really struggled with it," he said. "I always envied those who were sure from day one that that was their calling."

He said he was aided in his discernment by the example of the many good priests already serving in San Diego.

"This appointment is really a culmination of who is in this chapel tonight and what you all represent," he added.

He thanked several priests by name for the role they played in helping him to discover and follow his vocational calling. He reserved special thanks for retired Auxiliary Bishop Chavez and — "most of all" — for Bishop Brom, whom he praised for his "example of episcopal leadership."

Now, he told his brother priests, he is "looking forward with hope and enthusiasm to the great challenges — that are really opportunities — that lie ahead, opportunities for serving the Church."

After Bishop Cordileone made his remarks, Bishop Brom said the relationship between priests — especially bishops — and their diocese can be described in marital terms. In the case of Bishop Cordileone, he said, the Diocese of San Diego will always be his "first love."

"This will always be your home and your first love," Bishop Brom told his former auxiliary. "Nonetheless, you will make Oakland your bride, perhaps for life, and you will give your life for that bride, after the manner of Jesus. And in so doing, you will fulfill God's will, and you will know that joy which comes only from the full gift of yourself."

"Our prayer tonight," he continued, "is that you will know the joy of self-donation and self-oblation, as you shepherd the Church entrusted to your care."

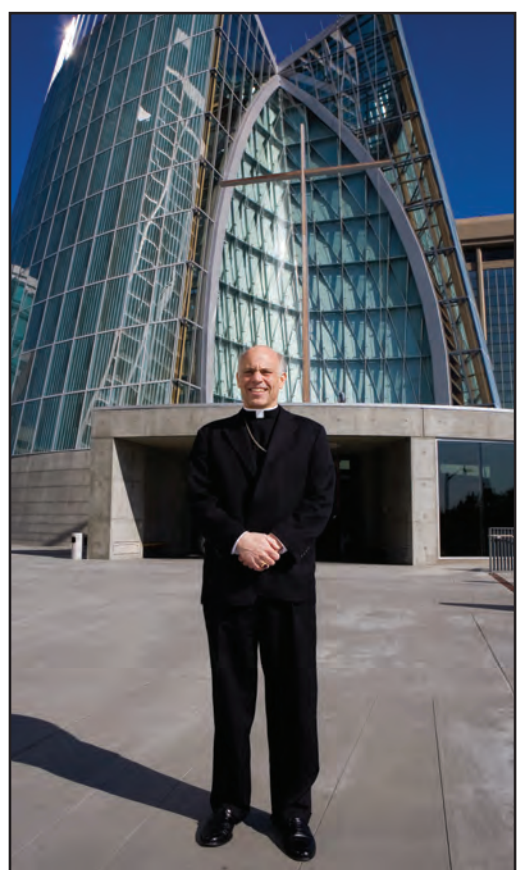
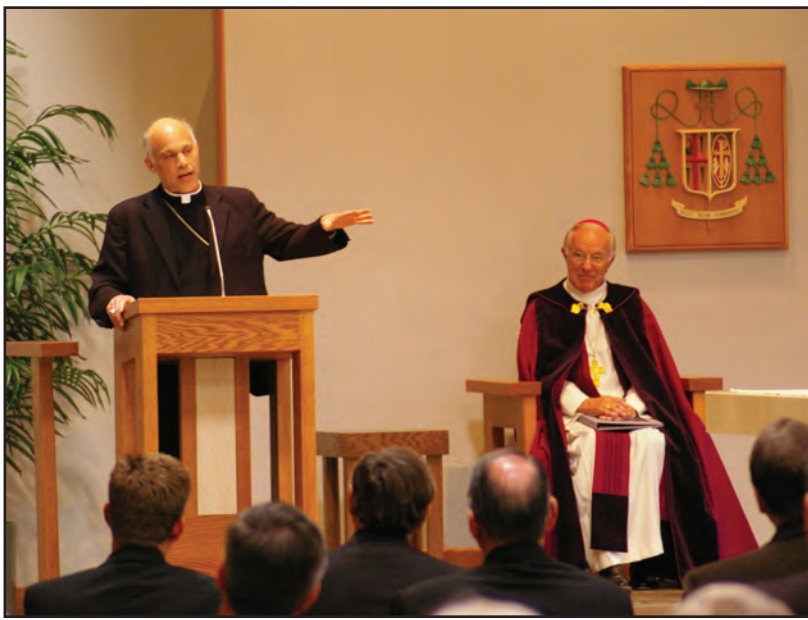
"You are a brother to us all," Bishop Brom said, "and will always be so."

# Cordileone



## IN HIS OWN WORDS

*Bishop Cordileone's farewell message to the people of San Diego can be found on page 21*



**FAREWELL:** (from left to right, top to bottom) Bishop Cordileone after his ordination as San Diego's auxiliary bishop; addressing more than 1,000 people at a rally in support of traditional marriage; with bishops Chavez (left) and Brom (center); with his grandmother, Theresa Giardina, after his episcopal ordination; on the day of his First Communion; young "Sam" (center) poses with his family circa 1960; meeting with Pope John Paul II; chatting with Carrie Giebel (left) and Maria Galvan (center) of the diocesan Office for Young Adults, March 26, during a farewell lunch at the diocesan Pastoral Center; speaking to his brother priests during a March 26 celebration of Evening Prayer; pictured March 23 outside the Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland.

## Diocese Recruits Teachers, Showcases Catholic Education at Annual Job Fair

By Denis Grasska

CARMEL VALLEY — At its ninth annual teacher job fair, the diocesan Office for Schools provided an opportunity for local principals to showcase their schools and for prospective teachers to learn more about current employment opportunities.

The job fair was held March 21 at Cathedral Catholic High School.

The diocese is always looking for “high-quality, committed Catholic educators,” said Stevan Laaperi, director of the Office for Schools. “We look for the best and invite them to share in the mission of Catholic education as teachers and administrators in our schools. We want to be able to continue to serve our children and families, to make sure that we are providing quality Catholic education for all who seek it.”

Laaperi said the job fair has served as “an effective vehicle” for recruiting teachers.

This year’s job fair attracted 229 prospective teachers, including 56 who already had applications on file with the diocese and 173 who did not. Some of the teachers traveled from other states, including Nevada, Louisiana and Virginia, to attend the event.

Principals and teachers from 31 Catholic elementary schools and two high schools — Cathedral Catholic and Mater Dei Catholic — manned booths on the floor of Cathedral Catholic’s gymnasium. From 9 a.m.-noon, prospective teachers walked

among the booths to meet principals, learn more about their schools and ask about current employment opportunities.

Though applications for teaching positions can be filed with the Schools Office year-round, Laaperi said, attending the job fair gives prospective teachers an opportunity “to see the scope of what the diocese is doing in Catholic education” — something that a visit to the Schools Office or its Web site simply cannot provide.

Sister Breege Boyle, SSL, associate director of the Schools Office, said the large number of booths at the job fair shows that each school operates, not in solitude, but as part of a larger diocesan community.

The job fair also emphasizes the strong Catholic identity and community spirit that are found in Catholic schools.

Every year, the Schools Office director leads an opening prayer, which serves as a reminder of “the primary reason for our existence as Catholic schools,” Laaperi said.

Sister Boyle noted that some principals, whose schools have no open teaching positions, still attend the job fair in a display of pride for their own school and as a demonstration of solidarity with their fellow principals.

For more information, contact the Office for Schools at (858) 490-8240 or visit [www.sddioceschools.org](http://www.sddioceschools.org).

*The Southern Cross*



DENIS GRASSKA

**JOB FAIR:** Prospective Catholic educators learn more about local Catholic schools and their staffing needs, during a March 21 job fair at Cathedral Catholic High School.

