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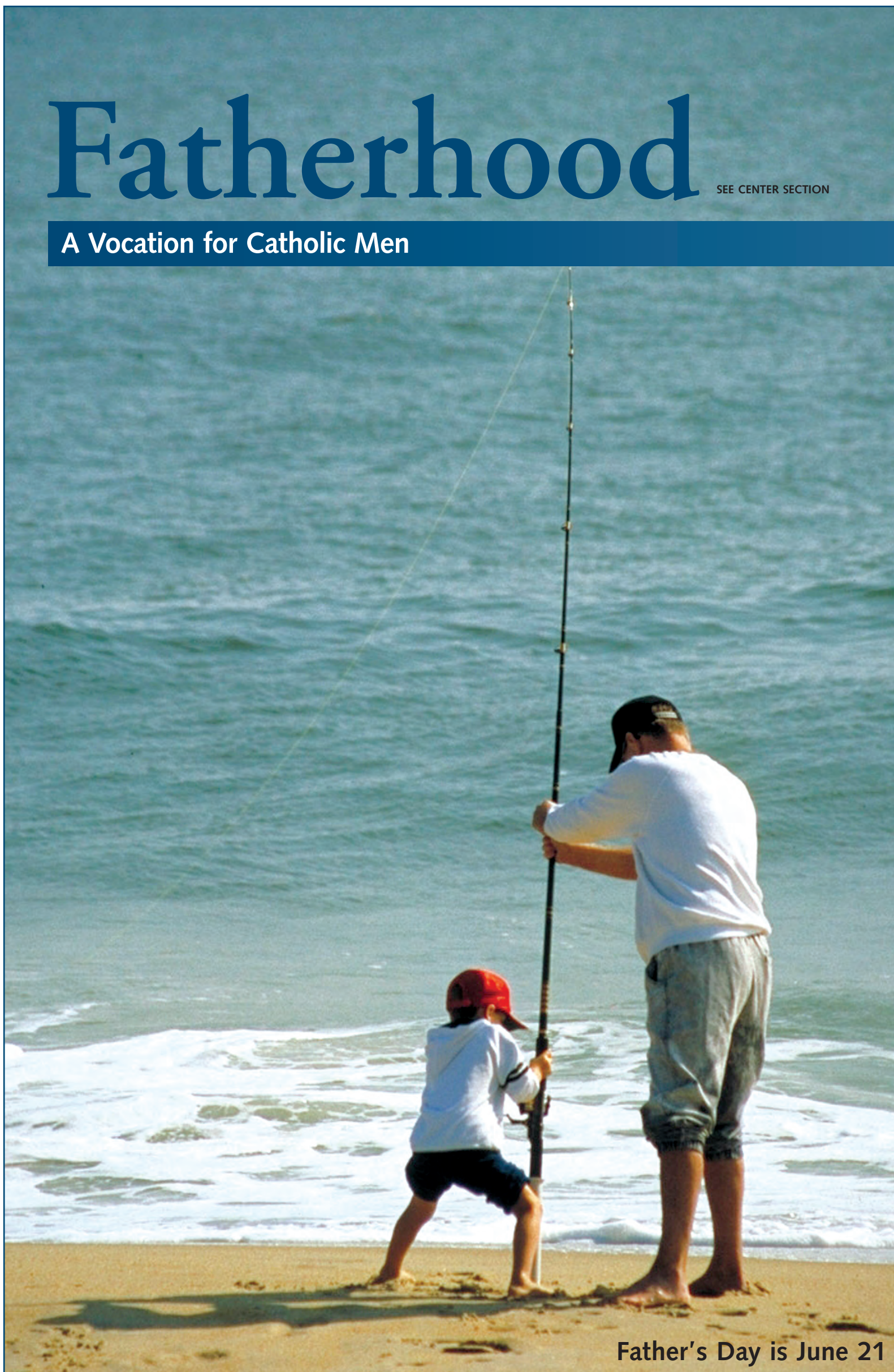
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Fatherhood

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A Vocation for Catholic Men



Father's Day is June 21

Local Catholic University to Open Graduate School of Biblical Theology

Unique program will have 'heavy scriptural emphasis'

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO — A local Catholic university is responding to one of the Church's greatest needs by opening a graduate school of biblical theology.

The new graduate school at John Paul the Great Catholic University will open in September.

Before beginning their graduate-level studies, students will first complete a series of prerequisite courses in philosophy, theology and Scripture; by January 2010, they will begin working toward a master's in biblical theology.

"The Church teaches that the Bible needs to be the soul of theology, but in a lot of places, you can get a degree in theology and only take one or two courses in Scripture," said Michael Barber, who serves as the university's professor of theology, Scripture and Catholic thought.

What makes the curriculum at the new school so unique, he explained, is that it will teach dogmatic, moral and liturgical theology with a "heavy scriptural emphasis" and require students to study the various books of the Bible in depth.

Founded in 2003, John Paul the Great Catholic University welcomed its first undergraduate students in September 2006 and currently offers bachelor's degrees in



UNIVERSITY: Derry Connolly, president of John Paul the Great Catholic University, stands in the university's chapel.

communications media, business and technology. Starting this fall, it will also offer an MBA with an emphasis in entrepreneurial business.

University president Derry Connolly said there were initially no plans to establish a graduate school of theology when the university first opened. But in August 2007, a conversation with Catholic author and theologian Scott Hahn convinced him that "there's no greater need in Catholic higher education."

Connolly said plans for the graduate school proceeded with the full awareness of Bishop Robert H. Brom and the Diocese

of San Diego.

The graduate school curriculum will be "authentically Catholic" and faithful to the magisterium of the Church, Barber said.

Bishop Brom has granted Barber the "mandatum," an official ecclesiastical recognition that a professor teaches in communion with the Church; the "mandatum" will be a requirement for all faculty members who teach theology at the school.

The program will not only prepare students for careers in "the world of academia," but it will also teach them how to make scriptural theology accessible to regular, church-going Catholics. Students

will take two practicum classes, which will allow them to teach Bible studies or other parish-level courses and receive constructive criticism on their efforts.

The program has been designed so that students can work at their own pace, taking as long as needed to complete their studies and making use of independent study and other educational options.

Some students with careers and families cannot attend weekday classes, Barber said, but "we still want to work with them; we want to help them." He added that being a theologian is "a vocation," and the school wants "to assist people in finding God's will for their lives."

Since 2006, John Paul the Great Catholic University has accomplished much, Barber said, despite having less than 100 students and being housed on a temporary campus with limited facilities.

"I think God is able to do things through our students and through this university that far surpass even our wildest expectations, and I would expect that to ... continue with the graduate school of theology," he said. "Anybody who would want to discount [the university] ... should recall that it was David who [slew] Goliath. And he wasn't able to do it because he was a great military hero; he did it because he really did have that great trust in the Lord."

For more information, visit www.jpccatholic.com.

The Southern Cross

Attacks on Religious Freedom Seen As Symptomatic of Wider Attacks

By Simon Caldwell

LONDON — Attacks on freedom of religion and conscience are attacks on freedom itself, said a leading Catholic lawyer.

Neil Addison, a criminal lawyer and a nationally-recognized expert in discrimination law, said in a lecture at the London Oratory that England was becoming an increasingly intolerant and authoritarian country.

He highlighted a number of cases in which Christians had been penalized for their religious convictions and warned, "Attacks on religious freedom are symptomatic of wider attacks on freedom."

Britain has entered an "era of increasing government interference and regulation of what used to be regarded as private life and an increasing intolerance of those who disagree," he said.

Addison's speech, "Religious Freedom in England Today," was delivered May 20; the text was released to journalists May 27.

Addison told *Catholic News Service* May 20 that he first appreciated the gravity of the threat to religious freedom when the European Parliament vetoed the proposed appointment of Italian Christian Democrat Rocco Buttiglione as a justice commissioner after he said, in answer to a question, that he thought gay sex was sinful.

In his lecture, Addison said he had provided advice to doctors, nurses and pharmacists, who have conscientious objections to involvement in abortion and distribution of the morning-after pill.

"Their right to moral conscientious objection is simply being dismissed as 'imposing your morality on others,' which ignores the fact that to make somebody do or participate in something they consider to be immoral is in itself the imposition of a view of morality," he said.

Addison said freedom of speech was also under attack and there were cases involving people who had been fired or suspended from their jobs after expressing opinions — in private conversations — that were not politically correct.

"If you read the history of Nazi Germany or the Soviet Union or the East German Stasi, one point is very clear and consistent: Totalitarian states do not recognize or respect the distinction between private and public life," he said. "In a totalitarian state, there is no such thing as a private conversation."

He said the noble vision of England as a nation of free people was being allowed to die, and "we need to fight to defend it again, because it is an England that is worth fighting for."

Catholic News Service

Bishops Praise Court for Affirming Marriage

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien

WASHINGTON — The California Supreme Court "respected the eminently reasonable decision of the California electorate" in its May 26 ruling affirming marriage as the union of a man and a woman, said the chairman of the U.S. bishops' Ad Hoc Committee for the Defense of Marriage.

But Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., speaking on behalf of the full U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, expressed disappointment and concern that the court failed to apply this definition to the estimated 18,000 same-sex marriages that took place between May and November 2008 in California.

The high court's decision upheld the constitutionality of the state's *Proposition 8* declaring that "only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California." But it said the voters' decision could not be applied retroactively to those who married before the initiative was passed.

Archbishop Kurtz said the ruling "respects

the uniqueness of the marital relationship and its service to the common good by respecting the value of procreation and the good of children, as well as the unique complementarity of man and woman."

But he said "attempts to change the legal definition of marriage or to create simulations of marriage, often under the guise of 'equality,' 'civil rights' and 'anti-discrimination' ... undermine the very nature of marriage and overlook the essential place of marriage and family life in society."

"The state has a responsibility to protect and promote marriage as the union of one man and one woman, as well as to protect and promote the intrinsic dignity of every human person, including homosexual persons," Archbishop Kurtz said. There are ways to do that, but "sacrificing marriage is not one of them," he added.

In a May 26 statement on behalf of the California Catholic bishops, Bishop Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton had a similar mixed reaction to the decision.

The California Supreme Court had ruled

May 15, 2008, that the state's ban on same-sex marriage was unconstitutional. When the decision took effect a month later, thousands of couples were married. Then came the November ballot initiative to amend the state constitution to define marriage as only between a man and a woman.

In a Nov. 4, 2008, vote, 52 percent of the state's electorate approved *Proposition 8*.

In its 136-page majority decision, written by Chief Justice Ronald M. George, the California Supreme Court concluded that "*Proposition 8* constitutes a permissible constitutional amendment" rather than "an impermissible constitutional revision" and "does not violate the separation of powers doctrine."

All but one of the court's seven justices — Associate Justice Carlos R. Moreno — concurred in the majority decision.

Organizations that had opposed *Proposition 8* said they will work to repeal the measure through a ballot initiative in 2010.

Catholic News Service

Polls: More Americans Call Themselves 'Pro-Life' Than 'Pro-Choice'

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien

WASHINGTON — The results of several recent opinion polls show that Americans are taking a dramatic turn toward greater opposition to abortion.

A poll conducted May 7-10 as part of the annual *Gallup Values and Beliefs* survey found that a majority of Americans (51 percent) described themselves as "pro-life" with respect to the abortion issue, while only 42 percent said they were "pro-choice." The results were made public May 15.

It marked the first time since Gallup began asking the question in 1995 that more respondents said they were pro-life than pro-choice, and was a shift of 7-8 percentage points from a year earlier, when 50 percent said they were pro-choice and 44 percent said they were pro-life.

A separate *Gallup Poll Daily* survey conducted May 12-13 found that 50 percent of Americans described themselves as pro-life and 43 percent as pro-choice.

"We're very encouraged, but not surprised, that Americans are trending pro-life," said Deirdre McQuade, assistant director for policy and communications at the bishops' Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities. "The more aware the public becomes about the tragic choice of abortion and its repercussions, the less we want

it sanctioned in law."

The Gallup results were similar to another national survey made public April 30 by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, which found that the number of Americans who said abortion should be legal in all or most cases had declined to 46 percent in April 2009 from 54 percent in August 2008.

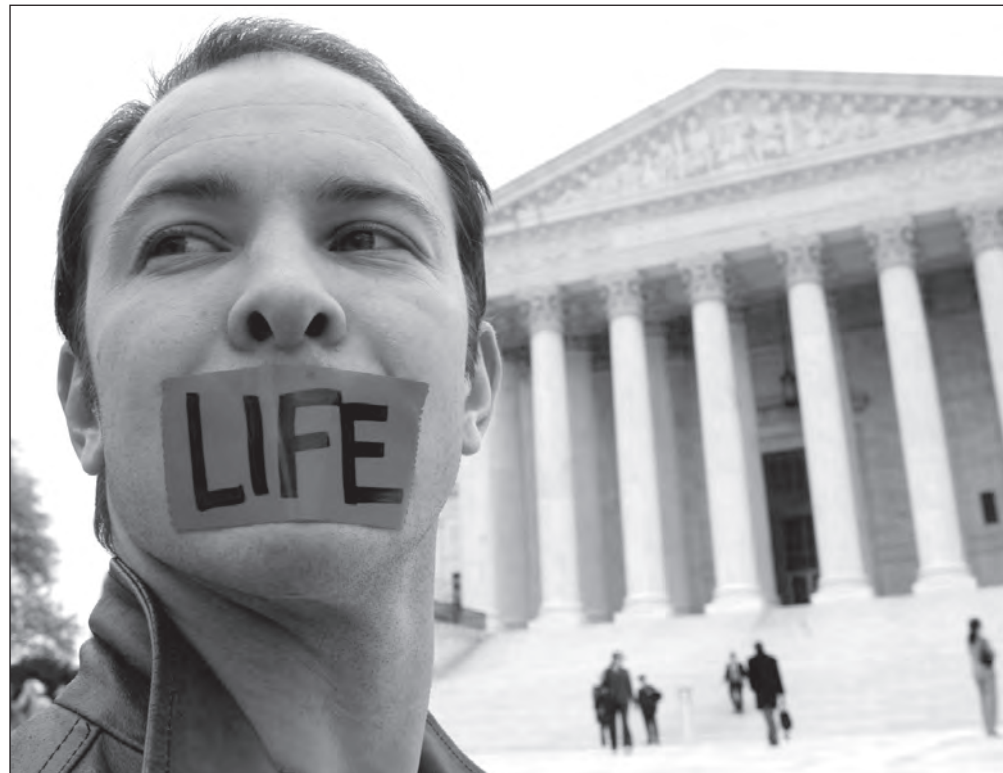
Forty-four percent of respondents in the Pew poll said abortion should be illegal in most (28 percent) or all cases (16 percent), up from 41 percent in August 2008.

The margin of error for each of the three polls was plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Quinnipiac University, a private, nonsectarian school in Hamden, Conn., found a smaller shift and a continued majority favoring keeping abortion legal in survey results reported May 14. It said 52 percent of Americans said abortion should be legal in all (15 percent) or most (37 percent) cases, down from 57 percent in July 2008. Forty-one percent of the respondents said abortion should be illegal in most (27 percent) or all (14 percent), compared to 39 percent last year.

The margin of error for the Quinnipiac survey was plus or minus 2.2 percentage points.

McQuade attributed the pro-life shift to



PRO-LIFE: A pro-life activist demonstrates in front of the Supreme Court in Washington in this file photo.

greater public awareness about abortion and public policy.

The *Gallup Values and Beliefs* survey found the strongest pro-life views among those who said they were Republican or independents leaning toward the Republican Party, those who described themselves as conservative and those who said they were Christians.

Fifty-two percent of the Catholic respon-

dents and 59 percent of Protestants or members of other Christian religions described themselves as pro-life in the 2009 poll.

Seventy percent of Republicans or those leaning Republican said they were pro-life.

Among Democrats and independents who leaned toward the Democratic Party, 61 percent said they were pro-choice and 33 percent pro-life in 2009.

Catholic News Service

Local Religious Sisters Minister to Victims of 21st-Century Slave Trade

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO — Through their local ministry, two Marist Missionary Sisters are combating what they describe as "a form of modern-day slavery."

Sister Christina and Sister Gail are the co-directors of Mary's Guest House, a ministry to female victims of human trafficking.

Located in San Diego County, the house provides women with a safe temporary residence as they prepare to rebuild their lives and restore their sense of dignity.

To protect the women, the sisters have requested that their full names and the exact location of the house be withheld.

"Human trafficking ... is a terrible crime against the basic human rights of a person," Sister Christina said. "It entails the recruitment, the abducting, the transporting, the harboring, and the buying and selling of a person by means of force, fraud, threats or coercion, for either sexual or labor exploitation."

