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Coadjutor Bishop Aspires to Be 'Good Minister,' 'Humble Servant-Leader'

Bishop Flores welcomed with diocesan liturgy

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO — The Diocese of San Diego officially received its new coadjutor bishop, Cirilo B. Flores, with a welcoming Mass Feb. 13.

Bishop Robert H. Brom celebrated the liturgy in the presence of Cardinal Roger Mahony, archbishop emeritus of Los Angeles, and with Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles and retired Auxiliary Bishop Gilbert E. Chavez of San Diego serving as the principal concelebrants.

About 20 bishops, including Bishop Phillip F. Straling and Bishop Salvatore J. Cordileone — both native sons of the San Diego Diocese — and Bishop Sarhad Jammo of the Chaldean Eparchy of St. Peter the Apostle, gathered at St. Therese of Carmel Parish for the liturgy. They were joined by clergy, religious and laity from both the dioceses of San Diego and Orange, as well as members of Bishop Flores' family and representatives of non-Catholic Christian faiths.

Near the beginning of the liturgy, Bishop Flores officially presented the apostolic letter in which Pope Benedict XVI appointed him as coadjutor bishop. The text was read for the entire assembly.

Bishop Flores expressed gratitude for the appointment and for the love and support he has received.



WELCOMING MASS: Coadjutor Bishop Cirilo B. Flores (left), seated beside Bishop Robert H. Brom, listens to congratulatory remarks from Los Angeles Archbishop Jose H. Gomez during a Feb. 13 liturgy.

"Thanks be to God, from whom we have received so many blessings," he declared, as he began his homily. "This afternoon, let us thank God for the gift of life, the gift of faith, the gift of our Church, and the gift of our ministry. My message is indeed one of gratitude."

The new coadjutor bishop then

proceeded to thank many individuals and groups by name, including Pope Benedict for making the appointment; Cardinal Mahony, Archbishop Gomez and his brother bishops for their presence at the Mass; and Bishop Brom for his hospitality and for the leadership he has demonstrated during his 22

years as bishop of San Diego.

To Bishop Brom, he added, "I look forward to working with you and learning from you regarding the gifts, challenges, resources and stewardship of our diocese."

Bishop Flores also expressed gratitude for Bishop Tod D.

SEE COADJUTOR, PAGE 13

Obama Administration Strikes at Religious Freedom

Mandate described as a 'to hell with you' toward U.S. Catholics

By Carol Zimmermann

WASHINGTON — Catholic bishops across the country have expressed their disapproval of President Barack Obama's newly announced revision to the contraceptive mandate in the health reform law, saying it does nothing to change what they and other religious leaders and organizations consider an intrusion on religious liberty.

Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced Jan. 20 that religious organizations could delay but not opt out of the requirement that all health plans cover contraceptives and sterilization free of charge.

On Feb. 10, Obama announced a revision that allows religious employers not to offer such services to their employees but would compel insurance companies to do so. The change came after three weeks of intensive criticism that the contraception mandate would require most religious institutions to pay for coverage they find morally objectionable.

And now questions have been raised over how that revision will pertain to self-insured parties, like many dioceses and Catholic organizations, and whether it could still force entities morally opposed to contraception to pay for such services.

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York said that, with his revision to the HHS mandate, the president offered "next to nothing."

Los Angeles Archbishop Jose H. Gomez said he found the president's revision "troubling and frustrating."

"Unfortunately, he did not really respond

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Seven-Year-Old Brings Food, Christ's Love to Homeless

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO — Dominic Piconi may be a little boy, but he has some big plans.

"I want to be the pope," he told *The Southern Cross* Jan. 5.

Unfortunately, the chances of becoming the Vicar of Christ on Earth are pretty slim. But if the youngster could be encouraged to set his sights just a little bit lower, perhaps aspiring to be the next Father Joe Carroll instead, he would already be well on his way.

"Jesus wants me to feed the homeless," said Dominic, who launched his own homeless outreach about a year and a half ago.

Every Wednesday, he makes 10 sack lunches and, accompanied by his mother, Sophie, distributes them in downtown San Diego. Each lunch contains food for the body as well as for the soul: a baloney-and-cheese sandwich, a packet of cheese-and-crackers snacks, a banana, a bottle of water, a scapular and perhaps a few holy cards.

The scapulars and holy cards are included, Dominic said, "because we want them to be with Jesus and go to heaven."

"We tell them that Jesus and Mary will protect you," he added.

In addition to the lunches, Dominic and his mother have distributed other useful items, such as socks and hand-sanitizing wipes as well as additional bottles of water on hot days. Late last year, they were even able to provide a homeless family with a baby stroller.

This homegrown ministry began one day when Sophie Piconi was driving down Rosecrans Street. Noticing a number of homeless people along the road, her son asked what their signs said. Dominic listened to her explanation and declared that

someone needed to help them.

Recognizing this as "a learning moment," Piconi pulled into the drive-thru of a fast-food restaurant and purchased 10 hamburgers, which she and her son distributed — two at a time — to the homeless men and women they encountered. This became a weekly routine for the next three weeks.

But one day, while grocery shopping with his mother, Dominic reminded her that he is not allowed to eat a lot of fast-food and suggested that the homeless should be eating healthier, too. Piconi agreed with her son and promised to buy him whatever supplies he needed to make healthier lunches, but made it clear that this would be his project and his responsibility.

Since then, it has been Dominic who has managed the inventory, and it has been Dominic who has done all the prep work, including taking the bread out of the freezer on Tuesday nights and making and packing each lunch the following morning.

"He does all the work," Piconi said. "It's fully his responsibility. My job is just zipping the Ziploc bags."

In late October, *KFMB-TV News 8* aired a story about Dominic's homeless ministry. At first, Piconi and her husband were reluctant to have their story told on the news. But after some prayer, she said, the couple felt that the resulting news story could inspire others, serving as a reminder that even small actions can make a positive impact.

Since the story aired, two women from Ascension Parish have begun making sandwiches — about 20 each — which Dominic distributes along with his own. As a result, he now has about 60 lunches to



FEEDING THE HUNGRY: Seven-year-old Dominic Piconi packs lunches for San Diego's homeless.

hand out every Wednesday. Thanks to the news coverage, Piconi said, she and Dominic also are joined sometimes by other families for their weekly distribution.

"Anyone can do this," she said. "This is not rocket science. This is really, really simple stuff — just putting others before yourself."

The Southern Cross

Going Door to Door, Local Man Seeks out Fallen-Away Catholics

By Denis Grasska

CARLSBAD — If you live within the parish boundaries of St. Elizabeth Seton Church and hear a knock on your front door, it just might be Bob O'Donnell.

If the 86-year-old has not visited you already, he is certainly on his way.

For the past year, equipped with a street map and often accompanied by a fellow member of the Legion of Mary, O'Donnell has been working his way through the Carlsbad area, one house at a time. Practicing door-to-door evangelization, he invites fallen-away Catholics to return to the practice of their faith and welcomes non-Catholics to consider joining the Church.

O'Donnell said he spends about two days a week performing this ministry, knocking on approximately 70 doors every week. Before relocating to the San Diego area four years ago, he had done the same thing in Illinois and Arkansas. And he has been successful.

"I know of at least 44 people that have either joined the Church or come back" as a result of his efforts, O'Donnell said. "It works."

At every home he visits, O'Donnell has a few questions for whoever answers the door.

First, he asks if there are any Catholics residing in the home. If so, he asks how often they attend Mass. For those who attend less than once a week, he leaves a parish bulletin and a small white card explaining the importance of Sunday Mass attendance.

When he finds himself at the home of someone who attends services at a non-Catholic or non-Christian house of worship, he respectfully asks if they would be willing to accept a parish bulletin as well as some Catholic literature. To those who are neither Catholic nor currently members of any church, he extends an invitation to attend a Mass at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish.

As for those who are not home when O'Donnell makes one of his house calls, many of them will return to discover a parish bulletin tucked under their doormat with the inscription "Sorry we missed you" scrawled across the top.

Father Donald Coleman, pastor of St. Elizabeth Seton, said that O'Donnell's ministry operates with his full support.

"He's inviting people to come home," Father Coleman said. "It's wonderful."

O'Donnell's first foray into this ministry came in 1990, when he was living in Joliet, Ill. In a conversation with his then-pastor, he remarked that there are many people who should be going to church but are not, and that perhaps someone should talk to them. His pastor suggested that he do it, and so he did.

After about two months, with no positive results to be shown for his efforts, O'Donnell seriously considered quitting. But then, the parish secretary informed him that a woman and her two daughters had joined the parish after his visit to their home.

"So, I thought, 'That's good enough for me. I'll keep it up,'" O'Donnell said.