## 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

Nguyen, Hop Thi	March 6	Holy Spirit
Doan, Sinh	March 14	Holy Spirit
Sanchez, Tony “Legion”	March 20	Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
Hallahan, Margaret	March 21	Goodbody Mortuary Chapel
Pham, Lua Thi	March 21	Holy Spirit
Vesco, Marie	March 21	Holy Cross Cemetery Chapel
Trichak, Carmen	March 25	Mission San Diego de Alcalá
Guzman, Petra	March 27	Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
Maina, Anna	March 28	St. Patrick
Rogers, Mary	March 30	St. Agnes
Robles, Orland, Jr.	April 3	St. Patrick

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## Equestrian Order Gathers



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ALCALA PARK — The Western Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem held its annual mid-year meeting March 28 at the University of San Diego.

The meeting was preceded by a Mass in Founders Chapel.

Bishop Robert H. Brom presided at the celebration of the Eucharist; Father William Headley, CSSp, the dean of USD’s Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies, spoke at the meeting.

Members of the order are known as “Knights” and “Ladies.”

Pictured: Sir Tom Kyd (left), the new area councilor of the Western Lieutenancy, and Sir William Davidson (right), who just completed eight years as area councilor.

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# Mater Dei Basketball, Soccer Teams End Season with Championships

SAN DIEGO — It's official: The varsity girls basketball and boys soccer teams at Mater Dei Catholic High School are champions.

In March, both teams finished their seasons with championship titles — a state championship for the girls and a regional championship for the boys. Both teams emerged from competition at the very top of their respective divisions.

The Mater Dei Lady Crusaders defeated Modesto Christian High School during the March 21 CIF Division IV State Championship game at ARCO Arena in Sacramento. The score was 54-51.

Playing in a difficult venue, early in the morning, the girls struggled through the opening half and were behind 31-19 at half-time. But team members picked up their defensive effort, made their free-throws and chipped away at the lead. With less than a minute left, the Lady Crusaders were ahead, thanks to two free-throws by Ebone Henry. After a Modesto Christian miss and another free-throw by Kamela Jackson, the Lady Crusaders claimed a 54-51 victory and, with it, the state championship.

The Lady Crusaders finished their season with a 30-3 record, and their championship run through the state playoffs resulted in the first title won by a San Diego high school basketball team since 2002.

Also in March, the Mater Dei Crusaders boys soccer team capped a tremendous run of victories over the last three weeks of its season by winning the CIF Division III

Southern California Regional Championship.

The Southern California regional playoffs are the highest level of competition in high school soccer.

The Crusaders competed against Bishop Mora Salesian High School in the regional championship game, held March 14 at Warren High School in Downey, Calif. The game was a hard-fought affair against a very strong opponent. The Crusaders' defense had to repel the constant attacks from the Salesian offense.

The first half of the game ended with the score tied 0-0, but in the second half, the Crusaders found their second wind. The team was able to score twice within a 15-minute period. The goals came courtesy of Sergio Lopez and Abraham Trejo.

From that point forward, the Crusaders had to endure the oncoming attacks from the Salesian team. The Crusaders' opponents broke through once, but could not muster the equalizer. The Crusaders were able to hold on for a 2-1 victory, which earned them the Southern California Regional Championship title.

The Crusaders soccer team ended their season with a record of 13-6-1. Seven of those wins came during the team's 19-day playoff run.

Reflecting on the season, soccer coach Jorge Zavala said, "It's not how you start a season. It's how you finish it."

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**CHAMPIONS:** (top) The Lady Crusaders' victory in a semi-finals match-up against La Jolla Country Day School qualified them for the CIF state playoffs; (bottom) the Crusaders boys soccer team celebrates its victory over Bishop Mora Salesian High School, March 14, in the Southern California Regional Championship game.

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## Msgr. Kirk Marks Major Milestone

SUN CITY, Calif. — Msgr. Raymond C. Kirk is celebrating the 50th anniversary of his ordination.

The celebration included an 8 a.m. Mass, March 19, followed by a reception. On March 22, Msgr. Kirk also celebrated a 2:30 p.m. Mass and joined family, fellow priests and close friends for an intimate anniversary dinner.

The anniversary events took place in Sun City, Calif.

Msgr. Kirk was born Aug. 27, 1933, and raised in Chicago, Ill. He came to California in 1954 to pursue his theological studies for the priesthood. Those preparing to be priests typically study theology for four years, after completing four years of basic college courses.

After ordination, he served as an associate pastor at Our Lady of Guadalupe in San Bernardino, taught at Marian High School in Imperial Beach, and served as a missionary in Ecuador from 1963-1969.

After returning from the missions, he served as pastor of St. Anthony's Church in Riverside, St. Joseph in Barstow and St. Francis de Sales in Riverside.

He then served as a pastor in San Diego, first at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish for nine years and then at St. John of the Cross in Lemon Grove for another 11 years. While at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, he was given the

title "monsignor."

His final assignment was as director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith for the Diocese of San Diego.

At the time of his retirement, Msgr. Kirk became legally blind from macular degeneration. To continue an active ministry, he applied for a guide dog. He has since become known around Sun City as the "priest with the dog." His dog, McConnell, is with him when he celebrates his three weekend Masses at St. Vincent Ferrer Church in Sun City and while performing his other parish duties.

In addition to his priestly ministry, Msgr. Kirk has also initiated several parish and community groups.

For instance, he co-founded a VIP group. "VIP" is an acronym for "Visually Impaired People." The group, which meets twice a month at St. Vincent Church, provides support and instruction to those coping with the loss of vision.

Msgr. Kirk also founded a weekly contemplative prayer group at the parish and co-sponsors a group for aging with wisdom.

Over the past 50 years, Msgr. Kirk has discovered that the many changes in the world and the Church are simply new challenges to which he eagerly responds.

*The Southern Cross*



FATHER'S BEST FRIEND: Msgr. Raymond C. Kirk poses with his dog, McConnell.

## Scouts Visit Abbey and Mission



SAN DIEGO — In March, some 40 Boy Scouts from throughout San Diego County visited Prince of Peace Abbey, and about 140 Cub Scouts and their family members toured the grounds of Mission San Diego de Alcalá.

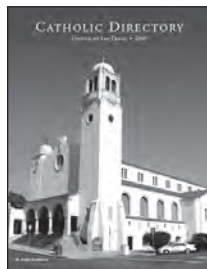
The Boy Scouts, who are working to earn their *Ad Altare Dei* religious emblem, on March 7 visited Prince of Peace Abbey in Oceanside. The Scouts and their leaders gathered in the abbey's chapel for a Mass celebrated by the abbot, Benedictine Father Charles Wright, who is a former Scout. After Mass, the monks hosted a lunch for the group. Following lunch, Abbot Wright told the Scouts about daily life at the abbey and the religious community's life of prayer and work. The Scouts later had the opportunity to walk and pray the Stations of the Cross.

On March 14, Cub Scouts and family members attended a docent-led tour of Mission San Diego de Alcalá. The Catholic Committee on Scouting organizes and promotes the annual Cub Scout mission tour, alternating each year between Mission San Diego de Alcalá, Mission San Luis Rey and Mission San Juan Capistrano. During the tour, the Cub Scouts and their families had the opportunity to visit an archeological dig underway on the mission grounds and to meet one of the foremost authorities on early mission life.

Pictured, local Boy Scouts pose with Abbot Wright (center) during their March 7 visit to Prince of Peace Abbey.

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## Alternative Spring-Break Experience Proves Challenging, Rewarding for USD Students

By Julia Campagna

TIJUANA — Community. Spirituality. Service. Simplicity.

These are the tenets of the University of San Diego's annual Tijuana Spring Breakthrough, an alternative spring-break experience offered through USD's University Ministry program.