Though some Americans are already aware of human trafficking, Sister Christina said, the issue "will really hit home" when they realize that an estimated 17,000 to 20,000 people are trafficked into the United States each year, and that U.S. children are among those being trafficked into the sex industry.

Though Mary's Guest House only works with female victims, Sister Christina noted that boys and men are also victims of trafficking.

Describing the purpose of her ministry, Sister Christina said Mary's Guest House exists "to provide a safe and loving environment" for female victims of trafficking after their rescue by the FBI, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, or another agency.

Sister Christina and Sister Gail reside at Mary's Guest

House, living in community with victims who have endured psychological, emotional and physical abuse.

Many have had their identification and legal documents stolen by their traffickers, who forced them to work but allowed them to keep only a fraction of their wages, Sister Christina said. Others were given material objects "to lure them and keep them bonded."

Sister Gail said some of the women have been so "brainwashed" that they have been tattooed with their pimp's name — a symbol of his ownership.

Mary's Guest House is capable of housing a maximum of five victims at a time. Since its founding in November 2005, Sister Christina said, some 28 women — age 17 to 59 — have passed through its doors. She said the small ministry is designed to feel like a home.

Women can remain at the house for up to nine months, but can also stay longer if necessary. Some stay for only one night, but one resident stayed for 18 months. ("She is a success story," Sister Gail said of the latter.)

While living at the house, the victims receive assistance with legal, medical, psychological and immigration issues, courtesy of the Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition. The coalition is a network of more than 100 government and nonprofit agencies that works on both sides of the U.S./Mexico border to end human trafficking.

Sister Christina said the women are free to go to school, to work if they have the proper permits, and to attend services at their house of worship.

Sister Christina is convinced that the Catholic Church "should be in the forefront" in the fight against human trafficking. She notes that the Church has been speaking out on the issue at least since the Second Vatican Council, and that the U.S. bishops have pledged to use the Church's resources to combat trafficking.

"But awareness of this issue needs to move from the hierarchical level to local parishes," Sister Christina said. "If priests and parishioners became more aware of this horrible crime, they would take an active part in eradicating this injustice."

Sister Christina gave the example of one local parish where a priest started including Mary's Guest House and trafficking victims in the general intercessions during Mass. As a result, many parishioners learned about the issue and felt called to action, she said. When the present location of Mary's Guest House went into foreclosure, one married couple at the parish bought the property to save the sisters' ministry.

Individual Catholics should learn to recognize the warning signs that a person might be a victim of human trafficking, Sister Christina said, noting that many victims avoid eye contact, express an inability to leave a hated job, display signs of depression and isolation, and find it difficult to trust others. She added that Catholics should also be willing to approach these possible victims.

Sister Christina and Sister Gail have found their ministry to be a fulfilling one.

"The most rewarding thing is to see the women begin to normalize their lives and to take on a sense of self-worth and dignity," Sister Christina said, adding that she has received "thank you" cards from grateful parents reunited with their daughters, as well as phone calls and wedding invitations from past guests who consider the sisters to be family.

"They're little things," Sister Christina said, "but they're the things that make a difference."

For more information on Mary's Guest House or to make a donation, email smsmcv@cox.net.

The Southern Cross

Briefs

'Peter's Pence' Collection, June 27-28

WASHINGTON — The Peter's Pence collection will take place during Masses on the weekend of June 27-28. The theme for this year's collection is "Cast the Light of Christ Upon the World." "Through our response to this appeal, we will enable Pope Benedict XVI to offer emergency assistance to those suffering because of war, oppression and natural disasters," said San Diego Bishop Robert H. Brom in a letter to priests of his diocese. The collection was started centuries ago to provide financial support for the pope and has evolved to fund the Holy See's charitable actions for those in need. The Peter's Pence collection has raised nearly \$190 million to support suffering people around the globe. *All Catholics are invited to give generously in their parishes or to send their donations to: Peter's Pence Collection, The Apostolic Nunciature, 3339 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20008.*

Vatican Paper Agrees with U.S. Bishops

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican newspaper has again emphasized that when it comes to the Obama administration and pro-life issues, the Vatican and the U.S. bishops are in full agreement and that no compromise is possible on the right to life. The newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, said it was a mistake to view its press coverage of Obama — which has been positive on many issues — as evidence that the Vatican is following a "different strategy" than the U.S. bishops in dealing with the new administration. The comments came in the newspaper's June 5 edition, in an article criticizing the Obama administration's restoration of federal funding for embryonic stem-cell research. The Vatican newspaper said it wanted to underline that "in reporting on recent statements and initiatives of the president of the United States, *L'Osservatore Romano* has certainly not intended to express appreciation for his positions on questions of ethical importance."

New Web Site Highlights 'Year for Priests'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations has set up a Web site to mark the Year for Priests, a worldwide celebration from June 19 of this year to June 19, 2010. Pope Benedict XVI chose to begin the Year for Priests on the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a day of prayer for the sanctification of all priests. The pope also designated

St. John Vianney as the universal patron of all priests on the 150th anniversary of the saint's death. The saint, who is also known as the Cure of Ars, is the patron of parish priests. The Year for Priests Web site is www.usccb.org/yearforpriests. The site includes the pope's message for the occasion and the announcement of the plenary indulgence in conjunction with the celebration. The site also offers specially commissioned prayers for priests and laity. Throughout the year, the secretariat also will use the site to publish monthly articles about the priesthood written by prominent Catholic women.

Obama Nominates Vatican Ambassador

WASHINGTON (CNS) — President Barack Obama has nominated Catholic theologian Miguel Diaz to become ambassador to the Vatican. Diaz, 45, is a professor of theology at the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University, both in Collegeville, Minn. He is a board member of the Catholic Theological Society of America and former president of the Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States. Diaz served as a member of Obama's Catholic advisory team during the campaign and was a regular campaign spokesman on Obama's behalf, particularly in the Spanish-language press. "If confirmed by the U.S. Senate, I will continue the work of my predecessors and build upon 25 years of formal diplomatic relations with the Holy See," Diaz said. "I wish to be a bridge between our nation and the Holy See."

Pro-Lifers Condemn Murder of Abortionist

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pro-life advocates universally condemned the May 31 murder of a Kansas abortion doctor, with officials from several U.S. right-to-life groups saying such extreme acts only hurt the pro-life cause. Speaking on behalf of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, expressed profound regret upon learning of the murder. Dr. George Tiller, 67, of Wichita, Kan., was fatally shot while serving as an usher at the city's Reformation Lutheran Church during morning services, according to *The Associated Press*. The suspect arrested in the shooting, identified as Scott Roeder, 51, was officially charged June 2 with one count of first-degree murder, according to *AP*.

Vatican Condemns North Korean Missile Launches

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has condemned the latest round of nuclear testing and missile launching by North Korea, warn-

At Prayer

A U.S. Marine prays during a religious service in a chapel at Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan June 7.

CNS PHOTO/JORGE SILVA, REUTERS

ing that these acts of aggression threaten "the very survival" of the country's own people by exacerbating its isolation. The Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, published a front-page news story May 27 along with an editorial titled "International isolation as a regime's choice." North Korea announced May 25 that it had successfully performed a nuclear experiment, launching three short-range missiles into the Sea of Japan. The following day, two more missiles were launched off the country's eastern coast. In its commentary, *L'Osservatore* said, "Even before being a threat to peace, this atomic experiment constitutes a threat to the very survival of the North Korean people, who will pay the consequences of the isolation the regime has chosen."

Church Protests Islamic Tax on Non-Muslims

BANGALORE, India (CNS) — Church officials in Pakistan are opposing a tax being imposed on minority Christians, Hindus and Sikhs under the influence of Islamic militants in parts of troubled North-West Frontier province bordering Afghanistan. "Jazia," or Islamic tax, has been imposed on 700 non-Muslim families who are being forced to pay 1,000 rupees (\$12.50) per person annually in the impoverished mountain region where they have been living for decades. "We demand that the government should make a clear stand that Pakistan [is] a democratic country, which could not allow such discrimination and economic injustices to the religious minorities who are equal citizens and not a conquered people," said the National Commission for Justice and Peace in a June 3 press statement, which was signed by Archbishop Lawrence Saldanha of Lahore, commission chairman and president of the Pakistan Catholic Bishops Conference.

Document Urges Reconciliation in China

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI knows the full structural unity of Catholic communities in China will take time, but the spiritual reconciliation of Chinese Catholics "can and must take place now," said a new Vatican document. Marking the second anniversary of Pope Benedict's 2007 letter to Chinese Catholics, the Vatican published a reading guide and summary of the letter to clarify certain points and help people understand it better. The 2007 letter established new guidelines to favor cooperation between clandestine Catholic communities and those officially registered with the government. The papal letter strongly criticized the limits placed by the Chinese government on the Church's activities. But on several key issues, including the appointment of bishops, it invited civil authorities to a new and serious dialogue. The new compendium of the papal letter, released at the Vatican May 24, used a question-and-answer format quoting the original letter, but it also included several new footnotes and appendixes to clarify questions raised in the past two years.

Organization Promotes Down Syndrome Adoptions

WESTERLY, R.I. (CNS) — A Maryland-based organization is working against the trend of aborting Down syndrome babies by placing those children from around the globe with loving families in the United States. Reece's Rainbow (www.reecesrainbow.org) assists couples in adopting Down syndrome children from other countries. Founded in June 2006, Reece's Rainbow has already found families for more than 175

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



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children with Down syndrome from 32 countries around the world. An entirely volunteer organization, Reece's Rainbow prides itself on the fact that 100 percent of every dollar donated goes to the child, family or fund designated by the donor. Reece's Rainbow was founded by Andrea Roberts, who has a Down syndrome child named Reece, who has changed her life. "I lean on my belief that God has a specific purpose for everyone, and this is his calling for me through Reece," Roberts said. "I love to help others, and my love for Reece fuels my passion to defend and protect others like him."

Action Sought on Conscience Protections

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The president of the U.S. bishops' conference and two members of Congress have called on President Barack Obama to make good on something he said in his May 17 speech to University of Notre Dame graduates, namely that he wished to "honor the conscience of those who disagree with abortion." In a May 22 statement, Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago said he was grateful for Obama's promise to support conscience clauses. At a May 19 press conference in Washington and in a letter sent that day to the president, Reps. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., and Chris Smith, R-N.J., urged Obama to forgo rescinding the Bush administration's conscience-protection regulation. In his statement, Cardinal George said health care professionals and institutions "should know that their deeply held religious or moral convictions will be respected as they exercise their right to serve patients in need."

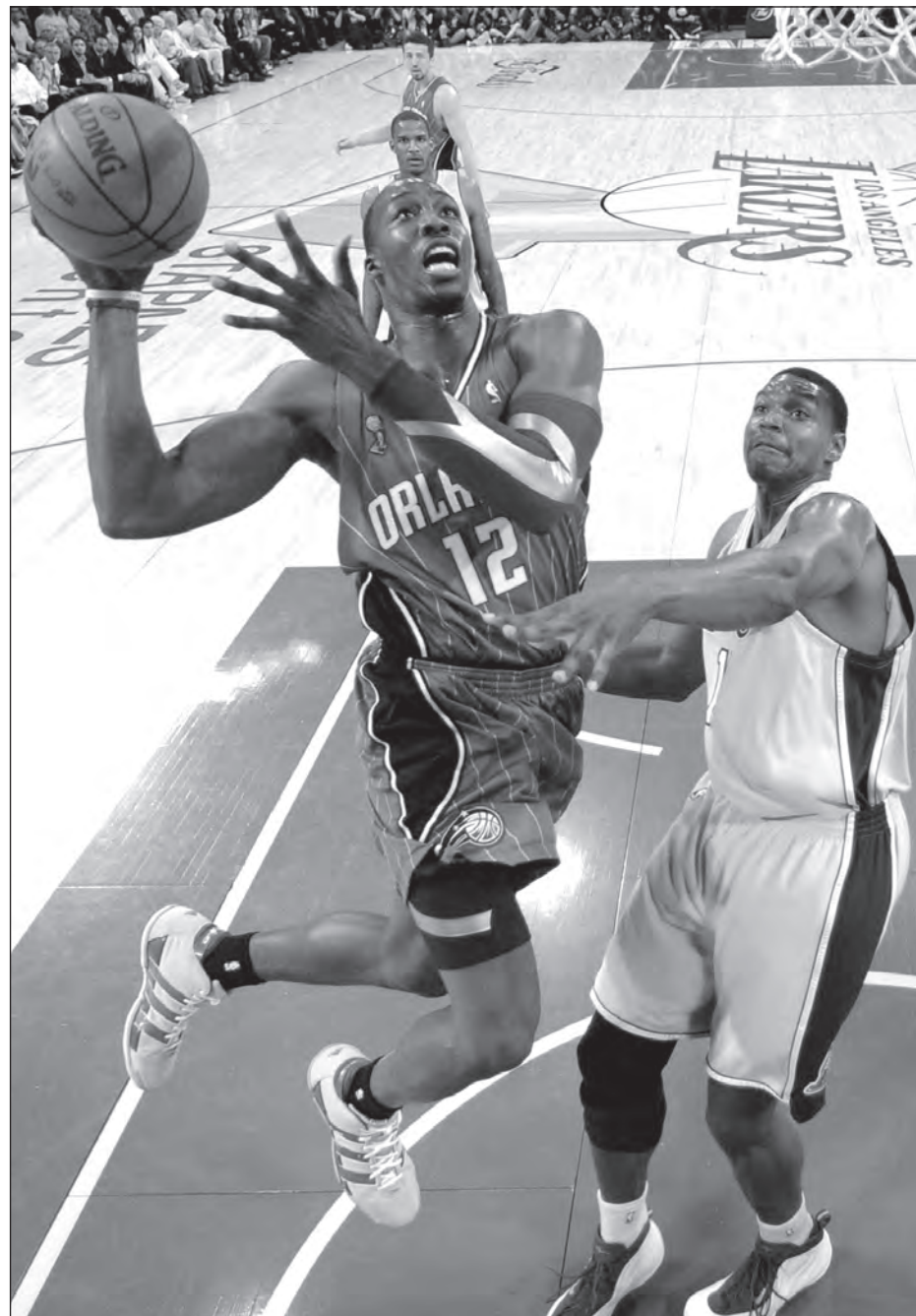
Court Rules Against Adoption Agency

LONDON (CNS) — The Catholic Church in England and Wales has lost a legal battle to retain its few remaining adoption agencies. The government's Charity Tribunal ruled June 1 that the Catholic Care social services agency of the Diocese of Leeds, England, could not continue as an adoption agency, unless it assessed same-sex couples as potential adopters and foster parents. A Leeds diocesan spokesman said in a June 2 statement that "it seems likely that the charities will need to close their adoption services and a flagship service will be lost." The agency, which finds new families for about 20 children each year, wanted to continue to serve the Church as a diocesan charity. In 2008, it had applied to change its constitution so it could appeal for an exemption under *Regulation 18* of the Sexual Orientation Regulations that ban discrimination against homosexuals in the provision of goods and services.

Bishops Support Death Penalty Repeal

HARTFORD, Conn. (CNS) — Connecticut's Catholic bishops have asked Gov. M. Jodi Rell to back a repeal of the death penalty in the state. Rell, a Republican, vowed May 22 to veto a death penalty repeal bill passed by the Democratic-run General Assembly. "While Catholic social and moral teaching support the right of any state to protect itself from serious criminals, it has long held that such action does not require the use of the death penalty when the penal system can guarantee the incarceration of an offender for life," the bishops wrote in a May 28 letter to Rell.

A Bet Between Bishops



Pictured, Dwight Howard of the Orlando Magic shoots over Lamar Odom of the Los Angeles Lakers during Game 1 of the NBA finals in Los Angeles June 4. Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles and Bishop Thomas G. Wenski of Orlando, Fla., were each predicting victory for their respective team and each backed up his claim with a friendly wager. In an announcement released before the opening game, Cardinal Mahony said he was wagering one case of assorted wines bearing the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels. Bishop Wenski said, "I'll gladly wager three Key lime pies, four pounds of Florida rock shrimp, and a bottle of oxygen — fresh air — that you are unaccustomed to breathing out there in Los Angeles."

You, your friends, and your family are invited to join us for
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ROSARIES FOR PEACE
PEACE THROUGH PRAYER
Sunday, August 9, 2009 at 6:30 PM
CATHEDRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
5555 Del Mar Heights Road, San Diego, 92130
(Fwy 5 to (east on) Del Mar Heights Rd)



Bishop Robert H. Brom, Celebrant
Crowning of Our Blessed Mother as Queen of Peace
Procession of the Most Blessed Sacrament * Rosary Procession of Lights
Peace and Harmony Choir * Knights of Columbus Color Corps
PRAY FOR PEACE IN OUR FAMILIES, NATION, WORLD!
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(Info: 619-466-9522; 619-465-3093; or www.rosaries4peace.org)

Upcoming Retreats

A Special Saturday Series

Two Saturdays, June 20 and July 18, 2009

"Original Blessing: A Primer in Creation Spirituality"

The Original Blessing, the revolutionary and controversial work of contemporary religious thought, written by Matthew Fox, will be presented by Mark Schroeder, OFM in a two-part series.