He admits that many people would brush aside the notion

of door-to-door evangelization, prematurely deciding that it just is not for them. But, he predicted, "Once they get started, they would like it." He recalled being a little nervous himself the first time, but said the discomfort wore off once he had two or three houses under his belt.

O'Donnell, who hopes to continue this ministry for as long as he is physically able, described it as "very rewarding and very interesting."

"As you go along the street, you have a lot of nice conversations with people," he explained. "I feel better when I'm done than when I started."

He said the length of those conversations varies from house to house — "You can stay there for two minutes or 25 minutes. You can never know." — and sometimes he is even invited inside. Reflecting on the kind reception he receives, he noted that he "can count on the fingers of one hand" the number of times someone has been "unpleasant" to him.

While knocking on doors, O'Donnell has encountered all sorts of reasons why Catholics have stopped attending Mass. For instance, some have disclosed that they were scandalized by the clergy sex abuse scandal.

When doing door-to-door evangelization, he said, "You've got to be very soft. No pushing ... Just give them the information and let them make up their own mind, [and] say a little prayer along with it."

Those interested in door-to-door evangelization through the Legion of Mary can call O'Donnell at (858) 997-5687.

The Southern Cross

Catholic Leaders Denounce Ruling on *Proposition 8*

By Mark Pattison

WASHINGTON — The archbishops of Los Angeles and New York criticized a federal appellate court decision Feb. 7 that ruled unconstitutional California's *Proposition 8*, a 2008 voter-approved initiative that forbade same-sex marriage in the state.

"The government has no competence and no authority to 'redefine' marriage or 'expand' its definition to include other kinds of relationships," said Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles in a Feb. 7 statement. "To do that is to say that marriage no longer exists. And this would have grave consequences for children and for the common good of our society."

"Our government has a vital interest in promoting marriage for two reasons," Archbishop Gomez said. "First, because marriage is the foundation of society. Second, because government has a duty to promote the well-being of children, who have the right to be born and raised in a family with both their mother and their father."

He added, "This debate over marriage is not about equality or about the needs of individuals. It is much bigger than that. It is about the nature of the human person and the nature of society."

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York called the 2-1 decision by a three-judge panel of the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals "a grave injustice, ignoring the reality that marriage is the union of one man and one woman" in a Feb. 7 statement.

"The Constitution of the United States most assuredly does not forbid the protection of the perennial meaning of marriage, one of the cornerstones of society," said Cardinal Dolan, who is president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. "The people of California deserve better. Our nation deserves better. Marriage deserves better."

The majority opinion said *Proposition 8* violates the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, which guarantees citizens due process and equal protection under the law. It said the state, which had given homosexual couples the right to marry, could not revoke that right.

ProtectMarriage, which put the initiative on the ballot and fought in court to uphold it, can appeal the decision, either to the full 9th Circuit or directly to the U.S. Supreme Court. In the meantime, the appeals panel said no same-sex marriages can be performed.

"Our society does not operate in an amoral or valueless vacuum," said Bishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of Oakland, Calif., chairman of the U.S. bishops' Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage.

"To flourish, it must be infused with moral direction that is grounded in the truth. Of course, the true meaning of



DEFENDING TRADITION: A man opposed to same-sex marriage and in favor of California's Proposition 8 holds signs outside City Hall in San Francisco in this file photo from 2010.

marriage, like the gift of human life, is ultimately not subject to a vote or court ruling," Bishop Cordileone added in a Feb. 7 statement.

"But in California, as in every other state where marriage has been put to a vote, the people justly upheld the truth of marriage. How tragic for California, for the nation, and especially for children, that this correctly informed judgment has now been set aside."

The 9th Circuit's decision is "the latest action in an ongoing attempt to redefine marriage," said Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington.

"What cannot be changed is the truth: Marriage is the sacred institution that unites a man and a woman with each other and with the children born of their union. It is not the mere public recognition of a committed relationship for the sole benefit of two adults," Cardinal Wuerl said in a Feb. 7 statement. "While today's action is disappointing, it will not be the final word on this issue."

Proposition 8 passed with 52 percent of the vote, although backers of same-sex marriage in California are gathering signatures for a new ballot measure that would explicitly over-

turn *Proposition 8*.

Auxiliary Bishop Gerald E. Wilkerson of Los Angeles, president of the California Catholic Conference, expressed disappointment in the ruling but also confidence that it would be reversed.

"We are disappointed by the ruling today by a panel of the 9th Circuit that would invalidate the action taken by the people of California affirming that marriage unites a woman and a man and any children from their union," he said in a Feb. 7 statement. "However, given the issues involved and the nature of the legal process, it's always been clear that this case would very likely be decided by the U.S. Supreme Court. Marriage between one man and one woman has been — and always will be — the most basic building block of the family and of our society," Bishop Wilkerson added.

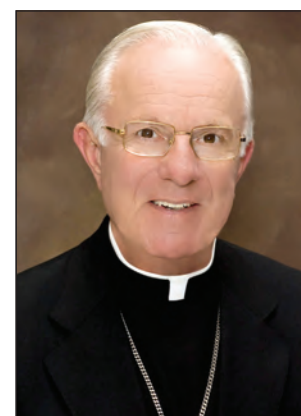
"In the end, through sound legal reasoning, we believe the court will see this as well and uphold the will of the voters as expressed in *Proposition 8*. We continue to pray for that positive outcome."

Catholic News Service

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I write to you concerning a serious matter that negatively impacts the Church in the United States and strikes at the fundamental right to religious liberty for citizens of any faith. The federal government has just dealt a heavy blow not only to Catholics but to millions more who are served by the Catholic faithful.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced [Jan. 20] that almost all employers, including Catholic employers, will be forced to provide employees' health coverage that will include contraception, sterilization, and abortion-induc-



**On the Contraceptive Mandate:
'We Cannot
Comply with
This Unjust Law'**

Bishop Robert H. Brom



ing drugs. Nearly all health insurers will be forced to include these "services," and nearly everyone will be forced to buy that coverage. As a result, in the Diocese of San Diego, this will impact insti-

tutions such as Catholic Charities, Father Joe's Villages and our diocesan Catholic schools.

In so ruling, the Obama administration is denying to Catholics the fundamental free-

dom of religious liberty guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. Unless the rule is overturned, we will be compelled either to violate our consciences

or to drop health coverage for our employees and thus suffer severe penalties. We cannot comply with this unjust law.

I would ask of you two things. First, as a community of faith we must commit ourselves to prayer and fasting, so that wisdom may prevail and religious liberty be restored. Second, please visit the USCCB Web site, www.usccb.org/conscience, to learn more about this assault on religious liberty and to join others in contacting Congress in support of legislation that would reverse the Obama administration's decision.

I thank you for your prayers, sacrifice and advocacy on behalf of protecting religious liberties.

The Southern Cross

Briefs

Military Chaplains Silenced on Mandate

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A directive from the U.S. Army chief of chaplains that a letter opposing the Obama administration's contraceptive mandate not be read from the pulpit by Catholic military chaplains violated First Amendment rights of free speech and free exercise of religion, according to the head of the Archdiocese for the Military Services. Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio spoke with Secretary of the Army John McHugh about the chief of chaplains' response to the archbishop's Jan. 26 letter and the two "agreed that it was a mistake to stop the reading of the archbishop's letter," according to a statement released by the military archdiocese Feb. 6. The two also agreed to McHugh's suggestion that one line, which read "We cannot — we will not — comply with this unjust law," be removed from the letter, the statement added. The letter was redistributed at Masses the weekend of Feb. 4-5.

Komen Reinstates Grants to Planned Parenthood

DALLAS (CNS) — The Feb. 3 decision by Susan G. Komen for the Cure to reinstate grants to Planned Parenthood affiliates for breast cancer screenings was the result of a "vicious attack" on the organization, said a pro-life leader. Pro-life leaders hailed Komen's announcement Jan. 31 that it would no longer give grants to Planned Parenthood, but it sparked a maelstrom of negative reaction and an online petition asking the group to reverse its decision. "This week, we have all been witness to highly partisan attacks from pro-abortion advocates and an ugly and disgraceful shakedown that highlights Planned Parenthood's willingness to pursue a scorched-earth strategy to force compliance with their pro-abortion agenda," Charmaine Yoest, president and CEO of Americans United for Life, said in a statement. Yoest also noted that Komen donors are "now confused about their association with the nation's largest abortion provider."