This year, a group of 22 students and two University Ministry staff members took part in the event, held March 6-12, and spent a life-changing week among the poor and marginalized of Tijuana.

Crisscrossing the city in a caravan of four minivans, students engaged with people from all walks of life, including fair-trade business owners at Café Justo, migrants at Casa del Migrante, children and infants at the orphanage Hogar Infantil La Gloria, the homeless at Casa Juan Diego, and the elderly at Casa de las Madres. The group also performed physical labor, served dinner, washed windows,

weeded, painted and cleaned.

But what left the deepest impact was the interpersonal connections that each group member developed with people on the other side of the border.

"The relationships we built with the people of Tijuana are something special," freshman Tom DeCarlo said. "They are permanent relationships, not in the sense that we will likely see our friends very often, but permanent in that we will never forget the people we met, and they will never forget that we care about them."

Freshman Anna Vonbertrab and sophomore Torrey Allen were invited into the house of a local family in the "colonia," or community, where the group stayed. After a conversation of more than an hour, the owner of the simple house, Felipe, concluded the exchange with the words, "Dios nos unio esta noche" — "God brought us together" — and "El estababa con nosotros esta noche" — "God was with



MICHAEL LOVETTE-COLYER

**SPRING BREAK:** USD students paint a church fence March 9 in Maclovio Rojas, during an alternative spring break in Tijuana.

us this night."

The group was particularly touched by the stories of the men at Casa del Migrante, most of whom are recent deportees from the United States. Many of the men had lived in the United States for almost 20 years and had spent little time in Mexico since emigrating as small children. After deportation, these men found themselves in Tijuana, without a support system and, in some cases, unfamiliar with the city.

The USD group spent time sorting through donations and items migrants had left behind, letters from wives and children, deportation documents, toothbrushes and socks — pieces of lives left behind in transition.

Throughout the week, the students embraced the opportunity to fully engage with the city of Tijuana and explore many of its communities.

In the community of Fausto Gonzales, the students learned about micro-financing.

In La Morita, they watched a soccer game and shared dinner and conversation with a youth group.

For the entire week, the community of

Maclovio Rojas served as their home, classroom, church and playground. The group spent each night in the community, living with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange. Every night, the group sat in a circle on their sleeping bags and reflected on the day. They talked about the people they had met and with whom they had shared stories and meals. They remarked upon the joys and struggles they had encountered among the people of Tijuana.

The alternative spring break challenged participants' expectations and called them to move beyond their comfort zones.

"Realizing the struggles faced by people who I found so similar to myself and my family really knocked me off my pedestal of entitlement, and challenged me to question why and how we ended up in different places," said sophomore Jennie Kuckertz.

When asked to condense the seven-day experience into just one word, the students who participated in this year's Tijuana Spring Breakthrough opted for words like "eye-opening," "challenging" and "revitalizing."

*The Southern Cross*

## Children Helping Children



DENIS GRASSIKA

SAN DIEGO — For the second consecutive year, the diocesan Office for the Missions has recognized local children for their support of the Church's missionary efforts. The Missions Office held a special Mass March 24 at St. Catherine Laboure Parish.

At the Mass, awards were given to representatives of more than 10 parochial schools and religious education programs for their support of the Holy Childhood Association (HCA) in calendar year 2008. Following the Mass, some 160 people, including students, teachers and principals, gathered in the parish hall for lunch.

The HCA, which is one of four Pontifical Mission Societies, provides kindergartners through eighth-graders with the opportunity to help their counterparts in mission lands, both with their prayers and monetary donations.

Father Joe Miller, SVD, director of the Missions Office, said the Mass, award ceremony and reception were intended "to show our appreciation for all [the students'] prayers, sacrifices and hard work."

"I hope the children feel proud of themselves, knowing that they have made a difference in the lives of other children, who are less fortunate and who struggle with poverty," said Sister Eva Rodriguez, SJS, associate director of the Missions Office and HCA director for the Diocese of San Diego. "I hope they are able to recognize in themselves the call to be missionaries, a call which is instilled in every baptized Catholic."

Father Miller said he hopes those who attended this year's Mass will share their experience with their friends, so that even more children can participate next year.

Pictured, Father Miller presents an HCA award to a local child in cultural dress.

For more information, visit [www.holychildhoodusa.org](http://www.holychildhoodusa.org) or contact the Missions Office at (858) 490-8250.

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## Catholic League Exposes the Lies of Upcoming 'Da Vinci Code' Sequel

SAN DIEGO — Anticipating the theatrical release of the follow-up to “The Da Vinci Code,” the nation’s largest Catholic civil rights organization has launched an educational campaign.

The Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights is working to expose the rabidly anti-Catholic agenda of “Angels & Demons” and provide concerned Catholics with the information they need to refute the film’s slanderous claims.

The film, based on a novel by author Dan Brown and directed by Ron Howard, will be released in theaters May 15. In the film, Tom Hanks returns as Harvard “symbolist” Robert Langdon, who must foil a secret society’s plot to destroy the Vatican with an anti-matter bomb. The film claims that the secret society — known as the Brotherhood of the Illuminati — was once the victim of “a brutal massacre” ordered by the Catholic Church.

Because of the film’s malicious portrayal of the Church, the filmmakers were denied permission to shoot the film on location at the Vatican.

“Author Dan Brown and director Ron Howard are getting good at this,” Catholic League president Bill Donohue quipped in a news release in early March. “‘The Da Vinci Code’ was replete with falsehoods presented as fact, and now the tag team is back again delivering a curious blend of fact and fiction — all done at the expense



**FALLEN 'ANGELS':** Tom Hanks and Ayelet Zurer, as Robert Langdon and Vittoria Vetra, find new ways to slander the Catholic Church in “Angels & Demons.”

of the Catholic Church.”

The Catholic League, whose mission is to defend the Church against defamation and discrimination, published a 13-page booklet in early March entitled *Angels & Demons: More Demonic Than Angelic*. According to the Catholic League, the succinct, reader-friendly booklet “details the myths, lies and smears that are made against the Catholic Church” and “provides evidence of the anti-Catholic animus harbored by those associat-

ed with the film.”

The booklet demolishes claims by the author of *Angels & Demons* that his novel was well-researched and fact-based. Among the many whoppers the booklet refutes is the claim that the Church is “anti-science”; the booklet notes that objective historians have long-credited the Church as an early, enthusiastic and invaluable patron of scientific advancement.

The novel *Angels & Demons* also claims

that the concept of the Eucharist was stolen from the Aztecs, even though Christianity actually pre-dates the Aztec civilization by more than 1,000 years; that the Illuminati have been at war with the Church since the 1600s, even though the society only existed between 1776 and 1787; and that astronomer Galileo Galilei, who died almost 150 years before the Illuminati came into existence, was one of the society’s most famous members.

The Catholic League’s booklet not only addresses these falsehoods, but also provides anecdotal evidence that several members of the film crew might be motivated by their own deep-seated biases against the Church.

In a March news release, Donohue reflected on the level of anti-Catholicism he expects to find in the film version of “Angels & Demons.”

“John Calley, co-producer with Brian Grazer of both ‘The Da Vinci Code’ and ‘Angels & Demons,’ told *The New York Times* that the former movie was ‘conservatively anti-Catholic,’” Donohue said. “According to the *Times*, Grazer wants ‘Angels & Demons’ to be ‘less reverential’ than ‘The Da Vinci Code,’ which means he wants it to be liberally anti-Catholic.”

For more information, visit the Catholic League Web site at [www.catholicleague.org](http://www.catholicleague.org). Copies of *Angels & Demons: More Demonic Than Angelic* can be purchased online for \$5, including shipping and handling.