On June 20th, *Path 1: Befriending Creations: The Via Positiva* and *Path 2: Befriending Darkness, Letting Go and Letting Be: The Negativa*.

On July 18th, *Path 3: Befriending Creativity, Befriending Our Divinity: The Via Creative* and *Path 4: Befriending New Creation: Compassion, Celebration, Erotic Justice: The Via Transformativa*. Both days are 9:30am through 2:00pm. \$20.00 per person—each session. Please pre-register.

Religious Sisters Silent Retreat, July 3 - 10, 2009

"Feminine Charism in the Church"

Sister Mary Dietz, SSND will explore the stories and traits of women in Scripture. Join her for this silent retreat and find inspiration and role models for living religious life today. Daily Mass available. Retreat begins Friday and ends with lunch on the following Friday. Scholarships available. Please pre-register.

Family Vacation Retreat, July 13-17, 2009

"Footsteps in the Sand: Meeting God on Vacation"

Our popular family-friendly retreat with Joan & Dan Wiebe, Tom Herbst OFM and Mark Schroeder, OFM, is back!! This retreat offers spiritual input for parents and kids. Free afternoons for fishing at the pier, exploring, relaxing, swimming, surfing the waves at the beach or visiting local attractions. There will be music, theological presentations and quiet reflection for parents. Retreat begins Monday evening and ends with Friday lunch. Scholarships available. Please pre-register.



4050 Mission Avenue,
Oceanside

www.sanluisrey.org

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

Vatican Launches iPhone, Facebook Applications

By Carol Glatz

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican has launched iPhone and Facebook applications in an effort to help Catholics, especially younger generations, use new technologies to create a culture of dialogue, respect and friendship.

The new applications were part of a brand new Vatican Web site — www.pope2you.net — that went live on World Communications Day, May 24.

Sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, the new site was created to help attract young people to and spread Pope Benedict XVI's message for World Communications Day. This year's communications day message is dedicated to "New Technologies, New Relationships: Promoting a Culture of Respect, Dialogue and Friendship."

"We thought that it was good to present the message to the young generation through technologies that they know how to use," said Archbishop Claudio Celli, head of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications.

"We think this pontifical council itself has to use new technologies to promote new relationships around the world," he said, adding that "we must take advantage of what the new technologies are offering us at this very moment."

Pope Benedict XVI, meanwhile, has

urged everyone, especially young people, to use the new media "in a positive way and to realize the great potential of these means to build up bonds of friendship and solidarity that can contribute to a better world."

Archbishop Celli said the pope's World Communications Day message inspired the council to create a simple, fresh site to work as a hub from which users can find some new ways the Universal Church is present in the digital world.

The site offers viewers a link to a new application on the social networking site Facebook.

Titled "The Pope Meets You on Facebook," the new Pope2You application lets people send and receive "virtual postcards" of Pope Benedict along with inspiring text culled from the pope's various speeches and messages.

The Pope2You site also links viewers to a new way for people to receive news about the Vatican and the pope through their iPhones or iPod touch portable music players.

In conjunction with the Vatican Television Center and Vatican Radio, *H2Onews* will distribute audio and video reports exclusively through the iPhone in eight different languages, including Chinese.

It is "the first application of video news dedicated to the Catholic world, through



NEW TECHNOLOGY: An image of Pope Benedict XVI is seen on the new Vatican Web site, www.pope2you.net, as displayed on an Apple iPod touch in Rome May 22.

which you can follow the travels and speeches of Benedict XVI" as well as major Vatican events, the Pope2You site says. The news clips of the pope and the Vatican will be the same ones currently offered on the Vatican's video channel on YouTube, unveiled in January.

The main Pope2You site also offers a direct link to the Vatican's channel on YouTube and a Wiki link that lets readers study the pope's 2009 communications message.

There is also a five-minute video presenta-

tion of Archbishop Celli explaining the new site and its purpose.

The archbishop said even though the new site was meant just to mark the occasion of World Communications Day, Vatican officials are waiting for user feedback to see whether the site will become permanent.

"Right now we don't have a program or idea for the future [of the site], but if young people respond positively to the initiative, then we'll see what to do in the future," he said.

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University Students Get a Different Look at Life in Peru

By Barbara J. Fraser

CHIMBOTE, Peru — Rachel Roa had visited Peru before, but on a trip with fellow U.S. university students she discovered her parents' homeland in a new way.

"I see the tourist sites when I come with my parents," said Roa, 21, but the visit to shantytowns, a hospice and a low-income parish off the tourist trail "let me see a different side" of the South American country.

In a matter of days, the nine students from Misericordia University in Dallas, Pa., met women whose lives revolve around waiting for the water truck to arrive; were mobbed by schoolchildren who wanted to touch their fair skin; received a warm welcome from women in a shantytown; and helped a group of confirmation students clean and paint their parish center.

They learned as much about themselves as about Peru and returned to Pennsylvania determined to stay connected with the people they had met.

"There's no better way to learn about a culture than to be out of your element," said Julianne Curry, 19, a speech language pathology major from Washington Township, N.J. The experience in Peru was "different from what you'd see on TV," she said.

It was also a chance to encounter God in a new way.

"Young adults are searching for God. Part of our job is helping them connect with God in everyday experiences,"

said Christine Somers, 41, Misericordia University's campus ministry director, who organized the trip and accompanied the group. "We help them grow in spirituality."

A few of the students were nervous about the trip to Peru, because instead of doing a specific task, they would be immersing themselves in other people's lives.

Lauren LaSala, a 20-year-old speech language pathology major from Denville, N.J., and several classmates visited a family in a dirt-floor shack with straw mats for walls and the roof. A member of the family had just celebrated a birthday, and the mother welcomed the students warmly and offered them bowls of "mazamorra," a pudding-like desert made from fruit and purple corn.

The students were hesitant, knowing the family had little money for food, but when they finished, the woman filled their bowls again.

"They have so little, but they're so giving," LaSala said.

By the end of the 10-day trip, the students were talking about how to share what they had learned with their peers at school and at home and practical ways of helping the people they had met.

"Each person can learn something if they're open to learn from the devastating poverty" in much of the world, said Caity Bryson, 22, a physical therapy major from Gettysburg, Pa.

Catholic News Service



CNS PHOTO/BARBARA FRASER

SERVICE TRIP: Julianne Curry, 19, a student at Misericordia University, holds the daughter of a parishioner at Christ the King Parish in Chimbote, Peru, May 23.

Benedict XVI to Children: It's Hard to Be the Pope

By Sarah Delaney

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI offered a rare glimpse into his private feelings, telling a group of children that as a boy he never dreamed of becoming pope and that he still sometimes worries he is not up to the job.

The pope answered questions and described growing up in a small German vil-

lage during an audience May 30 at the Vatican with 7,000 children from the Holy Childhood Association, a group affiliated with the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

The meeting with the enthusiastic young audience gave the pope an opportunity to speak more openly than usual about himself, prompted by the children's more per-

sonal questions.

When asked whether as a boy he had ever thought he might one day be pope, he admitted that it had not been one of his youthful plans.

"To tell the truth, I never would have thought I might become pope. ... I was a pretty ingenuous boy in a small village far from the city," he said. "We were happy to be in the country and didn't think about much else."

Even today, he said, "it's difficult for me to understand how the Lord could have thought of me, to choose me for this ministry. But I accept it from His hands, even if it is very surprising and seems very much beyond my means."

"But the Lord helps me," he said.

For him and his companions, Pope Pius XI, the pontiff at the time, "was loved and venerated, but for us he was unreachable, almost of another world," the pope said.

The young Joseph Ratzinger spent his childhood and adolescent years in the Bavarian village of Traunstein, near the Austrian border.

As children, the pope said, "sometimes we argued, but then we made up and for-

got about what had happened. This is important ... the art of reconciliation, forgiveness, starting over without bitterness of the spirit."

Reminiscing about his early religious education with his village companions, he said, "We learned altogether to know the Bible. ... We learned the catechism together, we learned to pray together and together we prepared for our first Communion — that was a splendid day."

He said that as children and teens, "we weren't saints and we had our arguments, but there was a beautiful communion between us, and the distinction between rich and poor, intelligent and less intelligent, didn't count."

Telling the children, "You all are missionaries, messengers for the missionary work of the Church," he reminded them to pray often, together and with their families. "Pray before lunch, before dinner and on Sunday," he said.

He added, "A Sunday without Mass, the great common prayer of the Church, isn't a real Sunday; it lacks heart and therefore the light for the rest of the week."

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Nuns Provide Free Education to Young Battlefield Scavengers

HUE, Vietnam — Out-of-school children who scavenge battlefields for old bullets and shells to sell as scrap said they hope the basic education local nuns provide will open the way to a better future.

Many children in Buong Tam, a central Vietnamese village about 19 miles from Hue, have dropped out of school to help support their families. Traditionally, they have worked in the fields, tending crops and cattle. More recently, they have been scavenging scrap metal from the sites of pitched battles fought between 1966 and 1975 during the Vietnam War.

Paul Nguyen Duy Khoa, 13, told the Asian Church news agency *UCA News* he has helped support his seven-member family by collecting scrap since the death of his father. He and a few friends use a metal detector and hoes to dig up whatever they can find around a 109-year-old cemetery and surrounding areas.

Khoa admitted he was afraid at first that old bullets and artillery shells would explode, but now he knows they "are rusty and do not work." He recalled finding an 11-pound shell that sold for 100,000 dong (\$5.60). But he said he usually earns between 10,000 and 50,000 dong a day, which he gives to his mother to buy food and repair their house.

Despite Khoa's confidence, someone in central Vietnam is killed or injured every week by an encounter with unexploded ordnance, according to Clear Path International, an agency founded by aid workers in Vietnam.

None of about 70 teenagers and adults collecting scrap metal in the former battlefields around Buong Tam have had an acci-

dent. According to village leader Joseph Nguyen Vinh, the only munitions-related mishap occurred in 2000, when a man died after triggering a buried bomb while digging to build a house.

One of 172 Catholics among the 350 villagers, Khoa does not attend the local elementary school. Only one of his siblings does.

But the teenager is one of 20 out-of-school youngsters that Daughters of Our Lady of the Visitation nuns are helping with free basic education lessons. The five nuns based in Buong Tam offer literacy and basic math classes three nights a week at their community house.

Sister Agnes Luong Thi Thien, who heads the group, said the nuns also encourage families to keep their children in school by offering scholarships worth 300,000 dong (\$16.80) and tutoring the pupils. She said 15 children attend school with the assistance.

Poverty is just one obstacle to an education in the village, Sister Agnes explained. The children rely on people with small boats to ferry them across the river to the school, but the trips end when the river floods during the rainy season between September and November.

Even with schooling available, earning a living remains the main concern, said Jacob Mai Van Bang, a father of three who collects 50,000 to 100,000 dong (\$2.80 to \$5.60) in scrap daily with his 13-year-old son.

Vietnamese government statistics show that 147,005 of 15.7 million children enrolled in primary and secondary schools dropped out during the 2007-2008 academic year to work and help support their



LOST AND FOUND: Joseph Mai Viet, 13, displays an artillery shell and other metal items he collected at a village in Buong Tam, Vietnam, in late May.

families.

The nuns in Buong Tam support themselves by working on farms and raising chickens and pigs. When they can, they provide medicine and help the poorest families repair their homes.

Villagers are grateful for the sisters' assistance and their educational service. Yet it is the hope the sisters instill in the children

that could prove to be their most lasting contribution.

Many of the children told *UCA News* they hope to learn vocational skills.

Khoa said he wants to learn how to repair electric appliances. He expressed gratitude to the nuns for providing him books, clothing and school lessons.

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Hey, Laity!

Laypeople are called not simply to help their priests run their parishes, but to share fully in the responsibility of building up the Church, Pope Benedict XVI told delegates to the annual convention of the Diocese of Rome.

"This will require a change of mentality, especially regarding laypeople — to move from considering them to be the clergy's collaborators to recognizing them as truly sharing responsibility for the existence and action of the Church," the pope said May 26 during an evening talk at the Basilica of St. John Lateran.

The pope's speech about the identity of the Church and the role of its members launched a three-day meeting by diocesan delegates to assess pastoral services and come up with ideas for strengthening the participation of Catholics in the life of their parishes and the diocese.

The first step, the pope said, should be to improve education efforts so that people would understand what the Second Vatican Council meant when it described the Church as "the people of God" and the "body of Christ."

Catholic News Service

In a Flash

One of the oldest and most read books in the world now has a new, high-tech look. And it weighs only 5 grams, or one-hundredth of a pound.

"God on the Go" is a USB flash drive containing the complete Bible in the *New Revised Standard Version* or the New Testament of the *New American Bible*. It is currently available only for PCs, but a Mac-compatible version is expected out this summer.

Inventor Mark Mastroianni, a member of St. Edna Parish in Arlington Heights, Ill., said the idea for "God on the Go" came to him in prayer when he was asking God how he could bring together his Catholic faith and his background in technology and product development.

"Why not combine the Bible with commonly used and readily accessible technological platforms?" he recalled thinking.

After months of research and talks with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which holds the U.S. copyright on the *New American Bible*, "God on the Go" was born. Mastroianni was pleased to learn that the device also offers the ecologically aware a "green" alternative to the printed Bible, since the thin pages of most Bibles require the use of a specialty ink that is "very toxic to users and in the manufacturing process."

"*God on the Go*" is available through *Acta Publications*, www.actapublications.com, and at bookstores.

Catholic News Service

ARRRRGH!!!



CNS PHOTO COURTESY CHRIS OWEN

Band leader Loren Hoskins (third from right) poses with the rest of the band Captain Bogg & Salty. Hoskins, a Catholic, says the pirate-themed group's main focus these days is entertaining young fans.

Second-Place Finish

Dreams of glory for the Pontifical North American College soccer team were vanquished with a single corner kick to their goal in the final duel for the Clericus Cup tournament trophy.

The NAC Martyrs, the team fielded by the U.S. bishops' seminary in Rome, finished the season with a respectable second place after going undefeated into the final match May 23 against a team from the Neocatechumenal Way's Redemptoris Mater seminary.

The loss did not discourage the North American College rector, Msgr. James F.

Checchio.

"They're winners," he said after the game. "They're great men; they played hard and they keep improving."

The important thing, he said, "is that they are coming together in unity and a spirit of cooperation, with brothers from other countries."

The Clericus Cup tournament for priests and seminarians studying in Rome was established in 2006 and first played in 2007; it now involves 386 seminarians and religious from 69 countries.

Catholic News Service

No Vacations from God

Fun-filled vacations or hectic workweeks must never distract people from dedicating a little time each day and, especially every Sunday, to God, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"We must set aside time in life for God, to open our life to God with a thought, a meditation, a small prayer and to not forget Sunday is the day of the Lord," he said.

During his weekly general audience June 3 in St. Peter's Square, the pope used the example of Blessed Rabanus Maurus, a Benedictine monk and bishop, to show how a person can live a busy life without sacrificing spiritual study, meditation and prayer.

With an estimated 17,000 people gathered in the square, Pope Benedict continued his audience talks on important figures in the early Church.

When Rabanus Maurus, who lived in the Frankish Empire during the Middle Ages, became archbishop of Mainz in 847, he did not give up his studies and dedication to the Scriptures, the pope said. His life demonstrates how one can be completely at the service of others "without depriving oneself of spending a proper amount of time in reflection, study and meditation," said Pope Benedict.

Catholic News Service

Q Quotable Quotes Q

Reflections on Prop. 8

"The same-sex 'marriage' movement is not, for all the civil rights rhetoric, about 'equality,' 'equal rights,' or 'equal protection.' It is about claiming the term 'marriage' for a relationship that has never been considered marriage. ... Equating the ban on same-sex 'marriage' to the long-ago ban on interracial marriage, overturned by the courts, is also a false analogy to a civil rights issue. The ban on interracial marriage ... was based on the true discrimination of asserting that one race is superior to another. It did not redefine marriage. ... Same-sex 'marriage' proponents, on the other hand, seek to radically alter the definition of marriage and to say that it has nothing to do with gender or procreating children."

— Margaret A. Bengs, a speechwriter for former California Gov. George Deukmejian, in an editorial that appeared June 4 in *The Sacramento Bee*

A Call for Civility

"Faith builds itself in community and it expresses itself in action. ... Let us be a society in which we genuinely listen to each other, in which sincere disagreement is not made out to be insult or harassment, in which reasoned principles are not construed as prejudice and in which we are prepared to attribute to each other the best and not the worst of motives."