New Foreign Policy Threatens Religion

QUINCY, Mass. (CNS) — Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's announcement in December that respect for gay rights is now a factor in the Obama administration's foreign policy decisions is on a collision course with religious freedom, said an official with the Becket Fund. "This administration clearly wants to elevate certain rights over

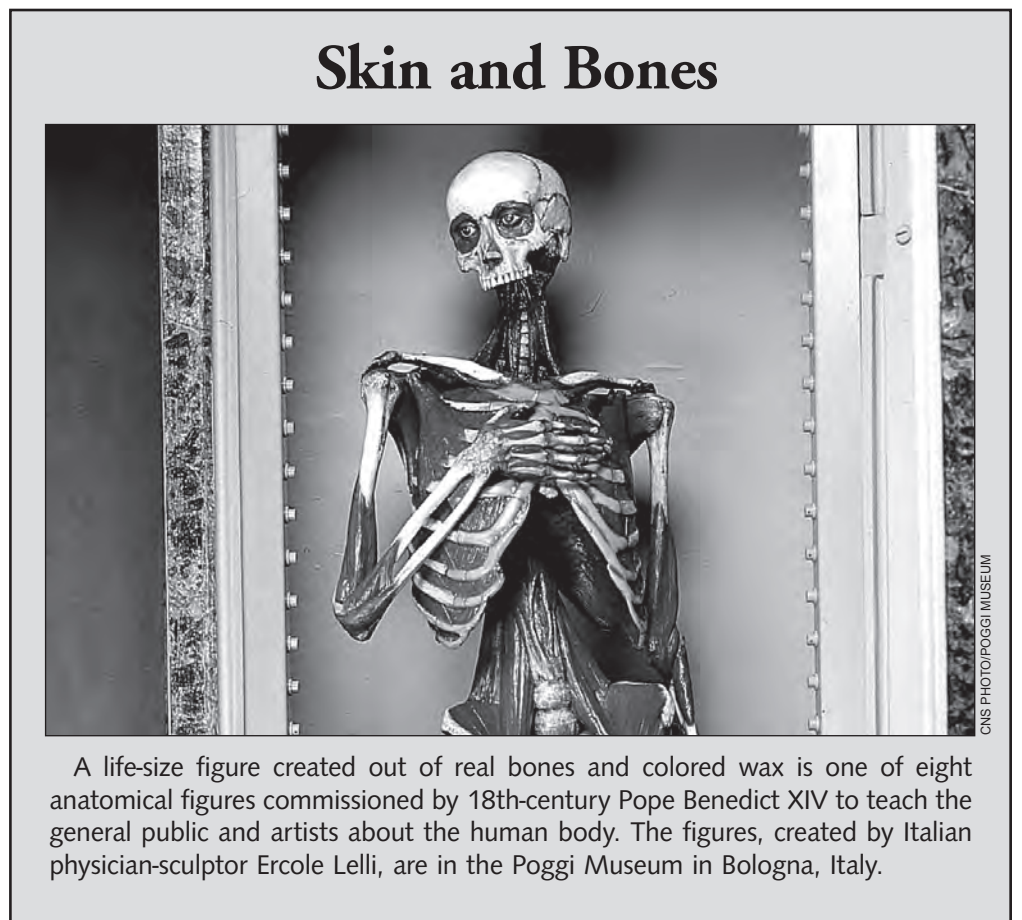
others. And unfortunately it seems that religious freedom is never prioritized in their foreign policy as it should be," said Tina Ramirez, director of government and international relations for the Becket Fund, which seeks to protect the free expression of all faiths. On Dec. 6, Clinton announced to U.N. diplomats in Geneva that U.S. agencies engaged abroad have been instructed to "combat the criminalization" of the "status or conduct" of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people. This follows an announcement by the administration last summer that it supports legislation to repeal the federal Defense of Marriage Act, which defines marriage as a union between one man and one woman.

Dolan: Natural Law Dictates Sanctity of Life

NEW YORK (CNS) — Natural law is a concept of objective truth, not religious preference, and reliance on natural law and human rights will move the culture and its laws in the direction of authentic respect for human life, Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York said in an address Jan. 24 at Fordham University School of Law. "Our society has caricatured natural law as some medieval tool the Church is using to justify its own unique and antiquated system of teaching. Of course, the opposite is true," he said. "Natural law theory is not uniquely Catholic, it's human. Some of the greatest exponents of the natural law, like Aristotle and Cicero, never heard of the Catholic Church. These things we teach are not true because they happen to be taught by the Church. We teach them because they happen to be true. Their truth antedates the Church." According to Cardinal Dolan, the most effective way to engage in conversations about human life with people who disagree with the Church's position is to "untether" discussions of natural law "from what might be thought of as unique Catholic confessionalism" and reference the writings of non-Catholic authors.

Students Protest Unfair Nondiscrimination Policy

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (CNS) — Students at Vanderbilt University packed a town hall meeting on campus to protest a school nondiscrimination policy they say is being applied unfairly and is a threat to religious liberty. The policy requires that membership as well as leadership positions in any student organizations registered with the university be open to all, which means religious organizations also must open their leadership positions to anyone, regardless of beliefs. For more than two months, Vanderbilt Catholic, the campus ministry program, and other student religious organizations on



A life-size figure created out of real bones and colored wax is one of eight anatomical figures commissioned by 18th-century Pope Benedict XIV to teach the general public and artists about the human body. The figures, created by Italian physician-sculptor Ercole Lelli, are in the Poggi Museum in Bologna, Italy.

campus were hoping the university would not apply the policy to their groups' leadership spots. But university administrators were on hand at the Jan. 31 town hall meeting to reiterate that they would not back down from enforcing it. The meeting followed a Jan. 20 letter from Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos that made Vanderbilt's position clear. Vanderbilt Catholic chaplain Father John Sims Baker rejects the chancellor's claim that "all" Vanderbilt registered student organizations are bound by the nondiscrimination policy. "All fraternities and sororities are discriminatory in leadership and membership. They don't let just anyone join," he said. "The policy is unfairly applied to religious groups."

Vocations Born from Openness to God's Love

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Love of God nurtures love of neighbor, especially in people with vocations to the priesthood or religious life, said Pope Benedict XVI in his message for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The papal message for the 49th World Day of Prayer for Vocations, which will be observed April 29, was released Feb. 13 at the Vatican. "The profound truth of our existence is thus contained in this surprising mystery: Every creature, and in particular every human person, is the fruit of God's thought and an act of His love, a love that is boundless, faithful and everlasting," Pope Benedict wrote. "It is in this soil of self-offering and openness to the love of God, and as the fruit of that love, that all vocations are born and grow." Pope Benedict wrote that love of both God and

other people "must be lived with a particular intensity and purity of heart by those who have decided to set out on the path of vocation discernment towards the ministerial priesthood and the consecrated life."

Majority OKs Abortion Restrictions

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A poll taken for the Knights of Columbus and Marist College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., indicates a strong majority of Americans continue to want restrictions on abortion. According to the poll, 79 percent of those surveyed said they would not allow abortion after the first three months of pregnancy. And 51 percent said they would allow abortion only in cases of rape, incest or to save the mother's life — or not at all. The poll's numbers are almost unchanged from a similar poll taken two years ago. According to the poll results, 84 percent said they believe that laws can protect both the life of the unborn and the health and well-being of women. This is up from 81 percent from the 2010 survey. "Once a survey moves beyond the labels of pro-life and pro-choice, we see a fundamental unity among Americans in favor of significant abortion restrictions," said Carl Anderson, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus.

Bethlehem U. Helps Build Culture of Peace

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (CNS) — Bethlehem University is helping create a "culture of peace and life, and a civilization of love" by bringing together students of

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different backgrounds, New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan said during a visit to Bethlehem University. “This is classical Catholic thought — that one of the greatest natural things you can do for human beings is education, and when you expose people to the truth, progress happens, justice happens, friendship happens,” he said Jan. 31, during a Holy Land pilgrimage with a group of 50 archdiocesan priests. “To educate for us is not only a natural endeavor, it is a supernatural endeavor ... because Jesus said, ‘I am the truth,’ so we bring people closer to God, we bring people closer to Jesus, we bring people closer to each other.” Bethlehem University “is particularly valuable ... because it is working and it is bringing people together. We saw non-Catholic Christians, Catholics, Muslims and maybe even people with no religion, and they not only are classmates, they are becoming friends ... and that is creating a culture of peace.”

Pope Reflects on Unanswered Prayers

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — God is near even though it may seem like He does not hear people’s prayers or has abandoned His flock, Pope Benedict XVI said. “Faced with difficult and painful situations, when God seems to not hear us, we must not be afraid to give Him all of the weight we carry in our heart, we should not be afraid to cry out to Him about our suffering,” he said. Speaking at his weekly general audience Feb. 8, Pope Benedict continued his catechesis on prayer by highlighting Christ’s prayer from the cross, “My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?” Jesus was quoting

Psalm 22, which affirms God’s presence amid His people, the pope said. “Jesus is praying this psalm with the awareness of the Father’s presence,” he continued. “Many ask how this omnipotent God could not intervene to spare His own Son?” Because Jesus’ cry is not one for help, he said, but rather a prayer for His people and all peoples.