*The Southern Cross*

## Latest Serving of *Chicken Soup* Hits the Spot for Catholics



*Chicken Soup for the Soul: Living Catholic Faith*

By Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen and LeAnn Thieman  
Chicken Soup for the Soul Publishing, LLC (Cos Cob, Conn., 2008)

380 pp. \$14.95

Reviewed by Father Charles L. Fuld

As managing editor of *The Southern Cross*, I get more than a few books to read with the hope that I might publish some favorable comments. One of those books was *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Living Catholic Faith*. The latest in the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series, the book’s subtitle promised “101 stories to offer hope, deepen faith and spread love.”

For me, this book arrived at just the right time: I was struggling with my annual cold, and the economic reports were indicating new lows. Yes, I admit the first thing I did was check out the cartoons — all the *Chicken Soup* books have great cartoons. But once I got beyond that and started reading, my cold symptoms seemed to subside and the economy somehow seemed less important. As I read the book, I shared the ordeal of two freshly ordained priests sent to administer last rites to victims of the terrorist attack on the

World Trade Center, found myself with people doing surprisingly nice things simply for Christ’s sake, and chuckled over all kinds of short stories about how Catholic men and women find and re-find their faith in the challenges of everyday living.

It was just the book for the occasion and a book that will remain at my bedside to be read and re-read whenever I am in need of a reminder that my day-to-day afflictions are not unique and that there are signs of God’s love all about us, if only we take off our blinders and look around. The book includes a story about a troubled young man who reluctantly helped an old lady across snow-covered streets to a hospital — only to find out that she was not going there for herself but as a volunteer to “cheer people up.” There are also stories about Catholic schools (of course), about the voices of angels, and (of course, again) about the power of St. Anthony to find things.

Since the first *Chicken Soup for the Soul* book was published in 1993, its various editions have sold more than 121 million copies, printed in 40 different languages. As for *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Living Catholic Faith*, is it a book for Lent? A book for the Easter season? A book for your summer travels? A book for quiet moments? You bet!

*The Southern Cross*

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## 'Slumdog Millionaire' and God's Providence

By Father Robert Barron

Like almost everyone else in the country, I was charmed by the Academy Award-winning film "Slumdog Millionaire."

As probably most of you know, the movie has to do with a kid from the slums of Mumbai named Jamal, who endured, to say the very least, a challenging childhood.

His mother was killed by religious extremists when he was very young, and Jamal began to wander the mean streets of Mumbai until he was taken in by a Fagin-like character, who trained the boy to beg and who abused him terribly. Having escaped from this man's clutches, Jamal made his way, by hook and by crook, through an often threatening and always chaotic world.

One source of light for him was a lovely girl — a fellow orphan wanderer called Latika — with whom he had fallen in love. Over the years, he lost touch with her and, in a desperation move, Jamal, now a teenager, resolved to go on the Indian version of the TV show "Who Wants To Be a Millionaire?" hoping against hope that she might see him and seek him out.

Once on the show, he astounds everyone by improbably knowing the answers to a series of difficult questions. Convinced that the young man is cheating, the show's host has him arrested, and the police attempt to beat the truth out of him. But he rehearses for his interrogators how he had come, through a strange set of circumstances, to know precisely these answers.

Somehow, strangely, the twists of his picaresque life had provided just the information that he needed. At the very end of the film, four optional explanations appear ("Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?"-style) on the screen: a) he was a genius, b) he was cheating, c) he was lucky, and — the correct answer — d) it was *written*. This is when I became convinced that the filmmaker was going after bigger fish.

We could, of course, read the movie simply as

a delightful tale of a lucky and likeable kid making his way through a difficult life and coming, at the end, to a happy resolution of his troubles. But once we know that his adventures were somehow written, we know that there must have been a Writer. His life was not simply one chance event after another; it was a story, with a coherent narrative logic. And this implies, necessarily, a Storyteller.

One of the doctrines of classical Christian theology most neglected and/or misunderstood today is that of divine providence. Many of us in this modern culture are, knowingly or not, Deists, which is to say, believers in a distant God only vaguely related to the world. And many others of us are, in the more Marxian or Freudian or Skinnerian mode, determinists, convinced that things unfold according to rigid psychological or economic laws.

Neither of these is the biblical view of the providential God whose wisdom "stretches from end to end mightily and orders all things sweetly." Unlike the Deists, biblically-minded people know that God is intimately involved in all things, that the divine providence, as Thomas Aquinas put it, "extends to particulars." And unlike the determinists, biblically-minded people know that God's direction of the world is not oppressive and does not negate human freedom. How do we make sense of this? How do we hold these tensions together? "Slumdog" gives us a clue.

In the course of his life, Jamal experienced many things both dark and light, and other things that seemed more or less neutral.

He took in the beauty of the Taj Mahal, the loveliness of his girlfriend, and the radiant energy of the slums of Mumbai; he also encountered the shocking violence of the men who killed his mother, the deep corruption of the man who held him captive, and the betrayal of his brother. And other events — a stranger handing him a hundred-dollar bill, studying



'IT WAS WRITTEN': Jamal (Dev Patel) shares a tender moment with his lost love, Latika (Freida Pinto), in a scene from "Slumdog Millionaire."

*The Three Musketeers* when he was a kid — that seemed bland enough, just chance happenings.

And yet all of it contributed, directly or indirectly, to the unfolding and resolution of a narrative. He was, throughout his life, given certain experiences that shaped him, filling his mind and luring his freedom. He was not being pushed or determined; he was being drawn by a higher freedom that had a purpose for him, that was writing his life even as he was freely living it.

A large part of the adventure of the spiritual life is to search out precisely this divine direction. Instead of beginning the day with the

question "What should I do today?", one should begin with the question "What is God proposing to me today?" One should enquire as to how God is arranging things so as to lure one's freedom in the direction of deeper and deeper life. To pose such questions is to live consciously in relation to the Storyteller, who is, precisely in cooperation with our freedom, writing our lives.

Father Robert Barron, a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago, is the founder of Word on Fire Ministries ([www.wordonfire.org](http://www.wordonfire.org)).

## The 'Female Schindler'



Academy Award-winner Anna Paquin (right) and Rebecca Windheim star in a scene from the TV movie "The Courageous Heart of Irena Sendler." From 9-11 p.m., Sunday, April 19, CBS will air the film that tells the story of Irena Sendler (Paquin), a Polish Catholic social worker responsible for saving 2,500 Jewish children during the Holocaust. Sendler's exploits earned her the nickname the "Female Schindler," after German businessman Oskar Schindler, whose story was told in Steven Spielberg's "Schindler's List."

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Some days, life feels gray and predictable: moving in the same direction, making the same turns, waiting at the same lights. Dirty dishes, unfolded laundry, nothing good on TV.



Christina Capecchi

Some days, the notion of house-swapping seems like just the ticket.

Which is why every day hundreds of people stuff messages in bottles and cast them into the cyber sea, hoping their homes will appeal to others far away because of the hot tub, the gas stove, the nearby golf course ... or simply because of the novelty.

There's something for everyone on house-swapping sites like *HomeExchange.com* and *Craigslist.org* — whether you're trading for a weekend or a lifetime, moving in or out of the city, upsizing or downsizing, seeking sun or snow, pines or plains, East or West.

Some swaps are easy to understand. An Omaha, Neb., resident hopes for Honolulu. Charleston, W. Va., requests Istanbul, Turkey.

The incredible thing is that these desires

## No Second Thoughts: The Easter Promise of a Fresh Start

The Resurrection is not a one-time miracle. It's a lifestyle, something we can experience every day, an ongoing adventure.

go both ways. On one site 1,328 Italians are looking to leave. Alfombra, Costa Rica, asks for Allentown, Pa. Alta Gracia, Argentina, yearns for Boston.