— Archbishop Vincent Nichols, in a homily delivered during his installation May 21 as the archbishop of Westminster, England

A Two-Way Street

"Ultimately, Obama's words must be matched by deeds. While we applaud his call for 'common ground' with pro-lifers, his actions since assuming office have been to shrink that ground rather than expand it. ... Pro-lifers would do well to grant the good faith and sincerity of the president, and can take heart that he, too, has seen the recent poll numbers showing that ... a majority of Americans self-identify as pro-life."

— From "The Final Score," an editorial in the May 31 issue of *Our Sunday Visitor*, which addressed President Barack Obama's commencement speech at Notre Dame

Briefs

St. Didacus Honored in 'First in Math' Program

SAN DIEGO — St. Didacus School took home honors in the "First in Math" online program. Overall, the school is ranked second in California. The school's second-grade classroom team and one sixth-grade player each ranked first place statewide. The "First in Math" program is an innovative approach to mathematics education, in which students earn electronic award stickers by solving problems of increasing difficulty, beginning with one-step addition and culminating with complex algebra. Stickers earned by students are combined for a classroom's "team total." St. Didacus School has eight teams, from the first through eighth grades. Cumulatively, these teams have earned 400,000 award stickers. A student must solve an average of three math problems per sticker, which means that St. Didacus students have solved more than 1.2 million math problems on the "First in Math" Web site so far this year. Bob Sun, inventor of the "First in Math" program, conducted an award ceremony June 2 at the school.

Serra Club Launches New Web Site

NORTH COUNTY — The Serra Club of San Diego North Coast has created a Web site for the promotion of vocations to religious life in the Catholic Church. The site, www.serraclubofsandiegonoorthcoast.org, provides access to many different sources of online vocation information and can be especially helpful to high school and college students in the process of discernment. The site also lists Serra Club programs, events and activities. For more information, visit the Web site, or contact Tom Facon at (760) 929-8255 or tom.facon@yahoo.com.

St. Vincent Students Answer Call to Service

SAN DIEGO — Throughout the school year, students at St. Vincent de Paul School have demonstrated concern for the local and global poor with various projects. Each year, the students support food and clothing drives and sell papers for Kids' News Day, the funds from which support families in need. Students also participate in Virtues-in-Practice (VIP) Projects, collect bottles and cans for recycling and send care packages to deployed troops. They support "Get on the Bus," a program that enables children to visit their mothers in prison, and have sponsored a Cambodian orphan for the past eight years at the cost of \$500 per year. In addition, they donate to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of San Diego, Casa de los Pobres in Tijuana, and the Foundation for Children in Need, a medical clinic in India. Their largest fundraiser is a "dime race," which generates more than \$2,000 for the Holy Childhood Association, a Pontifical Mission Society that encourages children to support the Church's missionary activity. In total, the school raised more than \$10,000 during the 2007-2008 academic year.

Jubilee



BRAWLEY — Twenty five years ago, Father Bernardo Ranoa was ordained to the priesthood in the Diocese of Talibon, Philippines.

Now, he serves as pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Brawley. Born in the Filipino town of Jagna, Father Ranoa entered the seminary at age 12, and remained there while he finished his high school and collegiate studies. After he was ordained in 1984, he served as a spiritual director for 10 years and held several pastoral positions before coming to the United States in 2003 with special permission from his bishop. Bishop Robert H. Brom assigned Father Ranoa to St. Michael Parish in San Diego, where Father Ranoa served for one and a half years before being

State Deputy Elected



MICHAEL D. BRAULT

SAN DIEGO — Vincent Pacis (pictured, left) was elected State Deputy for the Knights of Columbus in California.

The election took place during the Knights' annual statewide convention, which was held May 14-17 at the Town and Country Resort and Convention Center in Mission Valley.

Pacis and other newly-elected state officers will assume their roles in mid-July. The State Deputy is the organization's highest leadership post on the state level.

Pacis, who hails from southern San Francisco, is — among other things — responsible for creating a Web site for California's Knights of Columbus.

The outgoing State Deputy, Robert J. Villalobos (pictured, right) of San Marcos, described Pacis as "the right man for the right job at the right time."

"He should do very well during the challenging months ahead," Villalobos said. During the convention, several awards also were handed out.

Among the Knights singled out for special recognition was Michael D. Brault, who received the Volunteer of the Year award for his work on behalf of the Knights of Columbus and other organizations, including various pro-life and pro-marriage efforts.

The Family of the Year award was given to Brad Phillips; his wife, Susan; and their four children — Matthew, Michael, Michelle and Megan. The award was given in recognition of the Phillips family's demonstrated commitment to community service.

The Southern Cross



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

With the permission of his superior, **Rev. Federico Masutti, FSSP**, has been appointed associate pastor of St. Anne Parish, San Diego, effective July 1, 2009.

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tapped as hospital chaplain for Sharp Memorial and Rady Children's hospitals. Father Ranoa remained there until his re-assignment to Sacred Heart Parish in Brawley in 2006. The 51-year-old priest celebrated his silver anniversary with a Mass on June 7.

Cathedral H.S. Students Show Financial Savvy

SAN DIEGO — Andres Aldrete and Houston Buehrle of Cathedral Catholic High School in San Diego, were recently announced as the statewide winners at the high school level in this year's Stock Market Game, which is sponsored by Merrill Lynch and has approximately 81,000 participants throughout California. The two students turned \$100,000 into \$205,753 — nearly a 96-percent gain in their hypothetical portfolio. An award ceremony took place May 19 in Coronado. As part of their award, Andres and Houston will take a four-day trip this summer to New York City, where they will visit the New York Mercantile Exchange. The Stock Market Game helps students gain real-world experience and an appreciation for the value of saving and investing. Each team is "given" \$100,000 to invest in this hands-on learning experience, while teachers incorporate program materials into their curriculum.

'University of the Third Age' Offered July 13-30

ALCALA PARK — The University of San Diego will offer its "University of the Third Age" program July 13-30. Without any prior academic requirements, participants (age 55 and older) are given the opportunity to engage in educational workshops, enlightening conferences and experiential field trips, and to make new friends. USD has offered this lifelong learning experience for more than 30 years. The program takes place twice a year at USD's Manchester Conference Center. Registration is now open. *To learn more about the program, visit www.sandiego.edu/u3a. For additional information, contact Jodi Waterhouse and Adriana Serrano at (619) 260-5976 or aserrano@sandiego.edu.*

Holocaust Survivor Speaks to St. Michael Students

POWAY — On May 4, Gussie Zaks, an 83-year-old Jewish Holocaust survivor, told eighth-graders at St. Michael School about her experiences of being taken by the Nazis from her Polish village. Eighth-grade teacher Regina Guarin brought Zaks to the class through the Bearing Witness program, which combats anti-Semitism and strengthens the relationship between the Jewish and Catholic communities.

Obituary

SAN DIEGO — Rev. Canon Kenneth R. Treat died May 3. Born in 1930, he was a priest of the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego, and served as his diocese's ecumenical officer from its founding until about a year ago. He was instrumental in founding the Ecumenical Council of San Diego County, where he served for many years, and the Anglican/Roman Catholic Dialogue Committee of San Diego, on which he served as co-chair. For more than three decades, he participated in the National Workshop on Christian Unity, and co-chaired it in San Diego in 1974 and 2001. His funeral was held May 9 at St. Alban's Church in El Cajon, where he served as rector for 20 years before his retirement.

Annual Dinner Honors Father Joe Supporters

SAN DIEGO — On May 16, St. Vincent de Paul Village honored San Diegans who have spent at least 25 years helping local homeless children, during its 26th annual Children's Charity Dinner. Recipients of this year's Bishop Maher Award were Mother Antonia Brenner, the "Prison Nun" of Tijuana; Dottie Cunningham, who was an original volunteer for the Village Ladies Guild; and three generations of the Finch Family of RCP Block & Brick, which started in San Diego in 1947. The St. Vincent de Paul Tapestry Award was presented to Msgr. Dennis Mikulanis, pastor of San Rafael Parish, who in 1982 was among

Celebrating Confirmations



Bishop Robert H. Brom and retired Auxiliary Bishop Gilbert E. Chavez have celebrated the sacrament of confirmation for 86 parishes during this confirmation season. Pictured, Bishop Chavez during a May 24 confirmation Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Chula Vista.

those who suggested Msgr. Joseph Carroll be given his current position as president of Father Joe's Villages.

won \$1,600, ending months of effort that began as a class assignment.

Optimism Pays Off

CORONADO — Two junior high students at Sacred Heart School in Coronado recently bested all of their local competitors and placed first in their divisions of the annual California South District Optimist Oratorical Contest. This year, students had to write a talk of no more than five minutes based on the topic, "To me, optimism is ...". In her winning speech, Ninette Rodriguez proposed wearing "optimism-dimensional" glasses to help see the good side of every situation. Jason Mapa noted in his first-place speech that optimism can enhance productivity in the workplace when even the smallest improvement in job performance is praised. Ninette and Jason each

Penmanship: Not a Lost Art

SAN DIEGO — Tiffany Tran, a student at Good Shepherd School, was named the 2009 winner in the National Handwriting Contest sponsored by Zaner-Bloser Educational Publishers. Zaner-Bloser has sponsored the contest for the past 18 years to emphasize the importance of developing good handwriting skills. More than 200,000 students participated in this year's competition. Tiffany, currently in the seventh grade, isn't new to winning, as evidenced by her victories in the first, second and fourth grade. Winners of the competition received engraved wood pens, a certificate and a gift certificate for Zaner-Bloser learning materials. Tiffany and other state winners will go on to compete for the title of Grand National Champion.

Job Announcement: Development Director of Our Lady's School in Downtown San Diego

Our Lady's School, located in Downtown San Diego, has an opening for the position of Development Director for the 2009-2010 school year. We are looking for a person that is enthusiastic for Catholic education and committed to dedicating themselves to helping our school. Experience in the areas of development, fund raising, grant writing, and recruitment are required. This individual should have a Bachelor's degree in Development or a related field. This candidate should also possess excellent communication skills, both written and verbal. This person must be able to communicate with the school community in both English and Spanish. This is a full-time position and the salary and benefits package is negotiable.

A full job description can be found on our website at olssd.org.

Interested applicants should submit their resume and references to:

Mr. Noel Bishop, Principal
Our Lady's School
650 24th Street
San Diego, CA 92102
Fax: (619) 501-2951

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

All Saints Catholic Parish (Idaho), with approximately 1200 families, formerly comprising the three parishes of Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Stanislaus and St. James in Lewiston, Idaho is seeking a professional minister to collaborate with the pastor, to administer the parish in accordance with sound financial, administrative and personnel management practices. We are looking for an individual who has demonstrated skill in budget administration, financial recordkeeping and ability for long range planning. This person will have the ability to work in a collaborative team environment and be recognized as organized, hard-working, compassionate and caring.

A Bachelor's degree, preferably in ministry or administration, and at least four years experience in a leadership role in a parish based ministry is required. Salary commensurate with education and experience.

Applicants please send resume and cover letter to:
Parish Administrator Search
All Saints Catholic Church
2015 13th Avenue
Lewiston, ID 83501
DEADLINE is July 1, 2009

A Father's



Faith and Football: Lessons for Catholic Fathers

By John Bradel

Few would deny that most American males are passionate about football and devote a lot of time every fall to their favorite team.

Football can be a powerful metaphor for the role of the father and how he can excel as a Catholic leader for the one team that really counts — the family. The game of football can teach dads many practical lessons. Here are just a few:

Quarterback: The Team Leader

A successful quarterback uses the strengths and weaknesses of his teammates to advance his team against its opponents, even when under great pressure. In today's society, dads too are constantly under pressure to succeed at work, and to provide for and guide their families through a hostile culture. In order to win, we must understand our priorities as Christian fathers, and remain cool and focused in our efforts. Our most powerful teaching tool is our selfless example, which involves time and dedication. There will be plenty of time to work on that golf score or take that optional business trip. Don't miss the opportunity to throw the ball with your son, dance with your little girl, and teach them about our Lord.

Lineman: The Battle of the Trenches

A quarterback is only as good as his offensive line. Many games are won or lost in "the trenches." Sometimes, dads need to take the role of a lineman to block negative influences and make sure our children are not tackled by the temptations of materialism, or sinful pleasure or sensuality. It takes strength to resist these forces — and that strength comes from prayer, fasting, scriptural meditation, Mass and confession.

Receiver: Knowing Your Routes and How to Hold On

Football coaches spend countless hours developing passing plays that fit the abilities of their quarterback and receivers. Successful receivers need to commit these plays to memory and execute them precisely in order to be open to receiving the pass. God has a game plan for each father; we need execute that plan, because our families depend on it.

Coach: The Strategist and Motivator

A dedicated coach is a necessity. Coaching can be hard, but nothing is more satisfying than a hard-fought victory, whether you are leading your football team or your family. Here are a few coaching analogies that can apply to dads:

1) Know your playbook

For Christian dads, the Bible is the number-one playbook. Fathers must study God's Word and teach it to their children.

2) Know the strengths and weaknesses of your players

As a father of seven, I can attest that God gives each child a unique personality and character. Learn those character traits and commit to coaching each child to know, love and serve God, and to make a difference in the world.

3) Motivate your players to fight to win

Most Catholic parents agree that today's culture opposes many of our Catholic values. We must make our children aware of this battle from an early age, and motivate them to appreciate and fight for their faith.

Men, we make many decisions in the game of life. What role will you play in your children's lives and their eternal salvation? Will you remain on the sidelines, or actively participate in the most important game there is?

The Southern Cross

John Bradel is a member of St. Kieran Parish in El Cajon. He has been married to his wife, Debbie, for 30 years and is the father/coach of seven children (almost a football team). A life-long football fan, he roots for the San Diego Chargers.

The Power of a

By Deacon Ralph Skiano

In the Book of Job, before his many trials, Job says, "I have sinned greatly in that I have not kept the point of praying for my children. As one who has neglected its of my liturgical participation on my children."

The notion of praying daily for my children is central to their upbringing. Along the way, I picked up tips from other fathers.

First, I would try to pray five decades of the rosary. It was useful to make it a habit on Mondays, because I would be heading back to work Monday morning.

Secondly, I would bless them each night when they go to bed, so, even after they left home and started their own lives, I would trace the sign of the cross on their foreheads. I would offer a short silent prayer for God's healing. I pray for my own imperfect parenting. This nightly ritual is a blessing every night from a distance. Yet, I know my children wherever they are.

Thirdly, I came across a book by Linda S. Brantley, *Blessing*, which emphasizes the spiritual role of fathers. It contains words for a very powerful prayer of blessing. I use it when I leave home.

In our day, men need to take their role as Catholic fathers. It is the spouses to train their children in the faith. A significant factor for whether children practice the faith is the father, but the practice of the faith by the mother, and this can only be done through the father's example at home, and this can only be done through the father's example.

The Knights of Columbus have launched a Vatican initiative to help fathers in fulfilling the duties of fatherhood. All fathers

Deacon Ralph Skiano is associate director of the diocesan Office of Liturgical and Sacramental Ministry. He exercises his diaconal ministry.

s Vocation



‘For the Lord sets a father in honor over his children ...’
(Sirach 3:2)

Father’s Prayer

o offered daily sacrifices for his sons, lest they fall
ght to follow his example. I have always made a
tends Mass every day, I have also offered the mer-
’s behalf.

sustained me through many a trying time during
three practices worthy of passing on to younger

rosary every week, specifically for my children. It
use I would see more of the children on weekends
ning, I would have a better idea of their needs.

en they were infants, and I have continued to do
own lives. When they were still living under my
foreheads and, before they went to sleep, I would
prayed that God would heal them, especially from
al brought me a lot of peace. Now, I still do the
w that God hears the prayer and blesses my chil-

hubert called *The Healing Power of a Father’s*
f the father in the life of a child and provides the
I used this prayer with each of my sons as they

Christian fathers seriously, cooperating with their
urvey done many years ago revealed that a deter-
eir faith as adults is not the faith and practice of
e father. God calls us to spiritual leadership in
personal prayer.

Web site, www.fathersforgood.org, to support men
s are encouraged to check it out.

The Southern Cross

ce for Marriage and Family Life. An ordained deacon since 2004,
y at St. Michael Parish in Poway.

Family Spirituality in No Time At All

By Deacon Kevin Murray

Between work, errands and chores, men sometimes find themselves too tired at the end of the day to do what’s really important — spending time with their families and in prayer with the Lord. The phrase “spending time” is very appropriate to our lives as Christian men. If time is like money, what do we want to spend it on?