Sex-Selective Abortions Coming to the West

ROME (CNS) — Aborting unborn girls on account of their gender has been a documented trend in certain Asian countries for at least two decades. Now, according to an Italian biologist and author, the practice is also growing in the West. Women and couples who emigrate from cultures where male children are deemed more prestigious and economically valuable “will often bring those same values to their new country,” said Anna Meldolesi, author of *Never Born: Why the World Has Lost 100 Million Women* (“Mai nate: Perché il mondo ha perso 100 milioni di donne”). In 1990, Nobel prize-winning economist Amartya Sen calculated at 100 million the number of women who, by the laws of nature, should be part of the world population but are not. The “missing women” in question, Meldolesi wrote, have been the victims of infanticide, intentional neglect of health and nutrition, and more recently, abortion on the basis of sex. Inspired by studies of sex-selective abortion among Asian immigrants in North America, Meldolesi said she tried to find out if there was a similar trend in her own country of Italy. Using four years of demographic data from ISTAT, the Italian statistics bureau,

Coming Home



CNS PHOTOGRAPHY/PHILAN WIECHEC

Father Jeffrey N. Steenson, newly appointed leader of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter, confirms a member of Mount Calvary Church in Baltimore Jan. 22. Members of Mount Calvary are among about 1,000 Anglican priests and 2,000 laypeople in the United States seeking to join the new ordinariate and enter into full communion with the Catholic Church.

Meldolesi concluded that sex-selective abortion, or “feminine feticide,” has been common among Italy’s Chinese and Indian immigrant populations, and also, to a lesser extent, among Albanians.

Being Pro-Life Intellectually, Politically Is Not Enough

WASHINGTON (CNS) — It is not enough to be pro-life intellectually and politically, said Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Conn. “We must embrace the Gospel of Life in the depth of our souls in such a way that it continually transforms us: bringing us to our knees in repentance for our own failures against human dignity; filling us with joy and gratitude for God’s gift of human life; permeating our minds and

hearts with bedrock convictions, born of faith and reason, about the inviolable dignity of human life at every stage,” he said. Bishop Lori was the homilist at a Jan. 21 Mass celebrated in conjunction with the Cardinal O’Connor Conference on Life at Georgetown University. “In spite of a growing secularity, Americans remain, overall, a religious people,” he said. “Years of pro-life witness have also moved the needle. More Americans account themselves as pro-life today than at any time since the Supreme Court’s toxic *Roe v. Wade* decision in 1973” that legalized abortion virtually on demand. “Young people, in particular, are now casting a critical eye on the culture of abortion, maybe asking themselves if they were once considered a choice rather than a person,” Bishop Lori added.

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► MANDATE

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Obama administration takes 'hateful and radical step in religious intolerance'

to the deep moral concerns raised by America's Catholic community," he said in a Feb. 13 statement.

The archbishop said the fact the revision requires payment of contraceptive coverage to now be borne by insurance companies, rather than religious employers, "completely misses the point. The issue here is not one of book-keeping or accounting. It is a matter of moral principle and religious liberty," he said.

He also said the government has "no right to require the Catholic Church or other institutions to pay for — even indirectly — products and services that we find to be immoral and unconscionable. Again, this is not a question of contraception. It is a question of religious liberty. This mandate continues to represent a grave government intrusion on Catholic consciences and on the freedom of our Catholic institutions."

U.S. Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., a Catholic who has co-chaired the bipartisan Congressional Pro-Life Caucus since 1982, described the policy announced by Obama as "the discredited old policy, dressed up to look like something else."

He said the requirement that insurance companies provide contraception and sterilization free of charge to all employees of religious organizations would still place the cost ultimately on the religious employers. "Who pays for the insurance policy?" he asked. "The religious employer."

A week after the Jan. 20 announcement by Sebelius, bishops across the country prepared letters to be read at all Masses during the Jan. 28-29 weekend.

One of the most strongly worded reactions to Sebelius' announcement came from Bishop David A. Zubik of Pittsburgh, in a column titled "To Hell with You."

Sebelius and the Obama administration "have said 'To hell with you' to the Catholic faithful of the United States," Bishop Zubik wrote. "To hell with your religious beliefs. To hell with your religious liberty. To hell with



VIOLATING CONSCIENCE: President Barack Obama, flanked by Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, speaks about the contraceptive mandate Feb. 10.

your freedom of conscience. We'll give you a year, they are saying, and then you have to knuckle under."

He called on Catholics in the Pittsburgh Diocese to "do all possible to rescind" the contraceptive mandate by writing to Obama, Sebelius and their members of Congress about this "unprecedented federal interference in the right of Catholics to serve their community without violating their fundamental moral beliefs."

The Diocese of San Diego, in conjunction with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, has actively fought against the contraception/sterilization mandate through the diocesan Office for Social Ministry. Activities such as writing letters to Sebelius in opposition to the ruling, contacting members of Congress urging remedies to the rule, and advancing petitions contrary to the mandate have been undertaken.

On Feb. 1, Bishop Robert H. Brom of San Diego issued a letter on this subject to be printed in each parish bulletin. (For the text of his letter, see Page 3.)

Bishop Daniel R. Jenky of Peoria, Ill., enlisted the aid of St. Michael the Archangel in fighting "this unprecedented governmental assault upon the moral convictions of our faith."

In a Jan. 24 letter to Peoria Catholics, he directed that the prayer of St. Michael be recited "for the freedom of the Catholic Church in

America" during Sunday Masses at every parish, school, hospital, Newman center and religious house in the diocese.

"I am honestly horrified that the nation I have always loved has come to this hateful and radical step in religious intolerance," Bishop Jenky said in the letter.

"I strongly urge you not to be intimidated by extremist politicians or the malice of the cultural secularists arrayed against us," he added.

Writing in *The Wall Street Journal* Jan. 25, Cardinal Dolan, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the HHS decision rejected the "loud and strong appeals" by "hundreds of religious institutions and hundreds of thousands of individual citizens" since the comment period began last August.

He said it is naive to think that contraception and sterilization will be "free" under the

HHS mandate.

"There is no free lunch, and you can be sure there's no free abortion, sterilization or contraception," he wrote. "There will be a source of funding: you."

Speaking that evening at Fordham University in New York, the archbishop told reporters that Obama had called him the morning of Jan. 20 "to tell me the somber news" before the HHS decision was announced publicly.

He said he felt "terribly let down, disappointed and disturbed" and found it difficult to reconcile the decision with what the president had told him during a meeting in November — "that he considered the protection of conscience sacred, that he didn't want anything his administration would do to impede the work of the Church that he claimed he held in high regard, particularly in the area of health care, education, works of charity and justice."

The U.S. bishops have urged passage in Congress of the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act and are looking into the possibility of filing suit against the mandate.

Two colleges — one Catholic, the other Protestant — and the Eternal Word Television Network already filed lawsuits against the policy.

San Diego-area Catholics who would like to receive regularly updated information about this issue and opportunities to become involved in changing the HHS mandate should register for *OSM e-link*, the San Diego diocesan Office for Social Ministry's monthly e-news bulletin, at www.osmelink.org.

Catholic News Service

Contributing to this story were Nancy Frazier O'Brien, Dennis Sadowski and Mark Zimmermann in Washington and Francis X. Rocca in Rome. The Southern Cross also contributed to this report.



... whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.

— Matthew 25:40

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Abortion Survivor Is Main Character in Upcoming Film

'October Baby' opens in theaters March 23

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO — A new film will look at the abortion issue from a unique perspective: through the eyes of the one targeted for death.

"October Baby," coming to theaters March 23, is the story of 19-year-old Hannah Lawson (Rachel Hendrix) whose life is turned upside-down when she learns about the circumstances of her birth.

"This beautiful girl ... discovers that she's adopted and a survivor of a failed abortion, and this kind of rocks her world," explained Jon Erwin, who co-directed the film with his brother, Andrew, and also co-wrote the screenplay. "Through the course of looking for answers, [she] really finds hope and finds how powerful forgiveness can be."

In the film, which co-stars John Schneider ("The Dukes of Hazzard," "Smallville") and Jasmine Guy ("A Different World"), Hannah is shown to have had several health issues over the years, including acute asthma, epileptic seizures and multiple hip surgeries — all the result of a premature birth and traumatic delivery.

In a Jan. 26 interview with *The Southern Cross*, Erwin revealed that his inspiration for the film came from the real-life story of pro-life advocate Gianna Jessen, who was born with cerebral palsy after a failed abortion. Though the film is a work of fiction, Erwin was so "captivated" by one of Jessen's presentations that he did research on abortion sur-



ON THE SET: Co-writer/co-director Jon Erwin directs lead actress Rachel Hendrix on the set of "October Baby."

vivors and decided that it was "a subject matter that merits discussion."