Other bids are broader, "open to all offers" — whoever emails first, any city they've never seen, any name they can't pronounce.

When you peek online, one picture will catch your eye and tickle your imagination as you take out the trash, teasing out some long-ago dream. Maybe you can write the Great American Novel under the Tuscan sun or take a cooking class in Paris or learn to salsa in Puerto Rico. Maybe you can get away, get a tan, get rich, get over him, get a life.

Maybe you can render the seemingly impossible possible with the swift click of a

keystroke.

It's a heady antidote to an economy that can easily depress, instilling a sense of limitation, of blocked avenues and restricted paths.

The beauty of our Christian faith is that it offers us a fresh start every day. There is no such thing as a dead end for believers, no rut that can't be scaled, no sin that can't be forgiven. Every muddied slate can be wiped blank.

We can leave bad jobs, bad relationships and bad decisions far, far behind with the saving power of our risen Lord. We are Easter people; we believe in the ultimate triumph of life over death. Old made new. Sin turned into grace. Darkness shattered by light.

The Resurrection is not a one-time mira-

cle. It's a lifestyle, something we can experience every day, an ongoing adventure.

This year, we remember St. Paul, the ultimate house-swapper. He traded homes, names and religions. Friends and neighbors hardly recognized him. The man who had killed Christians was suddenly defending Christianity. He traveled through Asia Minor, sailed for Europe and preached in Philippi — a tireless apostle, a changed man.

I love how Pope Benedict XVI chronicles this conversion. "Dazzled by the divine light on the road to Damascus," he wrote, "[Paul] did not hesitate to change sides to the Crucified One and followed Him without second thoughts."

It sounds like a resolute house-swapper: a swift click and no second thoughts. We are each called to follow Christ with that alacrity and authority, to be decisive disciples like St. Paul. "How timely his example is today!" the pope wrote.

No matter how dark your days or sinful your ways, don't despair. When you cling to Christ, you can make a swap.

*Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn. E-mail her at christina@readchristina.com.*

Too often, new reports document the waning religious interest of young adults. And while there is ample reason to worry about the graying of the Church, particularly in Europe and North America, there is also cause for hope.

One element of Catholic faith that still profoundly resonates with young adults is helping the poor. A major report on young adult Catholics, from 2007, found that 78 percent of those ages 18-39 believe that charitable efforts toward helping the poor are essential to their faith.

### Joel Davidson

It's no secret that passion to change the world has long been a strength of young adults. Just ask the Peace Corps, Doctors Without Borders and countless mission and outreach organizations across the globe. It seems that each new generation burns with a special thirst for justice.

At the same time, young adult Catholics of our own time are far less likely to attend weekly Mass or become registered with a local parish, according to a 2008 report by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University in Washington. This has left dioceses across the nation wrestling with how to connect a whole generation to the life of the Church.

The Jesuit Volunteer Corps and Dominican Father Francis Hung Le's annual medical mission trip to impoverished countries might offer some clues on how to invite young adults into the profound work of the Church — work that changes both the world and the individuals who labor for justice.

A group of local Jesuit volunteers works in Anchorage at places like the Beans Cafe soup

kitchen and the Red Cross. This band of eight young adults lives together in Christian community and upholds spirituality as a foundational tenet of their mission. Studies of former Jesuit volunteers find that they are more likely to attend Mass and stay married later on in life. This is social justice with a spiritual bedrock.

Similarly, Father Le's mission trips are another shining example of pairing a passion for justice with a quest for eternal matters. In February, the pastor of Holy Family Cathedral continued his annual tradition of taking a group of medical professionals to his homeland in Vietnam to provide medical aid to the poorest of the poor. Woven between the remote medical stops were regular celebrations of the Mass and collaborative work with priests and religious sisters from Vietnam.

This is the sort of seamless garment of faith and action that could well inspire a generation of young Catholics to reconsider the faith of the saints.

In Pope Benedict XVI's recent message for World Youth Day 2009, he explored the question of how young people might find the hope that is Christ. To this end, the pope called young people to pray, receive the sacraments and to "cultivate love of neighbor and

try to put yourselves and your human talents and professional abilities at the service of the common good and of truth."

## We Must Embrace a Youthful Thirst for Justice

It is the duty of the Church to couple this passion for justice with instruction in the faith and encounters with our Savior.

Youthful zeal remains. It is the duty of the Church to couple this passion for justice with instruction in the faith and encounters with our Savior.

It cannot be one or the other. Religious instruction without a hand reaching to the poor rings hollow to a generation that desires justice. At the same time, social outreach without a robust spiritual backbone loses all eternal significance.

*Catholic News Service*

*Joel Davidson is editor of The Catholic Anchor, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of Anchorage, Alaska. This commentary appeared in the newspaper's March 20 issue.*

**Pope Benedict XVI's first visit to the Holy Land includes these stops and highlights.**

**AMMAN**  
Meeting at Royal Palace  
Mount Nebo  
King Hussein Mosque  
Stadium Mass  
Bethany Beyond the Jordan

**JERUSALEM**  
Yad Vashem Hall of Remembrance  
Dome of the Rock  
Western Wall  
Visit with Chief Rabbis  
Mass in Josafat Valley  
Ecumenical Meeting  
Church of the Holy Sepulcher

**WEST BANK**  
Mass in Manger Square  
Church of the Nativity Grotto  
Aida Refugee Camp

**NAZARETH**  
Mass at Mount Precipice  
Meeting with Israeli Prime Minister  
Basilica of the Annunciation

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## 'With Profound Gratitude'

### A farewell message from Auxiliary Bishop Salvatore J. Cordileone

During this time of transition, as I prepare to move away from San Diego and take up my new responsibilities as the bishop of Oakland, I reflect back over my life with profound gratitude to all those who have guided, mentored and influenced me to bring me to this point in my life: my family, friends, teachers, brother priests, parishioners I have served, and all those who have been co-workers with me in the Lord's vineyard in so many different ways. I extend a special thanks to Bishop Brom for his support, encouragement and friendship to me over the years, not only these last nearly seven years in my role as auxiliary bishop, but also as a priest of the diocese, especially when I was serving as pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Calexico.

It has been a joy and a privilege for me to work with so many wonderful, faith-filled people in our diocese on a wide array of issues affecting the life of the Church and the common good of our society in our time. The challenges certainly remain ahead, in San Diego, in Oakland and all throughout our nation. I am so grateful to all of you who have prayed for me, and ask you to continue to do so as I will need your prayer now more than ever, and

at the same time I promise you a remembrance in my own prayer. God still has lots of work for us to do!

Above all, I thank our Lord Jesus Christ, who makes all things possible. My own life has demonstrated to me that if we do our best, with the help of His grace, to follow His call to be the people He calls us to be and do what He asks us to do — no matter the sacrifice, no matter the demands that places on us — He will, indeed, accomplish in us and through us far more than we could have imagined.

This is the call that our beloved late Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, issued to us at the beginning of the third Christian millennium: to *"duc in altum"* (Luke 5:1-11), to cast our nets deep into the sea, to meet the challenges of the "new evangelization" with new ardor, new methods and new modes of expression. Let our response be that of St. Peter: When it all seemed impossible, he took the Lord at His word and did what He commanded. A great catch for the Lord awaits us, too, if we respond likewise: *"in verbo tuo."*

Thank you once again. You will always have a special place in my heart.



SOUTHERN CROSS FILE PHOTO

*'It has been a joy and a privilege for me to work with so many wonderful, faith-filled people in our diocese.'*

On March 9, President Barack Obama gave my pro-life mother a nasty 95th birthday present: an executive order rescinding the restrictions that President Bush had placed on federal funding of embryonic stem-cell research. As policy, the executive order was



George Weigel

even more an irresponsible blank check than many had feared it would be, according to Yuval Levin, who once worked on these questions at the President's Council on Bioethics. Nor did the executive order deign to even nod to the moral debate that has raged around this issue for years. The president tried to do that

in a speech announcing the executive order. Yet the speech, containing four fibs and a waffle, was even worse.