Learn to Prioritize

In his book, *The Seven Habits of Highly Successful People*, Dr. Stephen Covey uses the image of trying to fill a jar with rocks of different sizes, from large ones to small pebbles and sand. If you put in the big rocks first, then the smaller ones and finally the pebbles and sand, you can fit them all into the jar, as the pebbles and sand will find space between the big rocks. However, if you put in the sand and pebbles and small stones first, you won’t have space for the big rocks. We need to recognize the “big rocks” in our lives and plan time for them first, fitting our lesser priorities in between.

Plan Your Time

Our spiritual lives can’t be an afterthought. In our family, we’ve always had a “family calen-

dar.” I always check this calendar before committing to anything, regardless of how good it sounds. Thinking about your day, where can you make time to pray? What special events are coming up in your parish? Put these on your schedule, and stick to it.

Just Say “No”

In our desire to help out and be part of our community, sometimes we overcommit to activities. It helps to set concrete limits to our involvement. Everything doesn’t necessarily depend on our participation, and we need to understand that there are other people in the world.

Combine Important Priorities

Sometimes it’s possible to achieve two purposes at one time. For instance, my friend Scott — a busy guy with a great family — said he often takes his children grocery shopping, as a way of spending time together while doing the normal tasks of living.

Our spiritual lives are the most important thing we can share with our family. Being present with the Lord and our parish community for Sunday worship is absolutely essential to our role as Catholic parents. By being together at

church, families grow together in our love and knowledge of God.

Pray Together

We need our own private prayer time every day, but we also need to teach our children how to pray, to make it a regular part of family life. My friend Steve prays the rosary together with his family, with each member of the family leading a decade. Our own family tries to say grace before dinner, whether at home or in a restaurant. Other families have different prayer habits, but what’s important is to make family prayer the norm, not the exception in your home.

There are many ways to improve our time management and make room for what’s most important. As men, we need to take concrete steps to identify our priorities, plan our lives around our most important activities and learn to set limits on our involvement. Then, we’ll have time to spend where our souls are most happy — with our Lord and the ones we love.

The Southern Cross

Deacon Kevin Murray was ordained in 2004 and ministers at Sacred Heart Parish in Coronado. He and his wife, Nancy, have been married for 31 years and have two adult daughters.

FACES OF FATHERHOOD: (from left) Robert Gande and son Kyle of La Mirada, Calif., tour Mission San Diego de Alcalá (CNS photo by David Maung); Jeff Ellenberger of New Palestine, Ind., attends Mass with his son, Nathan, and daughter, Claire (CNS photo/Mary Ann Wyand, The Criterion).

New Deacons Called to Make Christ Present Through Service, Charity

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO — Seven men pledged themselves to lives of service and charity as permanent deacons, during an ordination liturgy June 5 at St. Catherine Laboure Parish.

At the Mass, Bishop Robert H. Brom conferred the sacrament of holy orders on Peter Johnson, Robert Holgren, Jim Stanley, John Turcich, Robert Booth, Ruben Peliña and Fernando Lopez, O.S.A.

In his homily, Bishop Brom reflected on who “the outpouring of the Holy Spirit” empowers a deacon to be.

Deacons are to be “icons, personifications and sacraments,” the bishop said. Through their ministry, they “make Jesus a visible, tangible, audible reality.”

The bishop distinguished between icons and idols, personifications and impersonations.

While idols are “a dead-end,” attracting others solely to themselves, he said, “icons draw attention beyond themselves to the transcendent.”

In contrast to “shallow” impersonations, he added, personifications “give flesh to the person” and “make the person himself present.” In expressing how the Spirit makes Jesus present through the diaconal ministry, the bishop drew analogies to the Incarnation, by which the Word became flesh, and the Eucharist, in which bread and wine have been transformed into the body, blood, soul and divinity of Christ.

Deacons also serve as “sacraments of encounter and communion with Jesus ...,” so that the distance of centuries is overcome and



ORDINATION: (left) The deacon candidates lie prostrate, during a pivotal moment in the ordination liturgy; (right) Bishop Robert H. Brom prays silently over one of the candidates, with a statue of Jesus in the background.



Jesus becomes contemporary,” Bishop Brom said. “Jesus becomes the servant present here in the flesh of the deacon, on behalf of the homeless, the hungry, the sick, the imprisoned and the neighbor in need.”

In pledging themselves to “permanent service” to the Church, the bishop said, deacons mirror the “unselfish and self-sacrificing” love of Jesus, who lovingly laid down His own life.

Diaconal ordination comes at the conclusion of a four-year formation program, which itself is preceded by an eight-month peri-

od of vocational discernment. The intense program requires the commitment of not only the deacon candidates, but also their wives, who attend all formation classes and are themselves active participants in the program.

With their ordination, the new deacons have been given authority to proclaim the Gospel, deliver homilies, assist the priest at the altar, and officiate at baptisms, weddings and funerals. But the full extent of their ministry goes above and beyond the duties performed on the church grounds.

When asked to describe the

vocation of the permanent deacon, newly-ordained Deacon Stanley replied, “In a word, service.”

His fellow members of the deacon class of 2009 agree.

“Many people only see the deacon when he is at the altar, but he is so much more,” Deacon Johnson said. “For many, [the deacon] is the Church, and his love for the Church must shine on all he meets.”

“In parish life, the deacon is there to serve,” Deacon Turcich said. “The deacon works with ... anyone in need. He offers compassion to the grieving; he helps heal the wounds of divorce;

he prays with the ill and the dying. “The deacon is on the streets helping addicts and the homeless at shelters; the deacon goes behind bars to help prisoners or to the youth in detention to bring hope; and the deacon is an advocate for the victims of discrimination,” he added.

“I believe that wherever there is a cry for the presence of Jesus,” Deacon Turcich said, “there are deacons reaching out to help people in His name.”

The following are profiles of the Diocese of San Diego’s newest deacons.

The Southern Cross



Deacon Peter Johnson
St. Pius X Parish, Chula Vista

About two or three years after entering the Church, Peter Johnson thought God might be calling him to be a deacon.

“As a family, we were praying for vocations, and my son asked me why I was not doing what we were praying for,” the 55-year-old pharmacist recalled.

He proceeded to ignore God’s call for more than a decade, during which time others also encouraged him to consider a vocation to the permanent diaconate.

Among other things, he doubted his worthiness. Measuring himself against his parish’s deacons, he believed that he simply fell short.

But one day, while serving as a chaperone at the Steubenville San Diego youth conference, he watched as all the young men considering priestly vocations were asked to approach the altar.

“It was then,” he said, “that I decided I had to listen to God.”

Johnson, who now serves as a deacon at his

home parish of St. Pius X in Chula Vista, knows that most Catholics are only aware of the deacon’s role at Sunday Mass. But the ministry is about much more than that, he said, highlighting the fact that a deacon is called to a life of service and “must have an open heart to all — all the time — just like Jesus.”

“In my formation, I have come to really love the Catholic Church,” he added. “My dream is to help others enter into my love affair with Jesus and His Church.”

Deacon Johnson and Junko, his wife of 29 years, have two adult children: Alicia and Henry.



Deacon Robert Holgren
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish,
Rancho Peñasquitos

During his years working in the defense industry, one thing bothered Robert Holgren more than just about anything else: Because of the frantic pace of their work, his co-workers did not always seem aware of one another’s humanity.

‘In my formation, I have come to really love the Catholic Church. My dream is to help others enter into my love affair with Jesus and His Church.’

This led Holgren not only to start praying more frequently, but also to hang a picture of Christ in his office.

"Little did I know," the 51-year-old said, "that this small picture would be one of the catalysts that drew me to the diaconate."

Thanks to the picture, he explained, many of his co-workers discovered that he was Catholic and found in him a willing listener to the many problems they were facing. Holgren considered it a "privilege" to be able "to bring Christ into the work-day environment" in this manner. It was yet another manifestation of something he had experienced during the RCIA process, "an innate and compelling feeling to be available to people, to help them."

As a deacon, Holgren feels called to "acts of charity through self-gifting."

"This self-gifting is not a notion or passing sentiment," he said, "but is an active force, a vivid example of the risen Christ in a world that is paralyzed with self-indulgencies."

He welcomes his new vocation, not only as an opportunity to pray more intensely, but also to grow closer to God and learn to use his talents in service to his parish community.

Deacon Holgren has been married to his wife, Julie, for 25 years. He has three grown children: Jeff, Sarah and Daniel.



Deacon John Turcich
St. Pius X Parish, Jamul

Had it not been for his move to England and marriage to Susan, his wife of 11 years, John Turcich most likely would not be a deacon today.

Shortly after his wedding in 1998, he accompanied his new bride to a Sunday liturgy at Worth Abbey, where she and her family regularly attended Mass. The liturgy was an emotional experience for Turcich, who had been away from the Church for about 20 years. It awoke something in his soul that inspired him not only to attend Mass every Sunday, but to take part in weekend spiritual retreats and study the Rule of St. Benedict.

"I then felt I had a calling, but I did not know ... where this call was leading," he said. "I just felt I was being called to serve God in some way."

In 2002, with his wife and their son, Anton, Turcich began attending Mass at St. Pius X Parish in Jamul. It was around that time that Deacon John Trumble came to the parish. Turcich soon recognized, as he watched Deacon Trumble, that he was being called to the same ministry.

Deacon Turcich, 55, has worked in the information technology field for 33 years. In his new vocation, he said, he looks forward to "all aspects of ministry, from preaching and teaching to comforting the grieving and visit-

ing the homebound and sick."

"To serve the Church as a deacon," he said, "is to go out into the world and find those who are in need and to bring them the message of God's love — not only in word, but in actions."



Deacon Jim Stanley

St. John of the Cross Parish, Lemon Grove

As far back as elementary school, Jim Stanley had "a desire to serve the Lord."

Raised a Protestant, he had mostly attended Baptist services until his conversion to Catholicism in 1984.

Two years later, when he and his family started attending Mass at St. John of the Cross Parish in Lemon Grove, he first felt called to the permanent diaconate. He spoke to the parish's deacons about their ministry, but it was only after attending a deacon ordination in 1993 that he began to seriously consider it as a vocational path.

By 2004, after receiving the encouragement and support of fellow parishioners and his parish's deacons, Stanley finally felt ready to meet with his pastor to discuss his calling.

"I am humbled," said Stanley, 47, "that God has called my name to serve all His people in the threefold ministry of assisting at the altar, proclaiming the Word and through service."

As a deacon, he most looks forward to performing the sacrament of baptism.

"I have had the opportunity to observe all seven sacraments," he said, "and I am most excited about the prospect of bringing new Christians into the Church through baptism. What an honor to be able to perform the very sacrament administered to Jesus by John the Baptist and ordered by Jesus Himself!"

A licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Deacon Stanley has worked for the Superior Court of San Diego County since 2001 as a child custody mediator. He has been married to his wife, Josie, for 27 years and has two adult children: Roselyn and James.



Deacon Robert Booth

St. John the Evangelist Parish, San Diego

Robert Booth says there are many young men who consider a life in ministry, but are

uncertain where God is calling them to serve.

Booth, 51, encourages these men to "not give up on service to the Church and the community."

"As a young seminarian myself," he said, "I needed something that gave me the fulfillment of a married life and an ordained life, as well."

Booth, who has been married to wife Irene for 14 years, believes that this need has been satisfied through his new vocation as a deacon.

"I was very active in many ministries," he said, "but I felt the Lord wanting to use me in a way that was more profound. It was then I was exposed to the idea of being a deacon."

Booth, who has been a member of St. John the Evangelist Parish in San Diego for 12 years, set out to learn more about the diaconal ministry.

"But the time was not right," he said.

He spent more than a year in further discernment "to achieve a greater focus" and then, with his pastor's approval and recommendation, entered the deacon formation program.

"Serving as a deacon is a tremendous honor," said Booth, who has worked as an accountant for the past 15 years.

"It is a privilege that is afforded very few men, and with it comes very specific responsibilities," he explained. "The most important duty is that of service."

When asked which aspects of his new ministry excite him most, Deacon Booth answered, "Frankly, all of it."



Deacon Fernando Lopez, O.S.A.

St. Patrick Parish, San Diego

"Serving in the Church was one of my dreams since I was little," said Deacon Fernando Lopez, O.S.A.

Still, his path to the permanent diaconate was markedly different from those trodden by his fellow members of the deacon class of 2009.

Before his June 5 ordination as a permanent deacon, Lopez had already been serving the Church as a religious brother in the Augustinian Order. In August 2000, he joined the Augustinian community in San Diego, professing his first vows in August 2003 and his solemn vows in June 2008.

"I wanted to be with a group of religious brothers who could help me to discover Jesus in my ministry," the 48-year-old said, explaining his decision to enter consecrated life.

In January 2007, as his first ministry assignment, he was appointed the administrator of Hogar Infantil La Gloria, an Augustinian-operated orphanage in Tijuana. Now, he will continue his ministry at the orphanage during

the week, while devoting his weekends to his new responsibilities as a deacon.

Assigned to St. Patrick Parish in North Park, where he has attended Mass for four years, Deacon Lopez looks forward to serving his Church in new ways. Of his new duties, he said he is especially excited about being able "to welcome new members to the Church" through the sacrament of baptism.

In all things, he said, he aspires "to serve people as a ministry, not as a job."



Deacon Ruben Pelina

Most Precious Blood Parish, Chula Vista

God never quits.

If you don't believe that, just ask Ruben Pelina.

About seven years ago, Pelina felt he was being called to something more than his leadership position on Most Precious Blood Parish's pastoral council. But because he was unsure of exactly what he was being called to do, he turned his attention to other things.

"But as I went about with my life," he said, "the call kept coming back — very persistent, unrelenting — as if someone was knocking on the door and would not let up until someone opened that door."

Pelina, 56, eventually opened the door — accepting God's invitation to serve as a permanent deacon at Most Precious Blood, where he has attended Mass for the past quarter-century with his wife of 32 years, Amalia, and his five children — Rachelle, Robyn, Armah, Arnel and Aaron.

**'It is a rare gift and call
and is something not
to be taken lightly.'**

"I am excited and welcome all aspects of diaconal ministry, and I am eager to put into practice all that we have learned during formation," said Pelina, who retired from the military 14 years ago and has worked for 13 years as a program analyst for a defense contractor.

He believes it is the deacon's role "to encourage and support the laity in their involvement with the Church's mission."

"It is a rare gift and call and is something not to be taken lightly," Deacon Pelina said of his vocation. "I still feel the joy that I first felt when [my wife and I] responded to the call and now seeing its fulfillment."

The Southern Cross

All Hallows Academy Increases Commitment to Community Service

LA JOLLA — Service has always been a way of life at All Hallows Academy.

At the end of each school year, the faculty and administration evaluate the previous year's programs, including service projects and charitable efforts.

Over the years, these efforts have included the school's outreach to its sister school, St. Jude Academy; collections taken for Casa de los Pobres, a Catholic urban relief center in Tijuana; and contributions to Celebration of Champions, an annual program that supports the families of children with cancer.

Thanks to the theme of this year's Catholic Schools Week — "Catholic Schools Celebrate Service" — the school has dedicated itself to making even more service opportunities available to its students.

"We felt that our students would further benefit from a more personal connection with their community through grade-level outreach opportunities," said fourth-grade teacher Karen Clark.

During summer 2008, Clark researched several organizations based in San Diego, including Catholic Charities, to see if there



SCHOOL SERVICE: Fourth-graders visit a local senior center for an activity with the seniors. The students were assigned to write a story about the dolls pictured in the photo.

were opportunities for students to assist these organizations in their work. After many conversations with leaders of various organizations, she found that all students

in kindergarten through eighth grade would be able to play a more active role in the greater San Diego community.

At the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year, each class was partnered with a specific outreach program. Teachers embraced the opportunity to collaborate with local organizations, as they taught their students about the Christian duty to serve others.

The activities that students took part in this year included: creating artwork for seniors and delivering it to a local senior

center, providing Christmas and birthday boxes for Meals on Wheels, visiting the homebound of All Hallows Parish, writing to military personnel stationed overseas, visiting and participating in an intergenerational gathering at a local senior center, collecting necessities for homeless men's and women's shelters through Catholic Charities, raising money for the Holy Childhood Association, and taking leadership roles in other outreach projects.

"This has been amazing," said second-grade teacher Margaret Merritt. "Bringing the Eucharist to the homebound leaves my second-graders spellbound. Having this experience, the children can really relate in a more personal way, because it ties in so well with what I teach them in religion class."

The students have learned a lot about themselves and the people in their community by participating in the outreach projects.

"Meeting all of the people and talking with them has been a good experience," a fourth-grader named Olivia said of her experience visiting the senior center.