Erwin, who describes himself as "a born-and-raised Baptist," hopes that "October Baby" will prove to be a film "where you laugh as much as you cry," and one that also invites viewers to ponder one of "the big questions in life." He took pains to present the film's pro-life message in "a very organic and honest way."

Noting that great films "don't give answers as much as they ask very penetrating, thought-provoking questions," he said the goal for his own film was not to "tell the audience what to

think" but to encourage them "to stop and think for themselves."

After screening "October Baby" at a film festival in Los Angeles, Erwin said he was approached by a woman who did not believe in God, was politically liberal and did not share his pro-life views. He said she told him that, even though she was pro-choice, she could recognize Hannah as a victim and might have to reevaluate her views on abortion.

While the film does not "pull any punches in addressing what abortion is," Erwin said, neither does it depict Hannah's birth mother as "a heartless murderer."

"There's a line in the movie that says, 'To

be human is to be beautifully flawed,' and we are all flawed and we all make mistakes," he said. "As Christians ... we believe that none of those mistakes are beyond God's grace and forgiveness."

"If all that we give these girls is shame, then shame on us," he said, "because these girls need hope and these girls need help."

That sentiment, Erwin said, motivated the film's producers to establish the Every Life Is Beautiful Fund and to donate 10 percent of the film's profits to be distributed through the fund to crisis pregnancy centers, adoption agencies and those who care for orphans.

Though it has not yet been officially released, "October Baby" is already serving as a channel of forgiveness and renewed hope. Actress Shari Rigby, who portrays Hannah's birth mother in the film, called Erwin in tears after reading the script and opened up about her own abortion experience. Since the first screenings of the film, Erwin said, he has received "hundreds of responses" from post-abortive women.

"And it's not just women," he said, noting that "a 6-foot-5, big, burly guy" approached him teary-eyed after one screening and told him that the film was a "first step" toward healing after years of being unable to forgive himself.

"I didn't expect the film to do that," Erwin said of the healing and empowerment the film has engendered, "and the fact that it has done that in such magnitude is really special to me. I think, no matter how the film performs at the box-office, that's something that I will always have."

The Southern Cross

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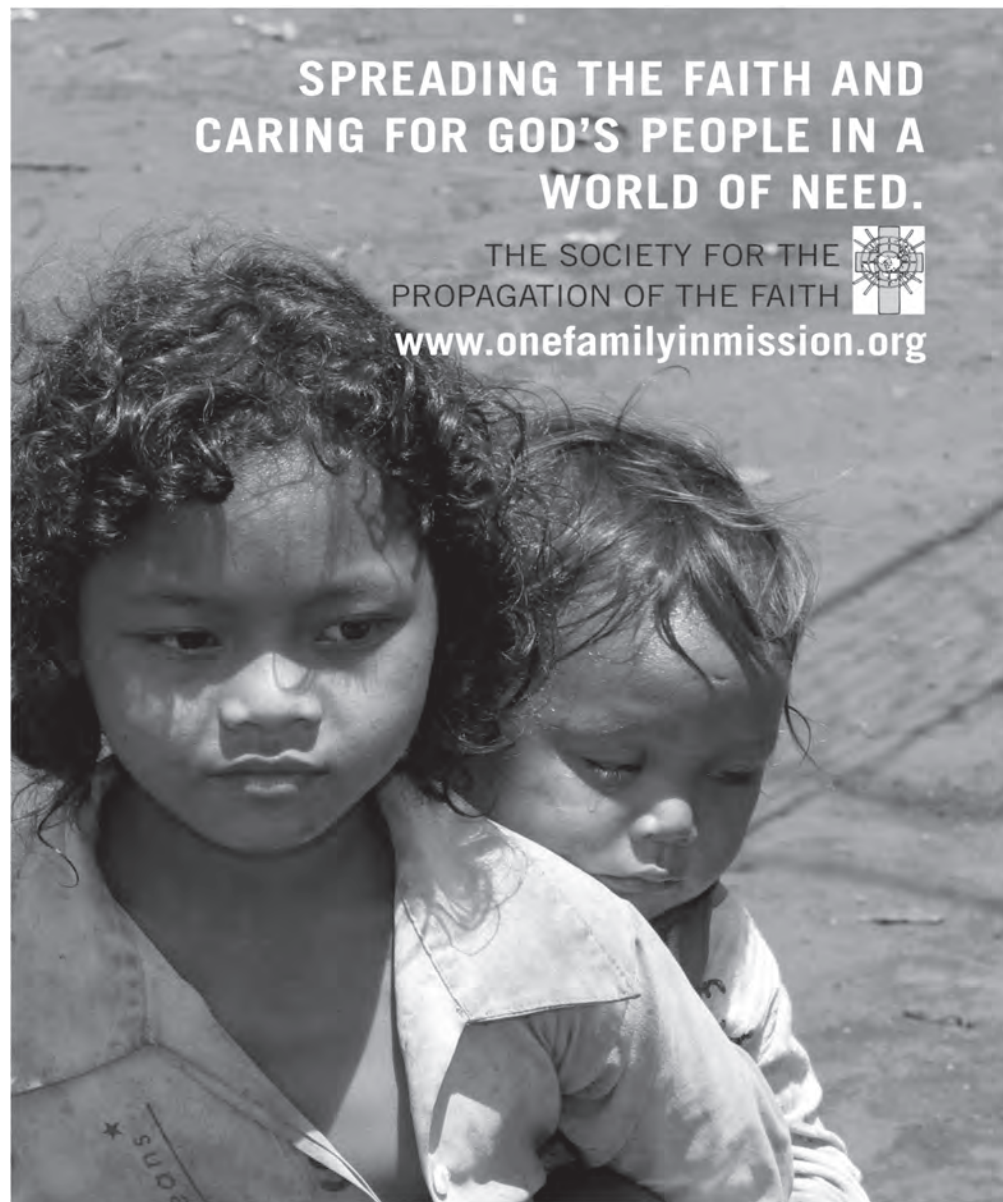
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Operation Rice Bowl Enriches Lenten Journey

BALTIMORE — On Feb. 22, Catholics around the world will begin their Lenten journey. For many Catholics in the United States, the spiritual journey of Lent is enriched by their participation in Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl.

For the six weeks of Lent, Operation Rice Bowl introduces participants to countries where poor communities are being strengthened by the work of the Catholic Church through CRS. A collection of short videos, personal stories and simple meatless recipes from each country, along with a daily guide, provides reflections and ideas to enhance the Lenten experience for Catholics of all ages.

"With a broad collection of resources, guides and activities, CRS' Operation Rice Bowl is ready-made for parishes, schools and families to incorporate into their Lenten tradition," said Joan Rosenhauer, CRS executive vice president of U.S. Operations.

For more than 35 years, Operation Rice Bowl has offered Catholics in the United States a way to connect with their brothers and sisters in need around the world through the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and acts of charity. Nearly 13,000 faith communities across the United States make CRS' Operation Rice Bowl part of their Lenten experience each year.

For Sonia Arriola, a parishioner at St. Martin of Tours, in San Jose, Calif., Operation Rice Bowl is a great way to engage her children in daily giving.

"The thing we love about Operation Rice Bowl is how it shows lots of people uniting in one common faith, sacrificing treasures that all add up to make a significant difference."

For fellow parishioner Anne McMahon, Operation Rice Bowl is a way to make fasting an act of solidarity.

"When people don't have enough food across the world, then out of compassion for them having a simple meal or giving up something we're accustomed to is a great reminder for us as a family," said McMahon.

"CRS' Operation Rice Bowl enables us to pray not only for ourselves and for change within ourselves, but also to pray for those throughout the world," said Father Chris Bransfield, pastor of St. Martin of Tours Parish. "It's one more simple way to see ourselves as brothers and sisters, and not as strangers to one another."

This year, participants in Operation Rice Bowl will meet a farmer from Madagascar whose crops were improved by a new village water pump; a young man from Vietnam who learned a vocation in a school started for students with disabilities; a family in El Salvador who have clean water coming from a faucet in their house for the first time; a woman in Zambia who joined a microfinance group and saved enough money to open a market stall; a teenage girl in India who taught her family to use a nutritional food supplement and improved the health of her younger siblings; and a woman from Arlington, Va., who was



CNS PHOTO/NANCY WIECHEC

OPERATION RICE BOWL: A young girl puts together a Catholic Relief Services donation bowl at her home in this file photo.

helped by a local emergency food assistance program called Feed My Sheep.

Each of these programs is supported by money raised through Operation Rice Bowl. Seventy-five percent is sent to CRS for overseas humanitarian programs and 25 percent remains in the U.S. diocese for local food programs.

Operation Rice Bowl materials are available free of charge and include: a cardboard rice bowl and daily reflection calendar; a full color poster; lesson plans and classroom activities for educators in grades 1-12; a coordinators guide for parish administrators and volunteers; videos featuring stories of beneficiaries from India, Madagascar and El Salvador; and recipes for meatless meals from the five featured countries — Vietnam, Zambia, India, Madagascar and El Salvador. Operation Rice Bowl materi-

als are available in English and Spanish online at orb.crs.org.