#### Fib One:

According to the president, his executive order will "lift the ban on federal funding for promising embryonic stem-cell research." But as Ryan Anderson quickly pointed out, "There never was a ban on federal funding for embryonic stem-cell research. President Bush was, in fact, the first president in history to fund embryonic stem-cell research." The Bush compromise was to order funding restrictions that prevented the further destruction of human embryos in order to obtain

their stem cells. Federal funding of research using existing stem cell lines was permitted.

#### Fib Two:

President Obama claimed that the Bush compromise was a "false choice between sound science and moral values." That is a false portrait of the choice Bush made, and of its effects; for by following the path of moral reason, President Bush pushed the science in a more fruitful direction, such that stem cells that have the same properties as embryonic stem cells can now be obtained by morally acceptable means. Furthermore, what "moral values" inform an executive order condemning the smallest members of the human family to death?

#### Fib Three:

The president claimed that his executive order was the first step in "letting scientists ... do their job, free from manipulation or coercion ..." This is a favorite Obama rhetorical device: set up straw men, then huff and puff eloquently until the straw man is no more. The truth of the matter, as Ryan Anderson pointed out, is that "critics of embryo-destructive research have never been hostile to science. The dispute is not about whether stem-cell research should proceed; it is about how it should proceed."

No one who opposes the Obama policy is against listening to scientists; but since when is science absolved from moral scrutiny? Obama seems to think of scientists as secular high priests whose work cannot be questioned or subjected to the legal boundaries erected around every human activity that touches on the integrity of life. Perhaps the insightful German film, "After the Truth," in which a fictional trial explores the "humanitarian"

rationale for medical "experiments" under German National Socialism, should be screened in the White House theater; I'm sure the good folks at Ignatius Press will donate a DVD.

#### Fib Four:

The president promised that the research allowed by his executive order would be "scientifically worthy and responsibly conducted." But his policy flies in the face of the current trends in stem-cell science, where the most exciting possibilities involve "induced pluripotent stem-cell" technology. iPSC technologies not only avoid embryo destruction; they hold out the possibility of creating regenerative therapies that are patient-specific through the re-programming of a patient's own adult cells.

#### The Waffle:

The president vowed to oppose cloning for human reproduction; he did not say he would oppose so-called "therapeutic cloning," in which clones are created and then destroyed for research purposes. But there's no need for waffling if you really know the science: At the present state of research, iPSC technology looks likely to do whatever "therapeutic cloning" would do — and do it better.

His claims to the contrary, neither the president's executive order nor his speech exhibited any serious wrestling with the arguments of those who believe embryo destruction is immoral. The issues were misrepresented and the opponents' views caricatured; the relevant science was ignored. This is change no morally reflective person can believe in — a presidentially-mandated advance for the culture of death.

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

# The Desire for Love

By Father Michael Schmitz

**Question:** Why is homosexuality a sin?

**Answer:** First, homosexuality is NOT a sin. The term "homosexuality" refers to the condition of being sexually attracted to members of one's own gender. An attraction, even a same-sex attraction, is not sinful; it is simply a description of what is. Every one of us struggles daily with our attractions and desires. This is the human condition: We are made good but are sometimes attracted to things that aren't good for us.

Of course, not all desires are bad. In fact, every human person innately desires the good. We all long for love. We all long for friendship. We all long for the truth. But we are also often tempted toward things that aren't good. We long for love, but we are sometimes tempted to use other people. We long for friendship, but we may be tempted to manipulate friends. We long for the truth, but we can be tempted to lie. All of these temptations are simply that: temptations. They are our desires out-of-order.

The Catholic Church sometimes uses the word "disorder" when referring to these attractions. This ought to make sense to all of us: We are made for good, and any attraction to something that is not good is a disordered desire.

The same is true when it comes to sexuality. All humans are ordered towards loving and being loved. Every one of us is made for love. No one is excluded from this. But we also recognize something within us that is attracted towards using another person for our own purposes. A man is tempted to fantasize about a woman who is not his wife. A girl is tempted to act out sexually with her boyfriend. A woman is tempted to read romance novels and insert herself in the story. A priest is sexually attracted to a woman in his parish. A man is attracted sexually to another man.

All of these are disordered attractions, homosexual attractions being "intrinsically disordered," meaning that it is the object of the desired act itself that is not rightly ordered.

We can wag our finger and say, "Don't think like that!" But what would that do? Wouldn't it be better to point out

what these people are actually longing for? They — and all of us — are longing to know and be known, to love and to be loved.

People who are attracted to a member of the same gender are desiring something that is good; they are desiring love. The problem is the fact that this good desire has become sexualized. This is huge. In our culture, we have reduced love to "romantic love." We have further reduced romantic love to "sex." Therefore, if I deny someone sex, I am saying that they may not know love. But that is ridiculous. All of us know that love is more than sex, and we know that love is more than romance. In fact, wiser, more ancient cultures believed that friendship was a greater form of love than erotic love.

**If you have homosexual feelings,  
do not panic. Don't be discouraged.  
And please, do not hate yourself.  
But I also invite you not to forget  
this fact: You are called to be holy.**

This is what every person is longing for: true friendship. Why else do couples continually say things like, "I married my best friend"? They realize that friendship is higher and more precious than "in-loveness." I can fall in love with virtually any cute person. To find a true friend is another thing entirely.

Every person is called to love. It is very possible that not every person is called to act that love out in a sexual way. If two men or two women love each other in a real way, is the addition of sexual acts going to deepen that love? Do we assume that "adding sex" necessarily "adds love"? Would the

introduction of sex into a parent-adult child relationship add to the relationship or destroy it? I only use that example to demonstrate the faulty reasoning that the sexual expression of love is always a good.

Sex is ordered towards two things: bonding the couple and bringing forth life. There is only one context in which this is possible: in the marriage of one man and one woman. If there is no marriage, there is often no sense of true commitment and the bonding of the couple is weak. If both genders are not represented, the possibility of life is thwarted. Anything that directly violates either the bonding or the possibility of life is a disordered use of the sexual act — as well as use of the other person.

We are all called to holiness. Do we realize that? This is for everyone. Men and women with same-sex attraction are not singled out in this. Every disciple of Jesus Christ is called to live differently. We are all called to enter into the struggle for holiness and purity of life. A man or woman with same-sex attraction does not need to feel ashamed.

If you have homosexual feelings, do not panic. Don't be discouraged. And please, do not hate yourself. But I also invite you not to forget this fact: You are called to be holy. A large part of that is simply letting yourself be loved by God — even when we fall — and walking in hope. I have no doubt that there are a number of canonized saints who had to walk the same path you may find yourself on.

You have a place in the Catholic Church. She will call you to being a true disciple of Jesus Christ — which includes chastity — but she will also call you to the love and the glory for which God has destined you.

*For more information, please check out <http://www.couragerc.net>.*

*The Northern Cross*

*Father Michael Schmitz is director of youth and young adult ministry for the Diocese of Duluth, Minn. The preceding column first appeared in the March issue of The Northern Cross, the newspaper of the Diocese of Duluth. Email Father Schmitz at [mschmitz@dioceseduluth.org](mailto:mschmitz@dioceseduluth.org).*

## EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHETICAL MINISTRY

For more information, email [jzapata-huezo@diocesediago.org](mailto:jzapata-huezo@diocesediago.org), call (858) 490-8230 or visit [www.diocesediago.org/evangelization.htm](http://www.diocesediago.org/evangelization.htm)

### Round Table Discussion Groups

Leadership in-service from 9:30 a.m.-noon, Thursday, May 7, at the Pastoral Center. No fee.