These outreach partnerships will remain constant every year. As the students progress through the school, they will have the opportunity to participate in the outreach activity specifically selected for each grade level. Through the process, teachers and administrators hope students will graduate from All Hallows Academy with a deeper understanding of the many ways they can serve their neighbors in need.

The Southern Cross

Celebrating Nonagenarians



SPRING VALLEY — The Santa Sophia Parish Senior Club celebrated its second annual Nonagenarian Day May 7.

Nine club members, between age 90 and 95, were recognized. The members are regular attendees at the senior club's monthly luncheons.

At the Nonagenarian Day celebration, the nonagenarians — the term used for people in their nineties — were seated at a special table. Father Peter McGuine, pastor of Santa Sophia, joined them at their table for the luncheon.

Individually, each of the nonagenarians were introduced, and a brief story of their lives was read. A display board showcased baby and childhood photos, which gave club members an opportunity to play "Who's Who?"

Jean Barrett planned the event, decorated the tables, and served as mistress of ceremonies.

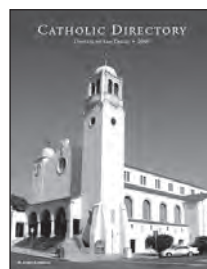
The Santa Sophia Senior Club holds its monthly luncheons on the first Thursday of each month, September through June. The noon luncheon is preceded by an 11 a.m. Mass. All are invited, but reservations should be made by the Sunday before the luncheon.

Pictured, Jerry and Agnes Smith pour champagne for nonagenarians at the May 7 celebration.

For information, call Josie at (619) 446-0114 or Agnes at (619) 442-7190.

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Local Parish Faces Tijuana Violence with Prayer and Dialogue

CHULA VISTA — In May, four young adults from the San Diego and Chula Vista areas were found dead in a van in Tijuana.

The victims included: Carmen “Jimena” Ramos Chavez, 23; Brianna Hernandez, 19; Oscar Jorge Garcia, 23; and Luis Antonio Gomez III, 21.

The four victims represent just a handful of the deaths caused by violence across the border. In 2008, more than 800 people were killed in that region. Across Mexico, violent deaths have reached an all-time high with nearly 11,000 reported over the last two years.

“This appears to be a daily occurrence,” said Father John Dolan, pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Chula Vista. “I listened to one woman who had been abducted for ransom. She was raped and tortured during her ordeal. If it were not for Mexico and the U.S. working together, she would have been executed.”

Father Dolan and other South Bay pastors have counseled many families whose relatives have been abducted and have yet to be found.

Mexican President Felipe Calderon recently bolstered efforts to stamp out violence along the border. Sending nearly 50,000 soldiers to combat the drug cartels

has proven successful in parts of Mexico. However, according to the U.S. Department of Defense, there may be as many as 100,000 hired men, women and children working against Calderon’s efforts. The United States is assisting Mexico in fighting the cartels.

Father Dolan and members of his parish’s Faith and Action team, along with the San Diego Organizing Project, recently offered a First Friday Mass for the cessation of border violence. The Mass included Pope Benedict XVI’s intention for the month of June, “that Local Church communities serving areas torn by violence may be supported through the love and help offered by Catholics around the world.”

St. Rose of Lima Parish’s Faith in Action committee also sponsored a prayer service with the theme, “No More Violence — No Más Violencia.” The service, which took place June 14 in the parish church, included an hour of Eucharistic adoration in remembrance of the victims of border violence.

Father Dolan said the Faith in Action committee will continue to dialogue with families affected by this ongoing tragedy.

The Southern Cross



ON THE BORDER: A Mexican walks next to the Mexican-U.S. border in Tijuana, Mexico, in this file photo.

CNS PHOTO/CARLOS BARRIA

Choir Led Sikh to Catholic Church; Mission Work Cinched His Vocation

By Beth Griffin

MARYKNOLL, N.Y. — Imagine that the youngest child in a religiously observant family comes home from high school and announces to his prominent father that he is

converting to a minority religion he heard about from his principal. Predictably, the reaction is shock, disbelief and resistance.

But Stephen Taluja, who was raised a Sikh in Punjab state, India, converted to

Catholicism anyway. Now 27, he had his father’s blessing when he was ordained as a Maryknoll priest May 30.

His ordination Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York at the Queen of Apostles Chapel at Maryknoll Mission Center.

Punjab, in northwest India, is overwhelmingly Sikh and Hindu. Seventy-five percent of the world’s 26 million Sikhs live there. Catholics make up less than 1 percent of the population.

Father Taluja was introduced to Catholicism at a private high school whose Anglo-Indian principal is Catholic.

As a student, he volunteered with the school to work at a leprosarium run by the Missionaries of Charity. He called it “pretty significant” to confront societal taboos associated with people who have Hansen’s disease.

Father Taluja credited music with being the specific doorway to his interest in Catholicism. As a member of the school choir, he was invited to sing at midnight Mass at a local church. He had never been into a Catholic church and it was unusual for him to be out at that hour of the night.

“When I first walked in, I vividly remember being struck by the crucifix on the wall. People were kneeling and praying to the crucifix. I couldn’t understand why they were praying to a so-called God who was a frail and dying man,” he said.

Father Taluja said he was curious, but had

no intention of converting to Catholicism. He also was dealing with larger questions about the meaning of life after the untimely death of his mother when he was 15.

When he decided to convert, the news was not well-received by his father. He described “divisive opposition” in his family, contrasted with the support of people at the parish. But he persisted, drawn by a desire to know God, and was received into the Church while he was still in high school.

Though he came to suburban New York to study computer science, Father Taluja felt called to the missionary priesthood and became acquainted with Maryknoll.

Father Taluja, who is fluent in Hindi, English and Punjabi, learned Spanish during a five-month stint in Cochabamba, Bolivia and then spent two years in the Peruvian Andes, with Maryknoll’s overseas training program.

“My experience in Peru cinched things for me. I knew I was called to be a missionary and a priest and I want to do it for the rest of my life,” he said.

Father Taluja said his Sikh background will serve his priesthood.

“My Catholic seeds were sown in a non-Catholic home. Sikhism has explicit respect for different paths to God, which I think I bring with me. Who knows how Christ might be working through people of other cultures and religions? We don’t,” he said.

Catholic News Service

Procession in Poland



CNS PHOTO/KACPER PEMPEL, REUTERS

A boy helps carry a large rosary as he participates in a Corpus Christi procession in Mrokow, Poland, near Warsaw, June 11. A Eucharistic procession is a traditional feature of the celebration of the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ.

Author Recounts War-Time Stories of Faith and Miracles



God in the Foxhole: Inspiring True Stories of Miracles on the Battlefield

By Charles W. Sasser

Threshold Editions (New York, 2008)

318 pp. \$26

Reviewed by Brian Olszewski

In *God in the Foxhole*, Charles W. Sasser gets the obvious out of the way in the introduction when he notes the adage that there are no atheists in foxholes. For the following 300-plus pages, he demonstrates the validity not only about non-believers in foxholes, but also in tents, headquarters, fields, bombers, ground vehicles and anywhere else military personnel serve during combat.

His style allows readers to elicit their own images and sounds from his well-crafted narratives. In a section regarding Pfc. Desmond T. Doss, a conscientious objector seen by some of his fellow servicemen as a coward, Sasser lets the dialogue explain the conflicts and heroism of Doss' role as a medic in World War II.

The author's "You Are There" tone in this piece is indicative of what occurs throughout the book. GIs pinned under fire. Growing numbers of wounded. Doss on the top of a cliff, an easy target for the enemy, hoisting the wounded to safety, praying aloud, "Lord, help me get one more. Just one more."

There's a resurrection theme in many of the tales. The

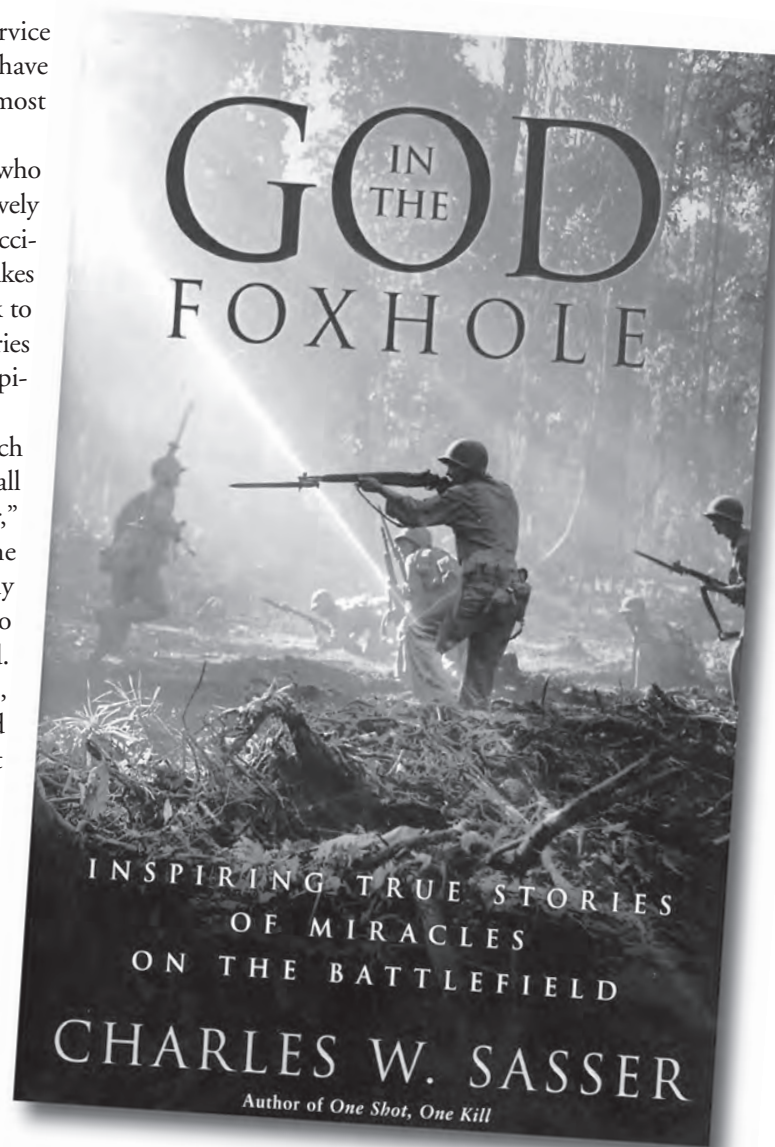
captain who deemed Doss unfit for military service said, "He saved my life. The man I tried to have kicked out of the Army ended up being the most courageous person I've ever known."

In another story, readers meet Sgt. Gene Beck, who survived two tours of duty in Vietnam relatively unharmed, but who was severely injured in a car accident. Once Sasser sets the scene in 1982, he takes readers to Beck's Vietnam in 1968, and then back to 1982. The ebb and flow of that and similar stories keep readers engaged. Each section ends with an epilogue.

Cynics might discount stories, many of which have an Audie Murphy thread in them, and that fall into chapters with such headings as "Prayer," "Doubt," "Why Me, Lord?" and "The Unexplained." Yet, who can explain faith? In many of the stories, there are no logical explanations as to what happened or didn't happen to those involved.

Some of the featured people are well-known, e.g., Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, and U.S. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., but most have no national recognition. What they do have, however, is a faith-at-work element meshed with patriotism capable of inspiring believers and nonbelievers, hawks and doves.

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Hallbach, Edith	May 20	St. Luke
Garcia, William	May 23	Holy Cross Cemetery
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Lead Us Not into Termination, But Deliver Us from Skynet ...

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

“Terminator Salvation”

(Warner Bros.) Explosively violent sci-fi action sequel in which the prophesied victor (Christian Bale) in humanity’s post-apocalyptic struggle against an artificial intelligence called Skynet and its murderous super-machines must locate the teen (Anton Yelchin) who will someday travel back in time to become his father, while determining whether a bewildered visitor from the past (Sam Worthington) is friend or foe. Intense and pervasive combat, some gore and some crude language. *USCCB classification — limited adult audience. MPAA rating — PG-13.*

“Imagine That”

(Paramount/Nickelodeon) A work-obsessed investment adviser (Eddie Murphy) connects with his young daughter (Yara Shahidi) after accidentally discovering that the inhabitants of an imaginary kingdom she has created give accurate financial predictions, aiding him in his competition with a pretentious but popular rival (Thomas Haden Church). A couple of slightly crass terms. Appropriate viewing for all generations. *USCCB classification — general patronage. MPAA rating — PG.*

“Land of the Lost”

(Universal) A washed-up scientist (Will Farrell) claims that his invention is a time machine and, with a beautiful academic (Anna Friel) and a sleazy sideshow operator (Danny McBride), finds himself stranded in a prehistoric world filled with menacing creatures, reptilian aliens and furry Cro-Magnon natives. Unfortunately, what is being marketed as a “family” film is far from one. In addition to cartoonish violence and peril, the film includes: rough language; sexual innuendo and encounters, with mastur-

bation as a running joke and scenes of alien copulation; partial nudity; several gay-friendly jokes; drug use; and a non sequitur in which Farrell proclaims, “My love for you is greater than the love Jesus Christ had when dying on the cross.” *USCCB classification — adults. MPAA rating — PG-13.*

“My Life in Ruins”

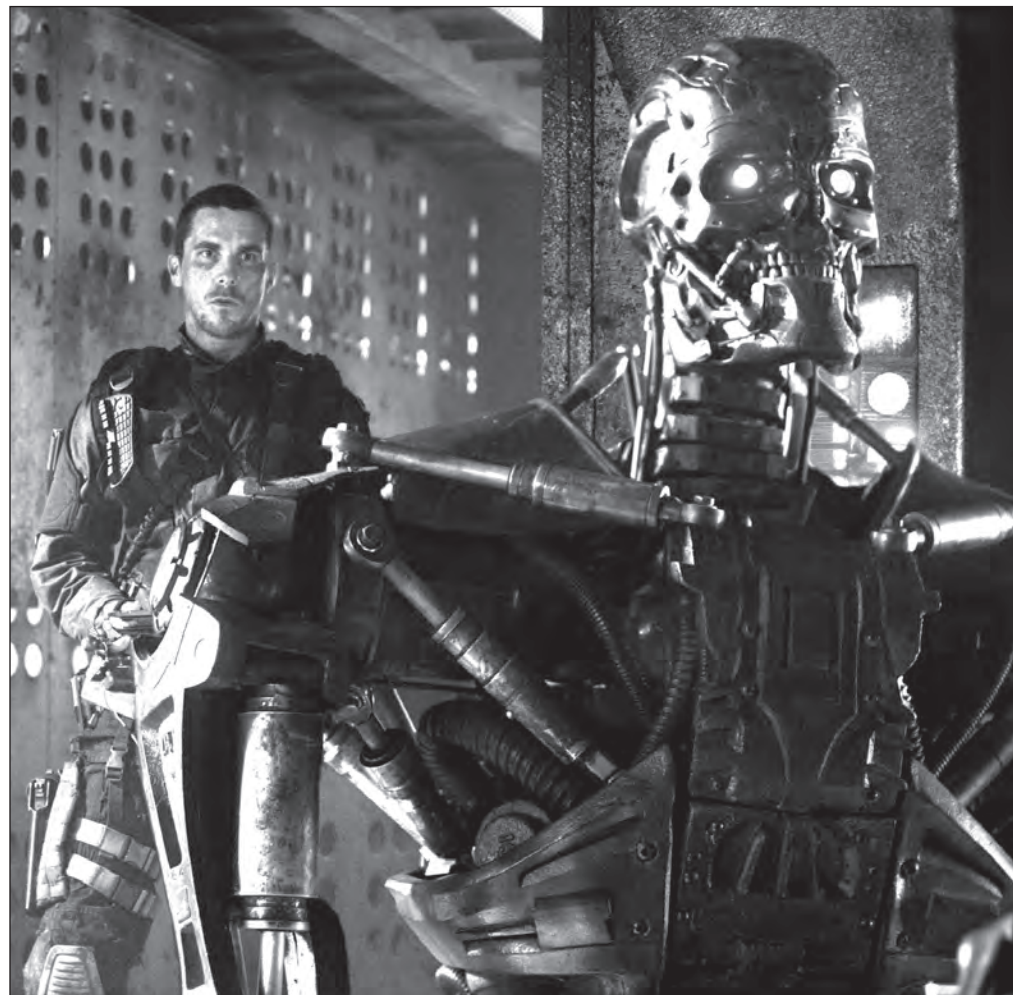
(Fox Searchlight) Cotton-ball-soft romantic comedy about a travel guide in Greece (Nia Vardalos) who learns to absorb the spirit of the Greek islands in order to enjoy life and find romance with — who else? — a handsome Greek (Alexis Georgoulis). A couple of implied premarital encounters, mild sexual banter and innuendo. *USCCB classification — adults and adolescents. MPAA rating — PG-13.*

“Up”

(Disney/Pixar) Instant classic in which Carl Frederickson (voice of Ed Asner), a grumpy septuagenarian, decides to get away from it all by relocating his home to South America with the help of thousands of colorful balloons. Joined by an earnest 8-year-old stowaway named Russell (Jordan Nagai), a gigantic squawking bird, and a “talking” dog, Carl finds the adventure of a lifetime as the ragtag group battles evil in the Venezuelan jungle. Some serious thematic material and a few scenes of intense peril may disturb small children. *USCCB classification — general patronage. MPAA rating — PG.*

“Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian”

(Fox) Enjoyable sequel has the ex-Museum of Natural History night guard (Ben Stiller) traveling to Washington to rescue his formerly inanimate friends — the museum’s display figures (Owen Wilson, Robin Williams, Steve Coogan) — from being archived in the Smithsonian. With the help of Amelia Earhart (Amy Adams) and General Custer (Bill Hader), they must



MAN VERSUS MACHINE: John Connor (Christian Bale) battles Skynet’s cyborgs in a scene from “Terminator Salvation.”

ward off Egyptian pharaoh Kahmunrah (Hank Azaria), Ivan the Terrible (Christopher Guest), Napoleon Bonaparte (Alain Chabat) and Al Capone (Jon Bernthal). *USCCB classification — general patronage. MPAA rating — PG.*

“Drag Me to Hell”

(Universal) Intentionally over-the-top horror tale in which a Los Angeles loan officer (Alison Lohman) is cursed to death and damnation by a woman (Lorna Raver) on whose home her bank is foreclosing and, with the reluctant support of her skeptical boyfriend (Justin Long), enlists the aid of a fortuneteller (Dileep Rao) in her increasingly frantic efforts to undo the spell. Some hand-to-hand violence, a premarital situation and some crude language. *USCCB classification — adults. MPAA rating — PG-13.*

“Dance Flick”

(Paramount) Flat-footed genre satire with a minimal plot about the unlikely romance between a would-be ballerina (Shoshana Bush) and a street dancer (Damon Wayans, Jr.). Much sexual and some scatological humor, frequent crude language, and occasional comic violence. *USCCB classification — limited adult audience. MPAA rating — PG-13.*

Don't Bother!