"CRS is very excited to see that, in the Diocese of San Diego, more parishes and schools are participating in this Lenten journey of faith through Operation Rice Bowl," said Jim DeHarpporte, regional director of CRS West. "This is meant to be an experience that enriches our Catholic Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. This is a program for the entire family and the entire parish."

DeHarpporte added that CRS is ready to provide training to introduce parish staff to the program as well as to provide speakers who can share stories of how the program touches the lives of the poor.

For more information about CRS and its work, visit www.crs.org.

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Kelley, Henry	Jan. 13	Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcala
Mattei, Madeline	Jan. 20	Holy Cross Cemetery Chapel
Gonzalez, Bette	Jan. 25	St. Therese
Contreras, Jess	Jan. 26	Goodbody Mortuary Chapel
Borgerding, Lucyle	Jan. 27	Nazareth House Chapel
Scalisi, Joseph	Jan. 28	Blessed Sacrament
Sciuto, Rose	Feb. 1	Holy Cross Cemetery Chapel
Penko, Rev. Francis	Feb. 10	Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcala

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Olympian Evangelization

British bishops plan to use the 2012 London Olympic Games to renew interest in the Catholic faith, with initiatives ranging from fighting human trafficking and homelessness to promoting youth ministry and ecumenical dialogue.

The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales is also preparing resources for liturgies and holy hours and will post them on the Internet before the July 27-Aug. 12 games.

Archbishop Vincent Nichols of Westminster, president of the bishops' conference, called the Olympics and Paralympics "a moment of great opportunity for us all."

"These great sporting events generate all sorts of good ideas and initiatives, particularly for young people, reminding all of us of the importance of good health, the dignity of our bodies, the care of our physical well-being and its spiritual meaning," the archbishop said in a Jan. 24 statement.

"The example of many who are dedicated to training routines in preparation for these games reminds us of the need for good habits and routines in our own daily lives if we are to make the most of our God-given talents," he said.

The Catholic Church in Britain has been preparing for three years to seize the opportunity presented by the games to evangelize, said James Parker, the Catholic executive coordinator for the games.

Twenty-four chaplains have been trained for the occasion, and training is also being offered to representatives of more than 5,000 Catholic churches who will organize parish events, such as street parties, during the games.

In London, visitors will have access to two Catholic hospitality centers — one at Westminster Cathedral and the other at St. Anthony Parish, the church closest to the XXX Olympiad Stadium.

Catholic News Service

'Tebowing While Chemoing'

In a football season marked by amazing fourth-quarter comebacks and four overtime victories, Denver Broncos quarterback Tim Tebow not only connected with wide receivers racing for the end zone.

Through prayer and an act of kindness, Tebow also connected with Joey Norris, a 13-year-old eighth-grader from Our Lady of Mercy School in Potomac, Md., who is battling leukemia.

This past fall, while Joey was undergoing cancer treatment at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, his dad, Jim, asked him if he had heard about "Tebowing." It's the prayerful gesture made famous by Tebow, who after scoring a touchdown, kneels on one leg and bows his head in prayer, with his arm resting on his bended knee and his fist touching his forehead.

Joey, an avid football fan, had earlier drafted Tebow to be the quarterback on his fantasy football team.

After seeing photos of his favorite player praying, the youngster said, "I want to do that." And there, in his room at Children's Hospital, Joey knelt down near his chemo pole, and his dad took a picture of him. Joey immediately tweeted that photo to Tebow, explaining that "I'm Tebowing while Chemoing!" The youth added that he was a cancer survivor who was trusting the quarterback with his fantasy team.

Within two hours, Tebow tweeted a response back to Joey, noting that the boy's tweet was "my favorite one of the day," and he told him, "Praying for you and God bless you, big man."

Some weeks later, the Tim Tebow Foundation invited Joey and Jim Norris to attend the Broncos' Jan. 1 home game. Before the game, Tebow finished his warm-up tosses and sprinted over to the sideline to meet Joey.

Catholic News Service

Frosty the Snow-Pope



ONS PHOTO/PAUL HARRING

A child looks at a "popeman" built by students from the Rome program of the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn., after snowfall in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Feb. 11. This was the second snowfall in a week in a city where snow is as rare as a papal conclave.

Here She Is, Miss America's Mom!

All smiles, Susan Kaeppler, fourth-grade teacher at Kenosha's St. Joseph Academy's lower campus, was greeted with the red-carpet treatment when she arrived to class Jan. 16 after a whirlwind weekend where she saw her oldest daughter, Laura, crowned Miss America.

The 23-year-old brunette, a native of Kenosha, Wis., won the Miss America title at Planet Hollywood in Las Vegas Jan. 14.

"Some of the parents decorated her classroom, and made some posters and put them up in the gym as the school day began," said Pauline McTernan, St. Joseph development director.

"We rolled out a red carpet, presented her with a crown, bouquet of flowers, and balloons and led her to the gym as the school day began. The teachers all wore T-shirts that said, 'I teach with Miss America's

Mom.' It was so exciting!"

Particularly touching to McTernan was Susan's impromptu speech as she reminded students what her daughter had said to them when she visited the school last October, as Miss Wisconsin, a title she won last June.

"She asked if the students remembered Laura's message and no matter who she pointed to, the kids remembered what Laura had said to them," she said. "I will never forget it either, as it knocked my socks off. She told the students to put God first, to believe in yourself and to never give up. And the students got it; it just shows what type of girl Laura is. Her whole family is wonderful and has strong convictions and good character."

Catholic News Service

Q

Quotable Quotes

Q

In God's Hands

"No matter how hard the trials, difficult the problems and oppressive the suffering, we will never fall out of God's hands — those hands that created us, sustain us and accompany us on the journey of life guided by an infinite and faithful love."

— Pope Benedict XVI during his general audience Feb. 15

The Church's Voice

"Only the Catholic press gives Catholic leaders a voice with which to be heard by their people — unmuted, uncensored and independent of the preconceptions and prejudices of too many secular media outlets."

— Greg Erlandson, president of the Catholic Press Association of the United States and Canada

What's in Your Wallet?

English and Welsh bishops are producing a million "faith cards" to identify the holders as Catholics in the event of an accident.

The credit card-sized items will be distributed during February and March throughout all dioceses, including the Bishopric of the Forces and the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham.

The Department for Evangelization and Catechesis of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales announced Jan. 31 the cards should serve "as a reminder that all baptized are invited to know and share their faith."

On one side, the card features a space for the owner to sign a clear statement that he

or she is a Catholic.

The cards also feature a list of six things that Catholics are called to do: pray, share with others the joy of knowing Jesus Christ, celebrate the sacraments regularly, "love my neighbor as well as myself," "use the gifts that I have been given wisely," and "forgive as I have been forgiven."

Along the bottom of the card is a sentence that reads: "In the event of an emergency, please call a Catholic priest." The reverse of the card features a quote from Blessed John Henry Newman, the 19th-century English cardinal, about the individual vocation that God has given to each person.

Catholic News Service

Briefs

Monthly Lectures
'Unlock' Scripture

SCRIPPS RANCH — John Paul the Great Catholic University presents "Scripture Unlocked," a new and free series of dynamic monthly talks led by top biblical theologians and philosophers. The next lecture — "Opening the Gospel of Mark" presented by Dr. Christine Wood — will be held at 7 p.m., Monday, March 5, at the university's campus in Scripps Ranch. All are invited to attend this evening of light refreshment and Scripture. "Scripture Unlocked" is held on the first Monday of every month. *To register, visit www.jpcatholic.com/scriptureunlocked. For more information, contact Colleen Monroe at cmonroe@jpcatholic.com or (858) 653-6740, ext. 1713.*

Saints Community Helps Beautify San Diego

SAN DIEGO — The entire St. Augustine High School community — almost 800 people, including students, faculty and staff — descended on San Diego's Mission Bay Park Feb. 3 and devoted an entire day to help beautify the city. The project covered 4,235 acres of beach and park property. Students raked, picked up trash, painted and planted. "Saints has long been an advocate of community service. All students are required to give 25 hours a year back to their community, school or parish," said Campus Ministry Director Kate Crachy. "What better way to give back than to help our great city and celebrate the opportunities it has provided our students and graduates."