### Leadership In-Service

In-service for Imperial Valley parishes, from 9:30 a.m.-noon, Tuesday, May 12 at St. Anthony of Padua in Imperial. No fee.

### End-of-the-Year Retreat

Retreat for OECM leadership, led by The Spiritual Ministry Center team. From 9:30 a.m.-noon, Thursday, June 11, at St. Gregory the Great Parish, Scripps Ranch. No fee.

### Catechetical Methods Course

Course for elementary-grade catechists. From 6:30-9 p.m., starting Thursday, June 25 and continuing July 2, 9, 16 and 23 at the Pastoral Center. Fee: \$50.

### Spanish Workshops and Courses:

#### Ritos de Iniciación Cristiana para Adultos en Valle Imperial

Curso comienza de 6-9 p.m., viernes, 8 de mayo y continúa 9 a.m.-5 p.m., sábado, 9 de mayo en la parroquia Ntra. Sra. Guadalupe, Calexico. Costo: \$40.

## DIOCESAN PROGRAMS

### Retiro de fin de Año en Whispering Winds

Retiro, de 9 a.m.-4 p.m., sábado, 13 de junio, en el Julian. Costo: \$25.

### Visadores por Cristo

Curso de 20 horas, de 6:30-8:30 p.m., martes, 5 de mayo-7 de julio, en la parroquia San Marcos. Costo: \$50.

### MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

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

#### Natural Family Planning Classes

##### Sympto-Thermal Method

• Wednesdays – 7-9 p.m. — 4/29; 5/13; 6/10; 7/8 – Clairemont area

• Thursdays – 7-9 p.m. — 5/14; 5/28; 6/18; 7/16 – Clairemont area

• Tuesdays – 7-9 p.m. — 7/7; 7/21; 8/18; 9/15 – Clairemont area

• Wednesdays – 7-9 p.m. — 8/5; 8/19; 9/16; 10/14 – Clairemont area

• Thursdays – 7-9 p.m. — 8/27; 9/10; 10/8; 11/5 – Clairemont area

• Mondays – 7-9 p.m. – 9/21; 10/5; 11/2; 11/30 – Clairemont area

• Tuesdays – 7-9 p.m. – 11/17; Thursday 12/3; 1/5/10; 2/2/10 – Clairemont area

• Wednesdays – 7-9 p.m. – 12/2; 12/16; 1/13/10; 2/10/10 – Clairemont area

### YOUTH MINISTRY

For more information, call (858) 490-8260 or e-mail [mgalvan@diocesediago.org](mailto:mgalvan@diocesediago.org).

#### Synergy

All high school students are invited to participate in this year's Synergy Youth Rally. The event will take place from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, April 18, at Cathedral Catholic High School. Guest speakers: Steve Angrisano and Mark Hart. Mass will be celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop Salvatore J. Cordileone. Last year, more than 1,200 youth participated. Cost: \$35. To register and for more information, email [mgalvan@diocesediago.org](mailto:mgalvan@diocesediago.org) or call (858) 490-8260.

#### Summer Leadership Camp

Camp Emmaus is a diocesan summer camp for high school students interested in improving their leadership skills. This year, there will be two opportunities to attend: June 25-29 and Aug. 2-6. Both camps will be held at Whispering Winds Catholic Camp and Conference Center. More than 100 Catholic teenagers are expected to attend each camp. The five-day experience will include interactive presentations by seasoned youth ministers, small-group activities, prayer, fellowship, reconciliation and a Mass. Cost: \$250. For more information, email [mgalvan@diocesediago.org](mailto:mgalvan@diocesediago.org) or call (858) 490-8260.

### YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

For more information, visit [www.yamsd.org](http://www.yamsd.org), or call (858) 490-8260 or e-mail [cgiebel@diocesediago.org](mailto:cgiebel@diocesediago.org).

#### Theology on Tap (Spring 2009 Series)

Come join other single and married Catholic young adults (18-39 years old) for food, fellowship and dynamic speakers. From 7-9 p.m. on four Tuesdays in April at Mangia Italiano (248 Third Ave., Chula Vista 91910). Subjects for the remaining Theology on Tap sessions include: Theology of the Body (April 21) and Faith and Finance (April 28). For more information, contact Carrie Giebel at (858) 490-8260 or [cgiebel@diocesediago.org](mailto:cgiebel@diocesediago.org), or visit [www.yamsd.org](http://www.yamsd.org).

### SOCIAL MINISTRY

#### Detention Ministry

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

#### Courage

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

#### Encourage

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

**PARISH EVENTS**

**Perpetual Adoration**

The Perpetual Adoration Chapel at Holy Spirit Parish (2725 55th St.) is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Membership obtained through parish office; member card needed for night entrance. Call (619) 262-2435.

**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 information, call (619) 476-8014.

**Healing Prayer Ministry**

• Meets at St. James Parish, Solana Beach: second Tuesdays, from 6-7:15 p.m.; third Saturdays, from 6-7 p.m.; and after all 9 a.m. Sunday Masses. Next quarterly healing Mass: 7 p.m., April 29.

• For information, call (858) 755-8990.

**Healing Mass**

• 7 p.m. Mass (preceded by 6:45 p.m. praise and worship), at St. Timothy Parish, Escondido. Dates: May 26, June 23, Aug. 25, Oct. 27 and Nov. 17.

**Divine Mercy Celebrations**

Diocesan Divine Mercy celebrations will be held on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 19, at Good Shepherd Parish (English) and St. Joseph Cathedral (Spanish). Other parishes will also have Divine Mercy events. For information, call (619) 276-6637 or visit [www.SDdivinemercy.org](http://www.SDdivinemercy.org).

**PARISH EVENTS**

**Divine Mercy Holy Hour**

1:15 p.m. (after the noon Mass), April 19, at Mary Star of the Sea Parish in La Jolla. Includes Benediction.

**Renaissance Faire**

10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., April 25, at the corner of Wisconsin and Ditmar in Oceanside. Hosted by St. Mary, Star of the Sea School. Includes food, games/prizes, live tournament, demonstrations, entertainment and crafts for all ages. Free admission.

**Catholic Comedy Night**

With Judy McDonald. 7:30 p.m., May 15, at Mission San Luis Rey Parish's Serra Center. Dessert, raffle and silent auction at 6:30 p.m. Tickets: \$10, adults; \$5, children age 12 and under. For tickets and information, visit [www.mslrp.org](http://www.mslrp.org).

**GROUPS**

**Card Party/Luncheon**

Good Shepherd Parish Women's Club will hold a card party and luncheon from 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m., April 18, at the parish hall. Donation: \$8 per person. Raffle tickets: 3 for \$1; includes great prizes and White Elephant Sale. RSVP at (858) 271-7080.

**Annual School Auction**

Nazareth School will hold its annual auction May 2 at the Mission Valley Marriott. The event will include a live and silent auc-

**GROUPS**

tion, dinner and dancing. All proceeds will directly benefit students. To donate an auction item or become an event sponsor, call the school (by April 17) at (619) 641-7987.

**High School Play**

St. Augustine High School's "Saints Players" will perform "Seussical!" at 7 p.m., April 30-May 2, and at 2 p.m., May 3, at Birch North Park Theatre. Tickets: \$10. Tickets on sale at [showboxoffice.com](http://showboxoffice.com). For information, visit [www.sahs.org](http://www.sahs.org)

**Golden Anniversary Tea**

The women of All Hallows Parish will host their "Golden Anniversary Tea," from 3-5 p.m., Friday, May 1, at Wisteria Cottage, 7846 Eads Ave., La Jolla. Cost: \$35 adults; \$15, children under age 16. RSVP by April 24 by calling (858) 459-2975.