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



“Easy Virtue”
(Sony Classics)

“The Hangover”
(Warner Bros.)

Free Catholic Resource Answers ‘Angels & Demons’

WEST CHESTER, Penn. — *Answering Angels & Demons* provides Catholics with the information they need to see through the distortions and lies of director Ron Howard’s film “Angels & Demons.”

The free downloadable e-book is available at www.AnsweringAngelsandDemons.com.

“Angels & Demons,” a follow-up to “The Da Vinci Code,” was released May 15 and stars Tom Hanks as Harvard “symbolist” Robert Langdon.

Answering Angels & Demons was written by Mark Shea, a popular Catholic author and blogger. The e-book, which was published by Ascension Press, contains 33 questions and answers that dispute and dispel the outrageous claims made in the film and novel on which it was based.

“Angels & Demons” is “full of half-truths, historical inaccuracies and outright lies,” Shea said. Though it is wrapped in an exciting story of mystery and intrigue, he added, “Angels & Demons”

also has a clear agenda.

“Portraying the Church as an institution determined to eliminate those who would foster scientific progress, ‘Angels & Demons’ paints a picture of our Catholic heritage that denies even the most basic facts of history,” he explained.

Matthew Pinto, president of Ascension Press, describes the film as “an overt attack on the Catholic Church that has the potential to shake the faith of millions of people who know little about Catholic teaching and Catholic and Western history.”

Shea’s “short but pithy book,” Pinto added, “will make it clear to readers that the Church, far from being an enemy to scientific progress, has throughout the centuries encouraged the scientific endeavors of such men as Copernicus [a Polish Catholic priest], and has been at the forefront of scientific research throughout history.”

To receive a copy of this free Catholic resource, visit www.AnsweringAngelsandDemons.com.

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This Pentecost, Mexican bishops consecrated their country to the Holy Spirit. The first such consecration took place in 1925, when the Church was being actively persecuted and Catholics were being imprisoned and executed.



Father Michael Sinor

The secretary general of the Mexican Bishops Conference said the bishops made this renewal “given the gravity of the moment we are living through, marked by the economic crisis, generalized violence, the invasion of drug trafficking, the kidnappings and the loss of human values.”

A recent newspaper article stated that more than 10,750 people have died in drug violence in the last three years. Thousands of those deaths have been just on the other side of the border from us, less than 30 minutes away. Far too many of these deaths have been innocent children caught in the violence.

Even volunteer charity and church groups from this side of the border have quit going

Unlocking Our Fearful Hearts

Fear is a strange thing. A certain amount of it is healthy. But too much and it begins to take on a life of its own.

to Tijuana, because the situation is so dangerous. There is an atmosphere of fear that is affecting the most vulnerable of people.

In the Gospel proclaimed on Pentecost Sunday, the disciples were locked in a room out of fear for their own lives. The risen Lord came into this locked room and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

Most of those who are reading this article are not threatened by outside violence. There are some who may feel they live under the shadow of death, because of serious illness or just advanced age. All of us have fears of one sort or another. All of us have at least some places where the doors of our hearts or minds are “locked,” because of some kind of fear.

Fear is a strange thing. A certain amount of it is healthy. But too much and it begins to take on a life of its own. Fear is contagious,

and that sometimes is even more dangerous than the object of our fear. Most of all, our fears rob us of our energy and potential to be fully alive.

Jesus, the risen Lord, has not only conquered death, but all of our deepest fears.

“Peace be with you.” He said it twice in the Gospel; we need to hear it more than once.

Jesus breaks into our fears and disarms them the same way He did with His first disciples — by loving us in our weakness and transforming us through that love. The disciples were loved in their fear and weakness, not because of their merits.

Jesus breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” The Scriptures use the same word for “breath” in Genesis when God created human beings out of lifeless clay. He re-created these disciples. And, as we hear in the Acts of

the Apostles, they went out to the streets to share their newfound freedom in Christ.

In renewing the consecration of Mexico to the Holy Spirit, the bishops stated, “This consecration is an act of faith and hope, with which we manifest our firm confidence in Jesus Christ, Lord of history, who guides our steps with the wisdom and strength of His Spirit, in these times of harsh trials.”

These bishops of Mexico made a decision. They made a decision to speak out, even after some of them have received threats to their lives. Most importantly, they have made a decision to invite the Holy Spirit into their lives, so that they don’t have to live out of fear.

We have been given that same Spirit in baptism and in confirmation. Sometimes, we need to respond more actively to the Spirit that God has first given. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will stir up the fire of His love and free us from those fears that keep us from being fully alive in Christ.

The Southern Cross

Father Michael Sinor is pastor of St. Didacus Parish.

Be Not Afraid ... Amid the Challenging Economy

I didn’t expect to like this house so much.

It was a move, after all, prompted by financial needs, not desire.



Debra Tomaselli

Every other move my husband and I ever made was exciting, triggered by promotions and growth. We outgrew the townhouse we owned as newlyweds, graduated to a four-bedroom house with a fenced yard when we had kids, and finally built a spacious home on a lake with an in-ground swimming pool, embracing 14 years of happy memories.

Here, we celebrated first Communions and confirmations, proms and graduations. Here, we held Brownie meetings and Bible studies, soccer parties and Kentucky Derby celebrations. The home was like a dear friend.

The realtor sat down at our kitchen table, opened his briefcase and addressed the sluggish real estate sales. “This market isn’t for the feint of heart,” he said.

As he pulled out charts, facts and figures, I turned my attention away, focusing on tunes of “Our God Is An Awesome God.” Earlier, I had plugged in the CD, knowing we’d need a little divine strength for this transaction.

And divine strength we received.

In the weeks that followed, my husband and I stood in the front yard and prayed that God would send just the right family to buy our house. And that prayer was answered.

We raised three daughters who attended Catholic schools. The family that bought our home had two daughters, both enrolled in Catholic school.

In the hectic days that followed, we searched nonstop for a new house. It was surprising how many homes looked okay until we really considered living there. One was too big; another too small. One need-

ed too many repairs; another was priced too high.

Then, finally, at the insistence of a friend, my husband and I visited this house one Sunday after Mass. It didn’t stand out from the street, but we fell in love with it as soon as we stepped inside. French doors and expansive windows offered a breathtaking view of the backyard, which included a massive oak tree, a prayer bench, and a tranquil canal.

We felt blessed. Not only did the house suit our financial needs and meet our space requirements, but the sacred setting was out-of-this-world.

One night after moving in, while eating our dinner on paper plates amid stacks of unpacked boxes and rolls of shelving paper,

I looked at my husband. “If we could move back to our old house tomorrow, I’d say, ‘Forget it, I like this house more,’” I said. “Do you feel the same way?”

Smiling, he nodded.

Neither one of us expected that. It was a move prompted strictly by the economy, one we didn’t want to have to make. But I am convinced that the good Lord goes before us always, anticipating our every need. There is no reason to fear the changes in life, even if we think we do not want to make them.

Our God really is an awesome God.

Debra Tomaselli writes from Altamonte Springs, Fla. She can be reached at dtomaselli@cfl.rr.com.

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Leisure Activity

Of the two-thirds of Americans who plan to take a summer vacation, nearly half will spend less money than last year.



Online poll conducted among 2,401 adults April 13 and 21, 2009.
Source: The Harris Poll

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If it was the old Soviet Union or modern-day China — or maybe North Korea or Saudi Arabia — one might not be so shocked at the news. However, this took place in the United States of America, where freedom of religion is guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution. In fact, it occurred right here in San Diego County.



Msgr. Dennis L. Mikulanis

The first news came from an internet blog which, at first glance, was so ridiculous it was dismissed as a crank blog. The news persisted until it sounded like there might be some substance to it, but still, it was so absurd that it was beyond belief. Finally, the May 30 edition of *The San Diego Union-Tribune* carried the story at the top of page one: “County won’t force permit on Bible study leaders.”

Basically what happened is this: A Protestant pastor in Bonita was holding Bible study classes in his home. There were some neighbors displeased about the fact that people were gathering to do this, so they complained to the authorities.

Taking a Stand for Religious Liberty

In all the ways that evil is working against people of faith, the restriction of freedom of religion is the most subtle

A county code enforcement officer warned the pastor that he couldn’t hold a Bible study in his home without a permit, because it was considered a “religious assembly” and they were saying things like “Amen!” and “Praise the Lord!”

Thankfully, thinking people who heard about this began to bombard county officials with letters and emails protesting this infringement of religious liberty. The county immediately backed down.

One has to wonder what the county would have done had Christian people not taken a stand for the religious liberty that is our right in this country. A disgruntled neighbor complains about another’s Bible study and an overzealous and apparently anti-religious county bureaucrat threatens legal action if the Bible study doesn’t end immediately. Imagine the implications for

everyone had the county persisted in this foolishness!

Many founding members of Catholic parishes in San Diego — San Rafael Parish being one of them — remember when daily Mass was celebrated in a tract home bought by the parish as the first “base of operations” until larger and more appropriate space could be found. Would the police have had to raid the Mass to stop it, because some neighbors were offended?

In all the ways that evil is working against people of faith, the restriction of freedom of religion is the most subtle. In 2000, a Catholic church was attacked by arsonists, but the San Diego Police Department and the ATF (which investigates arson of religious sites) abruptly gave up the investigation after only two weeks,

because they said the clues ran cold (despite a description of the car and partial license plate of the arsonists). Actually, one thinks they were just too indifferent to proceed.

Can an anti-abortion, pro-life candidate run for political office in this country and have any real hope of success? Are Catholic universities willing to stand on Catholic principles in what they teach and whom they invite for special honors, or is their desire for social acceptance and federal dollars more important?

We can all be lulled to sleep without our even knowing it. Every one of us needs to look at our own actions and ways of thinking to determine our fidelity to Jesus Christ and the Gospel. Have we become so comfortable in our society that we are willing to compromise the truth for social acceptance? Do we form our conscience from the dictates of a political party or the teachings of the Church?

Catholics are approximately 25 percent of the population of this country. Does it show?

The Southern Cross

Msgr. Dennis L. Mikulanis, pastor of San Rafael Parish in Rancho Bernardo, is Vicar for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs for the Diocese of San Diego.

Husband Discovers New Love for Wife

Recently, a friend of mine said: “I’ve discovered that I enjoy being a great husband more than having a great wife.”

Puzzled, I asked: “What do you mean?”

“Well,” he continued, “I used to think the best part of marriage was being married to a great woman. You know, having a gorgeous, sexy wife.



Rick Hermann

“I still think she’s beautiful, but I’ve come to realize that I find more pleasure in being a great husband than in having a great wife. You know, like doing special things for her and taking care of her.”

He smiled as he spoke, and his eyes glistened.

“She’s been sick for three years now, and I’ve discovered I like being able to help her. I actually enjoy being the one who is there for her, even when she doesn’t realize it or appreciate it.”

He concluded, “I’m not bragging or anything; it’s just true. I’ve discovered a much deeper love for her and a new outlook on life.”

As I listened, it dawned on me that I was hearing something special. His words brightened my mind like sunbeams on a stained-glass window. I marveled at his discovery and shared his delight.

Here was a grown man being born anew, in full view. He was being transformed by the love of God into a new creation. Here in the body and blood of my friend was a new awakening, a new beginning.

This is love in the flesh, love incarnate, the re-incarnation of

Christ. This is the love of God, “*agape*” love, in which the lover seeks only what is best for his beloved. This is the passionate love of Jesus, totally self-giving. In it, we both lose and find ourselves. It overflows in us with pure joy.

We find this love only if we seek it with all our heart, like children searching for buried treasure. Once we discover it, we joyfully sell everything to possess it.

Those who find this love are truly blessed, and they bless everyone around them. Whoever finds this love is radically transformed. Like the weary traveler who climbs the mountain and gasps at the sight of the Promised Land, or the sinner who stumbles into the cathedral and is astonished by the majesty inside, we discover a love more wonderful than we ever imagined.

The man who loves this way is the greatest warrior. He is greater than any general who conquers a city, for he has conquered himself (Proverbs 16:32).

In my friend, we see the reflection of Christ, who sacrificed Himself for the sake of His bride, the Church. As St. Paul says, “Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the Church” (Ephesians 5:25).

This man is a priest to his wife, for he is devoted to her and lays down his life for her. His life is consecrated, set apart from the world and other women, given to her alone.

How many women yearn for a lover like this? How many wives would gladly submit to a husband who loves her so completely? By giving himself entirely to his bride, he sanctifies her and redeems himself. In return, she may give herself completely to him, as to the Lord.

This love is perfect, and reminds us that we can indeed “be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matthew 5:48).

This man shows marriage is more than sexual pleasure and creating babies. He reveals deeper dimensions of marriage, in which we glorify God and help each other get to heaven.

“This is a profound mystery,” says St. Paul. “I am talking about Christ and the Church” (Ephesians 5:32).

When a man loves his wife like this, he loves her the way Jesus loves us.

Rick Hermann is a popular columnist and freelance writer. He responds to email at RH222@sbglobal.net.

'Fathers for Good' Web Site Stands Ready to Help Catholic Dads

In the April issue of *Columbia* magazine, the national publication of the Knights of Columbus, Brian Caulfield examined what it means to be a father in this day and age, especially in view of the mixed messages our society sends about the nature of manhood, parenting and marriage.



Father Charles L. Fuld

Divorce rates and incidents of single-parent families (usually mom and the kids) are shamefully high. There are other troubling statistics, as well.

"Children growing up without their father in the home are twice as likely to drop out of school, whereas half of all children with highly involved fathers in two-parent families report getting mostly high marks through 12th grade," Caulfield writes. "In addition, kids in single-parent homes report higher rates of drinking, smoking, drug use, delinquency, aggression, early sexual experience and a host of other negative behaviors."

In an attempt to help men better live up to their role as fathers (and husbands), the Knights of Columbus have established a new Web site, www.fathersforgood.org. It

addresses these and many other issues about fatherhood, with comments by "everyday dads like you."

I was impressed by the very practical comments on how to meet the day-to-day challenges you can expect, like listening to your kids, healthy TV habits, when kids should date, and even renewing your marriage vows. It underscores the importance of our Catholic faith. The Web site provides an opportunity for blogging, if you're into that. It also provides a list of books that can offer further insight into how to make a family work.

Caulfield writes, "Every man, deep down and amid his flaws, wants to be a good father, to make a positive contribution to the lives of his wife and children, even if he has to struggle all his life to do so. ... Once a man becomes a father, once he contributes to the creation of new life, there is no turning back. He is a father for good, with the responsibilities that go with it."