San Diego Retrouvaille Marks 20 Years

SAN DIEGO — Twenty years ago, in February 1992, the diocesan Office for Marriage and Family Life (then directed by Father Bill Ortmann) presented the first Retrouvaille program in San Diego. Since then, some 102 programs in English and Spanish have offered a lifeline to more than 2,000 hurting marriages. With an average of 2.5 children per family, it is estimated that 10,000 persons have been touched by this international ministry of peer volunteers. Founded in 1977 in Quebec, the ministry has spread worldwide and has been translated into eight languages. Although Catholic in origin, it is open to all marriages. Retrouvaille, whose name reflects its French-Canadian roots, means "to rediscover." Led by married teams and a Catholic priest, the three-month program begins with a weekend stay followed by three months of meetings. It is a journey into an understanding of self and spouse, leading a couple back to trust and forgiveness. Practical tools to communicate and resolve conflicts are emphasized. *For more information, call (951) 259-9474 for English, call (619) 423-0182 for Spanish, or visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com.*

Stella Maris Seafarers' Center Seeking Volunteers

SAN DIEGO — The Stella Maris Seafarers' Center provides for the spiritual and social needs of foreign sailors onboard the many commercial freighters that dock in the Port of San Diego. Volunteers are needed to work at the center, which takes its mission from the words of Matthew 25: "I was a stranger and you welcomed Me." *For information on serving as a volunteer, call Deacon Sam Martinez at (619) 429-3580 or e-mail samnel@cox.net.*

Our Lady's School to Celebrate Centennial

SAN DIEGO — On June 30, Our Lady's School will celebrate the 100th anniversary of one of its precursors, Our Lady of Angels School, which was established in 1912. In 1973, Our Lady of Angels and Our Lady of Guadalupe schools merged to form the current Our Lady's School. Over the years, the names and addresses of many alumni have been lost, but the centennial committee would like to include everyone. If you, a member of your family or an old friend are a part of the history of these schools (or Regina Coeli Academy, the girls' high school of Our Lady of Angels), please send alumni names and addresses to: Margaret Vela, 710 Beardsley St., San Diego, CA 92113 or mvela67@cox.net; or Noel Bishop at nbishop@olssd.org. *For more information, call Katy (Henrietta) Quinones Pimental at (619) 267-0498, Robert Eusebio at (858) 427-7884, or Bishop at (619) 233-8888.*

Bishop Brom Endorses Catholic Radio

SAN DIEGO — The effort to expand the current limited 1000AM Catholic radio programming to round-the-clock coverage under the banner of Immaculate Heart Radio has been buoyed by the support of Bishop Robert H. Brom. With a launch scheduled for March 8, sponsors and supporters have been grateful for his prayerful encouragement. A \$5.2 million "Live the

Vocations Are the Goal



COURTESY OF THE OFFICE FOR VOCATIONS

Encouraging vocations to the priesthood and religious life was the goal of a recent soccer tournament held Jan. 16 at Mater Dei Catholic High School.

The tournament — the first event of its kind to be held in the Diocese of San Diego — was called "Hasta en Heaven Juegan Soccer" (a combination of Spanish and English that translates to: "Even in Heaven, They Play Soccer").

The event was coordinated by the diocesan Office for Vocations and supported by the youth ministry at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Chula Vista. It provided an opportunity for youth to interact with the priests of the diocese in a different way: by playing soccer with them.

"Joyful priests are magnets for attracting vocations, for attracting them to holiness, to virtue and to Jesus Christ," explained Sister Aurora Lopez-Ornelas, a Sister Servant of the Blessed Sacrament who directs the Vocations Office. "The priests like to have fun and play soccer, showing the youth that priesthood or religious life is a possibility for them as well."

In between each of the soccer matches, participating youth and priests paused to pray a decade of the rosary for priestly and religious vocations.

Almost 300 soccer players took part in the tournament, including youth from almost 20 parish/school communities as well as six priests and nine seminarians. There were also many families, priests, religious sisters and youth ministers who came to watch the matches and cheer for the players.

Pictured, from left, Fathers Jose Luis Muro, Ignatius Dibeashi, Lawrence Agi, Daniel Nganga and Jacob Bertrand pose on the soccer field.

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

With permission of his superior, **Father Federico Masutti, FSSP**, has been assigned as associate pastor of St. Anne Parish, San Diego, effective Jan. 14, 2012.

Father Delfin Manzano, a priest from the Apostolic Vicariate of San Jose, Philippines, has been appointed associate pastor of St. Mary Parish, National City, effective Feb. 1, 2012.

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FEBRUARY

22: "New Impressions: Recent Acquisitions for USD." Exhibition includes prints by contemporary Cuban-American artist Emilio Sanchez and Dutch 17th-century engraver Jan Saenredam. Noon to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday and noon to 6 p.m., Thursday in the Robert and Karen Hoehn Family Galleries in Founders Hall. Free. Call (619) 260-4261.

22: "(IN)Visible Project: Solutions to Homelessness in San Diego." Multimedia installation using audio and video to paint an intimate and dignified human portrait of homeless population. Open continuously on Plaza Menor, in front of Student Life Pavilion, through Feb. 25. Free.

23: "Solutions to Homelessness in San Diego." Panel discussion including Jennifer Litwak, project manager of the Regional Task Force on the Homeless. 7 p.m., Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice Theatre. Free, RSVP required to cid@sandiego.edu. Call (619) 260-7455.

23: Vatican II Fifty Years On: What Would the Four/Fore Fathers Say Now? Paul Lakeland, director of the Center for Catholic Studies at Fairfield University, leads discussion on John Courtney Murray and three

other giants of 20th-century Catholic theology. 6 to 7:30 p.m., Manchester Executive Conference Center. Free, RSVP required to cctc@sandiego.edu or call (619) 260-7936.

25: Care of the Sick, Care of the Caregiver. Opportunity for professional and family caregivers to reflect on ways in which care for the sick and elderly reflects the compassion Jesus showed. 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Salomon Hall in Maher Hall. \$25 includes morning coffee and light lunch. RSVP to ccs@sandiego.edu or call (619) 260-4784.

MARCH

14: "International Women's Day Breakfast: Connect, Create and Celebrate." Inspiring program and report from the 56th U.N. Commission on the Status of Women and keynote from filmmaker Maria Luisa Gambale. 7 to 9 a.m., Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice. \$25, general admission and \$12.50, students, before March 1. Register at <http://peace.kintera.org/breakfast> or call (619) 260-7873.

20: "Blessed and Beautiful: Picturing the Saints in Italian Renaissance Art." Robert Kiely, professor of English, emeritus, at Harvard University, discusses his latest

book, offering a powerful and searching meditation on the lives and images of saints. 6 to 7:45 p.m., Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice Theatre. Free, RSVP required to cctc@sandiego.edu or call (619) 260-7936.

21: "Enlightened Ritual and Spirituality in 18th-Century Europe." Talk on the late Baroque composers, including Bach, Handel and Vivaldi, who espoused the ideas of the Enlightenment. For those ages 55 and up. 10 to 11:30 a.m., Degheri Alumni Center. Free, RSVP required at jehrgott@sandiego.edu or call (619) 260-4815.

22: Kyoto Prize Symposium. Event featuring 2011 Arts and Philosophy Kyoto Prize Laureate Tamasaburo Bando V, acclaimed Kabuki artist. 10:30 a.m. to noon, Shiley Theatre in Camino Hall. Free, RSVP required at www.kyotoprize-us.org.

23-25: USD Ladies: "Sips for Scholarships in Napa." Enjoy great food, wine tasting and share in the Torero spirit of philanthropy and fun. Call (619) 260-4808.



Recently named an Ashoka U Changemaker Campus.
Transforming the campus into a hub of social innovation through education, research and service.

Faith, Spread the Word" campaign is underway to finance the purchase of the station by Immaculate Heart Radio, recently approved by the Federal Communications Commission. About half of the \$5.2 million goal has been raised. San Diego will join 25 other stations in the Immaculate Heart radio network operating in five Western states. Bishop Brom's statement in video format can be found on San Diego Catholic Radio's Web site, www.sdcrr.org.

McDowell to Direct Major Gifts, Planned Giving

PASTORAL CENTER — Bishop Robert H. Brom recently announced the appointment of Robert J. (Dewey) McDowell as the new diocesan director of major gifts and planned giving. Though a recent appointment, McDowell is not new to the San Diego nonprofit and religious scene, having served on a number of charitable advisory boards. As a lawyer, his background includes work in the private practice of law with an emphasis on tax matters and also, since 1999, working in the financial services area with financial representatives and their clients. As such, McDowell will be responsible for assisting the diocese with the solicitation and structuring of major gifts and deferred (will, estate and tax planned) giving. He can be reached at (858) 490-8217.

Major League All-Star to Speak at Men's Breakfast

ESCONDIDO — Mike Sweeney, a cradle Catholic and five-time Major League All-Star, will speak about baseball and his faith journey at an upcoming men's breakfast sponsored by Benedictus. Fathers, sons and men of all ages are invited to attend the event, which will take place on Saturday, March 10, at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido. The event will begin with an 8 a.m. Mass, followed by breakfast and Sweeney's talk. Attendees are invited to bring a glove or a baseball for Sweeney to autograph. Benedictus is a ministry to Catholic men. Cost: \$22, prepaid; \$25, at the door. *For more information or to RSVP,*

visit www.benedictus-sd.org, *e-mail* petermlloyd@yahoo.com *or call* (760) 451-0830.