**Italian Catholic Federation**

Our Lady of the Rosary ICF Branch #230 will hold a pancake breakfast benefit from 8 a.m.-noon, April 29, in the parish hall (1668 State St., San Diego). Cost: Adults, \$5; children under 12, \$4. All proceeds benefit ICF Scholarship Fund. For information, call (619) 234-4820.

**Golf Tournament**

21st annual Old Mission Cup, Friday, May 1, at Admiral Baker Golf Course. Cost: \$90/person; \$350/foursome; add \$10 per player after April 15. Tournament assists Mission San Diego de Alcalá in providing

**GROUPS**

scholarships for Catholic education for deserving children in San Diego. For information, call (858) 560-9312.

**Council of Catholic Women**

Oceanside Deanery. Meeting/luncheon at 11 a.m., May 13, at St. Thomas More Parish in Oceanside. Cost:\$5. RSVP by May 9. For information, call (760) 758-9949.

**North County Magnificat**

A ministry to Catholic women. Breakfast: 9 a.m., April 18, at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido. Speaker: Crystalina Evert, host of "The Pure Life." RSVP by calling (760) 489-5588 or visiting [members.cox.net/magnificat](mailto:members.cox.net/magnificat).

**Central SD Magnificat**

9:30 a.m., May 30, at the Mission Valley Sheraton. Speaker: Pat Doyle on how to find God's love and presence in all things. RSVP by calling (858) 578-1256.

**Catholic Daughters of the Americas**

• Court Immaculata 1854 meets at 10 a.m. on first Thursdays in the St. Mary Magdalene Parish Conference Room. For information, call (619) 275-0094.

• Next meeting: 10 a.m., May 9. Guests: Steve Dunn and choir members from St. Catholic Labour Parish. Catholic women of the community are invited.

**Holy Spirit Ministries**

• Mass/healing service: 7:30 p.m., April 20, May 1, May 18, and May 30 (Pentecost

**GROUPS**

Vigil), at Holy Spirit Parish. Healing service includes Eucharistic exposition and adoration.

• Contemplative retreats, April 21-26 and May 5-10, at Holy Trinity Hermitage, Boulevard, CA

• For information, call (619) 262-9685 or visit [holyspiritministry.net](http://holyspiritministry.net)

**San Diego Merton Society**

Meets for 45 minutes of contemplation at 6:25 p.m., Thursdays, at St. Brigid Parish, Pacific Beach. The exception is the second Thursday of the month, when a potluck social is held, featuring a discussion of Merton. Call (858) 483-3343 or email [walmillietice@sbcglobal.net](mailto:walmillietice@sbcglobal.net).

**WORKSHOPS, RETREATS AND CONFERENCES**

**Silent Ignatian Retreats**

Preached by Miles Christi priests. For women: May 7-9 in Oceanside. For men: June 5-7 in San Juan Bautista; July 24-26 in Oceanside. Includes spiritual talks, Eucharistic adoration and daily Mass. For information, contact Christine at [california@spiritualexercises.net](mailto:california@spiritualexercises.net) or at (209) 357-0128.

**Marriage Encounter**

Shine up your marriage on a Marriage Encounter Weekend. Next weekend: May 1-3. Reserve a spot by emailing

**WORKSHOPS, RETREATS AND CONFERENCES**

[broy2@san.rr.com](mailto:broy2@san.rr.com).

**Natural Family Planning**

Four-session classes on the Church-approved sympto-thermal method (99.6 percent effective). A new class starts April 29; another begins May 14. Both classes will be held at the diocesan Pastoral Center. For information, email [daveandcheryl@cox.net](mailto:daveandcheryl@cox.net) or call (619) 303-5053.

**'Life in the Spirit' Seminar**

7-8:30 p.m., Thursday evenings, April 23-May 14, in the Ministry Center at St. Columba Parish. A healing Mass will be celebrated at 7 p.m., May 28. For information, call Shawn or Mary Quinn at (858) 278-0526.

**Post-Abortion Healing**

Rachel's Hope is hosting a one-day healing workshop for men saddened by a past abortion. From 9 a.m.-5 p.m., May 2, at the diocesan Pastoral Center. Fee: \$25. To pre-register, call (858) 581-0952 or visit [www.RachelsHope.org](http://www.RachelsHope.org).

**Contemplative Outreach**

Father Thomas Keating, internationally-known author, speaker and spiritual advisor of Contemplative Outreach, Ltd., will speak on "Contemplation: The Heart of the World," from 2-4 p.m., May 16, at St. John the Evangelist Parish, Encinitas. Pre-registration: \$35 suggested; registration at door if space available. Call (760) 745-8860 or visit [www.consd.com](http://www.consd.com).



# Prudential

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## BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Bulletin Board is a free service of *The Southern Cross* newspaper.
- Announcements (30 words maximum) can be emailed to [dgrasska@diocese-sdiego.org](mailto: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 least 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.
- All announcements appear on a space-permitting basis.

# PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

A listing of services provided by businesses and professionals in the San Diego area. Also see your 2009 Catholic Directory Yellow Pages

**CATERING**

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

**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  
Catholic Counselor

**DENTISTRY**

Carl H. Smith, D.D.S.  
8899 University Ctr. Ln. #185  
San Diego, CA 92122  
(858) 458-9000  
Practice restricted to  
Implant and Adult Dentistry

**MAKE-UP**

Professional Make-Up Artist  
Weddings, Formal Events, Photos  
[MAKEUPBYJMOORE.COM](http://MAKEUPBYJMOORE.COM)  
(619) 885-8505, Ask for Jessica

**MARKETING**

Thomas Hanson - Hanson Marketing  
Channel Development and Brand Marketing  
[www.hansonmarketing.net](http://www.hansonmarketing.net)  
(858) 699 5847

**PSYCHOTHERAPY**

Couples and Individuals  
Diana M. Greg, Ph.D.MFT  
La Jolla Village Professional Ctr  
Initial Consultation No Fee.  
(858) 552-1559

**PSYCHOTHERAPY**

Janice H. Nadler, Ph. D., MFT  
Psychotherapy & Healing Prayer  
(760) 434-1253  
Specializing in Life Transitions

**SAFETY TRAINING**

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To be included in this Professional Directory, contact Donna Moore at (858) 490-8266 or [dmoore@diocese-sdiego.org](mailto:dmoore@diocese-sdiego.org). We have the right to accept or refuse advertising.

# THE SOUTHERN CROSS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO

vol. 98 no. 4

APRIL 2009



## *Our Departments*

*Clinical Services*

*Emergency Services*

*Employment Services*

*Immigrant Services*

*Homeless Men's Services*

*Homeless Women's Services*

*Pregnancy and Adoption Services*

*Refugee Services*

*Senior Services*

Catholic Charities clients come in every shape and size  
and range from age 1 day to 101 years old!

In 2008... Catholic Charities

Clinical Services—provided counseling for 538 individuals, children, couples and families

Emergency Services—distributed food to 54,580 working poor individuals and families

Employment Services—helped 697 families toward self-sufficiency

Immigrant Services—assisted 4,929 eligible clients with citizenship and immigration services

Homeless Men's Services—sheltered and provided meals to 682 homeless men

Homeless Women's Services—sheltered and provided special services to 1,560 homeless women

Pregnancy and Adoption Services—finalized 27 adoptions

Refugee Services—resettled 2,318 refugees

Senior Nutrition Program —served and home delivered 96,452 hot meals to seniors

Foster Grandparents Program—mentored over 500 at-risk children and teens

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God bless you for your support.

*On behalf of the children, families, individuals and seniors  
that look to us for help, we say thank you!*

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