That statement certainly resonates with the words of Pope Benedict XVI, who sets St. Joseph as an exemplar for fathers.

Even though St. Joseph "is not the biological father of Jesus, whose Father is God alone, ... he lived his fatherhood fully and completely," Pope Benedict said March 18 in Cameroon, during the recent papal visit

Fathers by the Numbers

Father's Day has been celebrated nationally since 1972 when President Richard Nixon signed the public law that made it a permanent observance.

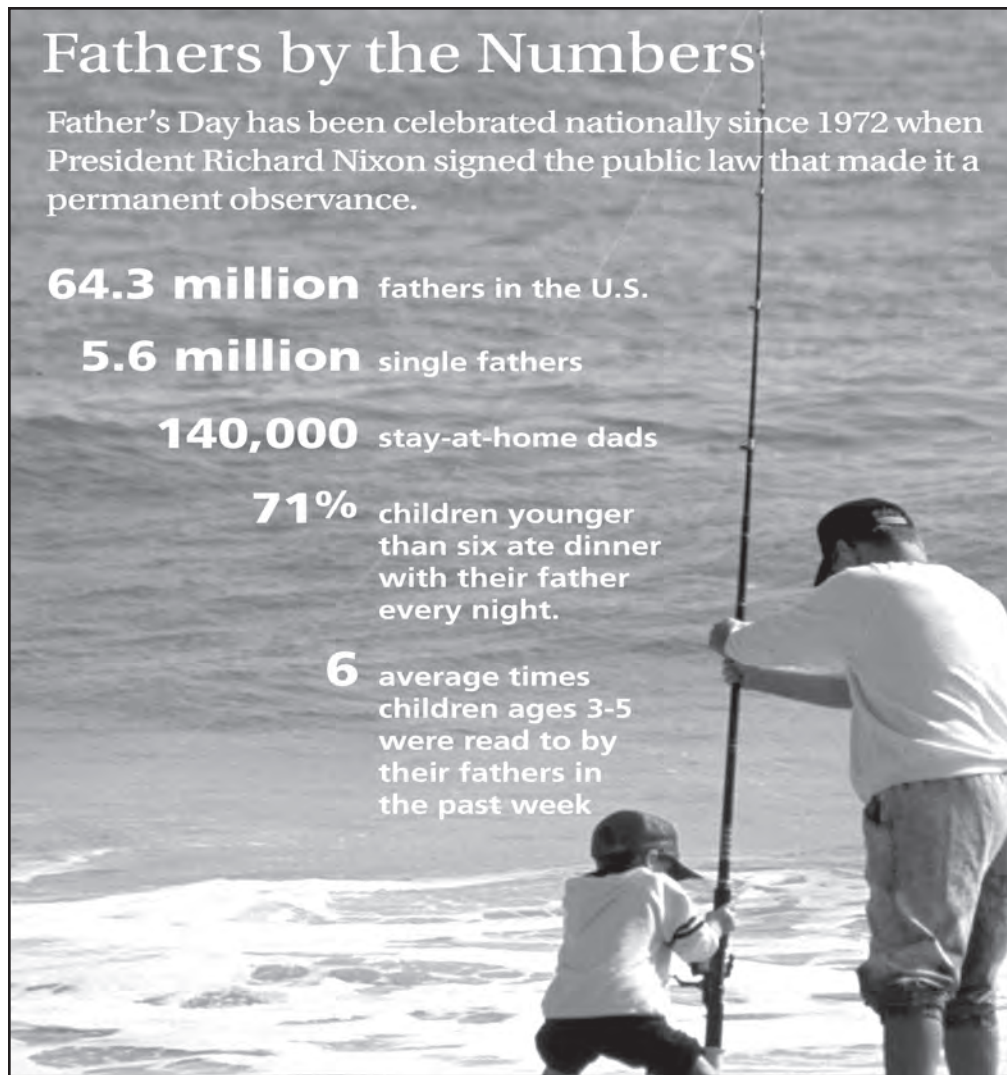
64.3 million fathers in the U.S.

5.6 million single fathers

140,000 stay-at-home dads

71% children younger than six ate dinner with their father every night.

6 average times children ages 3-5 were read to by their fathers in the past week



CNS GRAPHIC/EMILY THOMPSON

to Africa.

For the sake of Christ, the pope added, St. Joseph experienced persecutions, exile and poverty. "In Joseph," he said, "faith is not

separate from action."

Those are words for every father today!

The Southern Cross

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

EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHETICAL MINISTRY

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

Basic Catechist Formation

48-hour course grants California Catechist Certification. Cost: \$60/person. Upcoming courses offered at:

Corpus Christi Parish, Bonita — from 6-9 p.m., starting Wednesday, June 17, and continuing Wednesday evenings and some Saturdays. Call (619) 482-3953.

St. Luke Parish, El Cajon — from 6-9 p.m., starting Wednesday, July 1, and continuing Wednesday evenings and some Saturdays. Call (619) 442-1697.

St. Peter Parish, Fallbrook — from 6-9 p.m., starting Wednesday, July 8, and continuing Wednesday evenings and three Saturdays. Call (760) 728-7034, ext. 306.

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.

Religious Education Workshop

"Enhancing Religious Education through Creative Expression" provides teachers and catechists of the first through eighth grades with 30 activities per grade that may be used to enhance their students' religious education experience. Fee: \$15. The workshop will be held at two locations:

- From 6-9 p.m., Tuesday, July 7, at the Pastoral Center.
- From 6-9 p.m., Tuesday, July 14, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Calexico. Fee: \$15.

Summer Catechetical Conference

"The Church at Home," presented by Jo Ann Paradise, Ph.D. From 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (with Eucharistic liturgy at 8 a.m.), Saturday, Aug. 15, at Mater Dei Catholic High School's Lima Center. Fee: \$15.

Fall Catechetical Conference

"The Spirituality of the Catechist," presented by Jo Ann

DIOCESAN PROGRAMS

Paradise, Ph.D. From 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 26, at Mater Dei Catholic High School's Lima Center. Fee: \$15.

Spanish Workshops and Courses:

Curso Básico para Ministros y Evangelizadores Parroquiales

Es un curso de 48 horas y costo: \$60.

- La parroquia el San Gabriel, Poway, comienzo sábado, 11 de julio, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. y continuará cada domingo.
- La parroquia el Misión San Antonio, Pala, comienzo martes, 14 de julio, 1-5 p.m. y continuará cada domingo.

Taller de Artesanías (Centro Pastoral)

Taller, de 2-5 p.m., sábado, 18 de julio, en el Centro Pastoral. Costo: \$10.

Taller de Artesanías (Valle Imperial)

- Taller, de 2-5 p.m., sábado, 11 de julio, en el la parroquia el San José, Westmorland. Costo: \$10.
- Taller, de 2-5 p.m., sábado, 25 de julio, en el la parroquia el San José, Holtville. Costo: \$10.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

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

Natural Family Planning Classes

Sympto-Thermal Method

- 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. - 10/20; 11/3; 12/1; 1/4/2010 -

Clairemont area

- Tuesdays - 7-9 p.m. - 11/17; 12/3 (Thursday); 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

Ovulation Method

- Mondays - 7-9 p.m. - 6/29; 7/13; 7/27; 8/10; 8/24 - Clairemont area
- Tuesdays - 7-9 p.m. - 7/7; 7/21; 8/4; 8/18; 9/1 - Clairemont area

YOUTH MINISTRY

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

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@diocese-sdiego.org or call (858) 490-8260.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

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

North County Regional Young Adult Group

Monthly rotating Mass and dinner: 5 p.m., Sunday, June 21, at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Vista. Young adults (age 18-35) are invited to attend Mass, followed by dinner at Colima's (1850 Hacienda Dr., 92081). Look for the welcome signs at the front of the Church and plan to sit together. This month-

ly event takes place on the third Sunday of the month, its location rotating among various North County parishes. The group also sponsors a bi-monthly Bible study and monthly social and service event. For the calendar, visit www.yamsd.org. For more information, contact Carrie at cgiebel@diocese-sdiego.org or (858) 490-8260.

Theology on Tap

Join other single and married Catholic young adults (age 18-39) for food, fellowship and dynamic speakers from 7-9 p.m., Thursdays in July, at Chevy's Mexican restaurant (1202 Camino Del Rio North) in Mission Valley. July 9th, "Missions," with James DeHarpporte (regional director of Catholic Relief Services); July 16, "Apologetics," with Karl Keating (president of Catholic Answers); July 23, "Spiritual Growth," with Father William Dillard (pastor of St. John the Evangelist, San Diego); July 30, "Marriage Vocation," with Deacon Robert and Irene Booth (parishioners at St. John the Evangelist). For more information, visit www.yamsd.org, or contact Carrie at cgiebel@diocese-sdiego.org or (858) 490-8260.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Detention Ministry

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

Courage

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

Encourage

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

PARISH EVENTS

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

Rosary Procession
Every first Sunday of the month, from 2:30-4 p.m., Immaculata Parish hosts a rosary procession. For information, call (619) 476-8014.

Healing Prayer Ministry
Meets monthly at St. James Parish in Solana Beach every Tuesday during July and August (7:30-9:30 p.m.), third Saturdays (6-7 p.m.) and after all 9 a.m. Sunday

PARISH EVENTS

Masses. Next quarterly healing Mass: 7 p.m., July 28. For information, call (858) 755-8990.

Healing Masses
7 p.m. Mass preceded by 6:45 p.m. praise and worship at St. Timothy Parish in Escondido: June 23, Aug. 25, Oct. 27 and Nov. 17. For information, call (760) 741-0866.

Musical Concert
"The Crush" (male quartet) performs at 7 p.m., June 20, at San Rafael Parish in Rancho Bernardo. Cost: \$10 at the door. For information, call (858) 487-4314.

Choir Festival
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in San Ysidro will hold its 10th annual choir festi-

PARISH EVENTS

val July 10. All choirs, all styles, all forms are welcome. Come share your ideas and talents! For information, email frankmusik@aol.com.

Benefit Dinner
Mission San Diego de Alcalá celebrates its 240th anniversary with a Patron's Dinner Dance at 6:30 p.m., July 17, on the mission grounds. Proceeds benefit improvements for the Casa del Padre Serra. To receive an invitation, contact (858) 292-4848 or hmelkerson@san.rr.com.

Annual Festival
Resurrection Parish in Escondido will hold its annual festival Aug. 28-30 from 5-9 p.m. (Friday) and 11 a.m.-9 p.m. (Saturday and Sunday). Includes carnival rides, enter-

PARISH EVENTS

tainment and food. Free admission. For information, call (760) 747-2322.

GROUPS

Alumni Event
All alumni from Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Angels and Our Lady's School are invited to the first annual Alumni Wine and Cheese, June 20, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Hall. For information, call (619) 233-0962.

Recruiting Missionaries
"Celebrant Singers" is a ministry with 10 singers, orchestra and band, sound tech, ASL-interpreter and bus driver traveling around the world to proclaim God's love. For information, call (800) 321-2500.

Alumni Group
St. John the Evangelist School in Encinitas is searching for alumni. Alumni may call the school at (760) 944-8227 or visit the school Web site (www.saintjohnschool.com) and click on the alumni link for further instructions.

'Love Our Priests' Prayer Group
Next Mass: 10 a.m., June 20, at Ascension Parish (11292 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.). Celebrant: Father Dominic Morissette. Bring potluck and guest. For information, call (858) 560-7132.

Birthline of SD County
Pro-life volunteers (especially bilingual) are needed to work weekly three-hour shifts in a pregnancy support center in the Clairemont area (858-270-2491) or in southwestern Chula Vista (619-425-5012). Training provided.

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

GROUPS

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.

Secular Franciscans
Do you feel God calling you to a deeper spirituality steeped in the life and the love of St. Francis of Assisi?

• Secular Franciscans meet noon-4 p.m. on the second Sunday of the month at St. Patrick's Parish in North Park. For information, call (619) 698-4365 or (858) 566-6870.
• The Secular Franciscans of Mission San Luis Rey, Oceanside, meet at 2 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month. For information, call (760) 728-2707.

Ignatian Volunteer Corps
Are you 50 or older, semi-retired/retired and eager to "give something back" in service to the local poor? IVC may be for you! Call (619) 881-9509, email mcarroll@ivcusa.org or visit www.ivcusa.org.

Padre Pio Devotions
Every first Monday at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish. Rosary begins at 6:30 p.m.; Mass at 7 p.m. Benediction and prayers follow. For information, call (619) 697-5958 or visit www.saintpio.org.

Catholic Separated/Divorced
Support group meets weekly at St. James Parish in Solana Beach. The group helps participants deal with the pain of separation and divorce while growing closer to God. For information, call (760) 533-1520 or email fvgrants@earthlink.net.

The Goretto Group
Our Lady of the Rosary Parish hosts a monthly St. Maria Goretto Mass devotion at 6:30 p.m. on first Fridays, and a Theology of the Body Study at 7 p.m. on second and fourth Wednesdays. For information, visit www.thegoretto.org.

St. Thomas More Society
The St. Thomas More society for judges, attorneys and legal professionals holds its

GROUPS

monthly luncheons on first Fridays. For information, call (619) 595-4294.

Holy Spirit Ministries
• Mass/healing service: 7:30 p.m., July 3 and July 20, at Holy Spirit Parish. Includes Eucharistic exposition and adoration.

• Seminar: "Life in the Spirit," 7:30 p.m., June 22 and June 29, at Holy Spirit Parish.
• For information, call (619) 262-9685 or visit www.holyspiritministry.net.

San Diego Merton Society
Meets for 45 minutes of contemplation at 6:25 p.m., Thursdays, at St. Brigid Parish in Pacific Beach. On the second Thursday of the month, there is a potluck social and discussion of Merton. For information, call (858) 483-3343 or e-mail waltmillietice@sbcglobal.net.

WORKSHOPS, RETREATS AND CONFERENCES

Marriage Encounter
Graduate from a good marriage to a great one! Next Marriage Encounter Weekend: June 26-28. For information or to sign up, e-mail broy2@san.rr.com.

Natural Family Planning
Four-session class on the sympto-thermal method — Church-approved and 99.6 percent effective. A new class starts July 7 at the diocesan Pastoral Center. For more information, e-mail daveandcheryl@cox.net or call (619) 303-5053.

After-Abortion Healing
An after-abortion healing retreat for Catholic (or Catholic-friendly) women will be held July 10-12 at the diocesan Pastoral Center. Cost: \$45; scholarships available. For information/registration, visit www.RachelsHope.org or call (858) 581-3022.

Silent Ignatian Retreats
Preached by Miles Christi priests. For women: Sept. 11-13 in Santa Barbara. For men: July 24-26 and Sept. 4-6 in Oceanside. Includes spiritual talks, Eucharistic adoration and daily Mass. For more information, contact california@spiritualexercices.net or (209) 357-0128.

Beginning Experience
For separated/widowed/divorced persons looking to move beyond their grief, weekends will be held: July 17-19 and Nov. 13-15 at Prince of Peace Abbey (Oceanside). For information, visit www.beginningexperience.org or call (858) 274-1878.

Vocation Retreats
Prince of Peace Abbey in Oceanside will offer two vocation retreats this summer for men (age 21-45): July 13-17 and Aug. 31-Sept. 4. For information, call (760) 967-4200, ext. 208, or e-mail vocationmonk@aol.com.

Cursillo World Ultreya
The fourth international Cursillo gathering will take place Aug. 1 in Anaheim at the Anaheim Arena. Includes Mass with Cardinal Juan Sandoval of Guadalajara, an address from Pope Benedict XVI, witness talks and a keynote from the undersecretary of the Pontifical Council for the Laity. Tickets: \$25; must be purchased in advance through www.orgmcc.org.

Anglican/Catholic Day of Dialogue
Theme: "Prefer Christ Above All Things" (St. Benedict): Spirituality in Search of Unity." 9 a.m.-noon, Aug. 24, at the diocesan Pastoral Center. Speakers: Father Luke Dysinger, O.S.B., and Rev. Canon David Caffrey. To register, send \$20 (which includes lunch) with your name, address and phone number to: Msgr. Dennis Mikulanis, 17252 Bernardo Center Dr., San Diego, CA 92128.

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. Those intended to appear in a particular month's issue should be received — at the very latest — by noon on the first Friday of that month.
- Announcements will appear for at most three months, after which they must be re-submitted via email or fax (email preferred).
- To be listed in the "Groups" section, a group must be able to present the endorsement of their pastor, the diocese or a recognized national/international Catholic entity.
- All announcements appear on a space-permitting basis.



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 Also see your 2009 Catholic Directory Yellow Pages

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