Parish Mission to Offer Opportunity for Growth

CORONADO — Local Catholics will be offered a three-day series of talks to further their spiritual formation at the Sacred Heart Parish Mission from Monday, March 5, to Wednesday, March 7. Perfectly timed for Lent, the talks will focus on "Believing," "Belonging" and "Becoming." They will be presented by Dorothy Hulburt, who has spent more than 30 years in pastoral, catechetical and liturgical ministries. "With a focus on faith, this mission will explore the hallmarks of Catholic Christianity, our baptismal identity, and the exciting call to live Christ and nurture faith in today's world," Hulburt said. Each day's talk will be presented twice, first at 9 a.m. and again at 7 p.m., in Sacred Heart Church in Coronado. Childcare and light breakfast hospitality will be provided in the parish hall prior to the morning session, after the 8 a.m. daily Mass. All talks will be streamed live at www.sacredheartcor.org/home. *For more information, call* (619) 435-3167.

Diocese Invites Men to 'Explore' Vocations

SAN DIEGO — Have you ever wondered if God might be calling you to the priesthood? Explorer Day is a six-hour discernment experience for men interested in learning more about priestly ministry and how Jesus Christ calls one to this life of service. The next Explorer Day will be held from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, March 17. *Please contact your parish priest for more information and to register.*

History Comes Alive at St. John School

ENCINITAS — Fifth-graders at St. John the Evangelist School explored historical figures of the world by transforming themselves into a live wax museum. This project got the students involved in researching, writing about

Precocious Preschoolers



Four-year-old Sophie (left) and 3-year-old Lyla (right), students at St. John the Evangelist Preschool in Encinitas, pose with their teacher, Erica Tobin.

The preschool class recently completed a community outreach project for the local Meals on Wheels in San Marcos. The 3- and 4-year-olds created snowmen out of modeling clay as tray favors for the local homebound seniors who receive meals from Meals on Wheels. Each month, the preschoolers participate in a community outreach project.

and creating a display showcasing history. Each fifth-grade student selected a famous figure, read about the person he or she had selected, and wrote a brief biography. The students developed costumes and props for their characters and, to complete the wax museum effect, they stood in frozen poses. The students had a "push button" to "activate" the figures and make them recount their biographies.

Camp Breaks Ground on Dining Hall, Kitchen

JULIAN — Whispering Winds Catholic Camp and Conference Center recently invited its many supporters to a groundbreaking celebration for its new dining hall and kitchen. The elegant event was sponsored by Anthony's Fish Grotto and held Jan. 8 at the restaurant's beautiful Star of the Sea Event Center. More than 150 guests attended. The camp's new kitchen will be named after Mama Ghio, who was one of the original owners of Anthony's Fish Grotto. With much gratitude, Whispering Winds remembers Mama Ghio's family's immediate and generous response to the 2003 Cedar Fire, which nearly destroyed the entire camp. The new dining hall and Mama Ghio's Kitchen project will impact the lives of nearly 9,000 guests who come through Whispering Winds every year, especially the many youth. The project, which is expected to be completed by this winter, began when a generous donor offered a \$1 million matching grant at Whispering Winds' 2011 Dinner Dance.

Students Collect Blankets for Father Joe's

SAN DIEGO — Each year, School of the Madeleine's student council organizes a blanket drive for Father Joe's Villages, a Catholic organization that provides essential needs to the homeless, houses 900 families and serves 3,000 meals each day to the hungry of San

Diego. Sister Mary Kiely of the Father Joe's Villages staff came to the school in person and was amazed to discover that the students had collected 194 blankets. Sister Kiely, a member of the Sisters of St. Francis, said she could not believe the generosity of the Madeleine community and commented on how "the beautiful new blankets will go a long way toward making life a little less harsh for our people." Under the leadership of student council officers Calista Gilger, Ivana Gilger, Daniella Brunetto and Kyla White, the student council rallied its classmates at School of the Madeleine to donate.

Johnston Will Receive Della Strada Award



SAN DIEGO — Rosemary Johnston, executive director of the Interfaith Shelter Network, will be this year's recipient of the Della Strada Award.

The Ignatian Volunteer Corps will hold its 2012 Della Strada Award Reception and Annual Fundraiser Event on Sunday, April 15, at St. Catherine Laboure Parish. The event will take place from 2-5 p.m. Johnston was one of the founders of the Interfaith Shelter Network of San Diego and has served as its director for the past 15 years. The Network provides emergency winter shelter between October and May at more than 60 congregations and also operates a housing program for homeless battered women with children. Johnston also has organized the Good Friday Walk with the Suffering for 20 years and has helped plan the annual La Posada Sin Fronteras at the border fence for 18 years. She was one of the founding members of the statewide Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights. *For more information on the Della Strada Award Reception or to request an invitation, call* (619) 881-9509 *or e-mail* mcarroll@ivcusa.org.

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Becoming Catholic Begins with God's Call

By Mary Jo Waggoner

SAN DIEGO — There is only one real reason that adults choose to enter the Catholic Church through the process known as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: They have been called.

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

Approximately 18 months ago, catechumens and candidates from throughout the diocese began their journey through the RCIA process. It is a process and journey of conversion in which the participants inquire if this is the Church for them. Through discernment, with the pastor and the RCIA team, they celebrate the Rite of Acceptance that brings them further into the journey, transitioning from "inquirers" to "catechumens" and "candidates."

Catechumens, those who are not baptized, and candidates, those baptized in other Christian faiths, meet weekly with their parish RCIA team. They break open the word of God heard each Sunday, study the teachings of the Catholic faith and make their final decision to come into full communion with the Church.

In great joy, the parish celebrates the Rite of Sending on

the first Sunday of Lent, and the pastor and parishioners send them out to meet with the diocesan bishop for the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion. During the rite, the bishop declares the catechumens to be "members of the Elect, to be initiated into the sacred mysteries at the next Easter Vigil."

This year, the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion will be held on Sunday, Feb. 26. Afterward, the Elect and the candidates will return to their parishes for the final six weeks for a time of Purification and Enlightenment during the Lenten season. They will experience their final preparations for baptism and full communion, which will occur at the Easter Vigil.

However, full communion in the Church is not the end but rather the beginning of a lifelong journey. Their fellow Catholics, each of whom is on a similar spiritual journey, are to serve as a mentoring community to these neophytes as they begin living their Catholic faith.



RITE OF ELECTION: Bishop Robert H. Brom interacts with catechumens and candidates in this file photo.

All Catholics are encouraged to remember in their prayers not only the diocese's catechumens and candidates, but also the communities that have welcomed them, will nurture their faith and will provide them with fellowship and positive examples of Catholicism in practice.

The Southern Cross

In Their Own Words

At this year's Easter Vigil, about 370 catechumens and 860 candidates will enter the Catholic Church in the Diocese of San Diego. What inspired them to begin the RCIA process? How has that process benefited them? What are their feelings as they prepare for one of the major milestones in their lives? The following are the reflections and comments of just a few of San Diego's catechumens and candidates.

Jeanette Lopatka Candidate

San Rafael Parish, Rancho Bernardo

I am excited and proud to be a part of a faith that has had such a rich tradition and long history. I feel that one of the best ways for me to be an exemplary Catholic is to have joy. ... As my faith has deepened each day, so has my joy. As a former teacher, I found the best way to teach was to lead by example. I want someone who doesn't know God to look at me and say, "How can I be as joyful as she?" ... I am hopeful to continue to grow as a Catholic and, in the words, of St. Francis, "Preach the Gospel, using words only when necessary."



Robert Richards Catechumen

St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Carlsbad

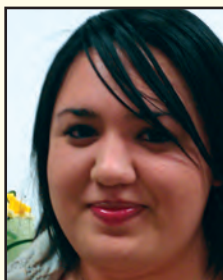
To me, being a member of the Body of Christ means that Jesus Christ is my Savior and I have the hope for eternal life. To be a member of the Roman Catholic Church is important to me, since I believe attending Mass gives me a more holy experience and I believe my relationship with Jesus will grow better for me being a member of the Church. Once a member, I would like to participate in Church activities.



Annette Cook Catechumen

Mater Dei Parish, Chula Vista

My family has been a part of the Church, and I had also attended as a kid. I felt that becoming an official part of the Church would bring me closer to my faith. I feel that I have a greater understanding of the Church now and that I am more prepared to accept the gift of full communion with the Church. Taking this journey has made me feel a greater connection to my faith.



Harley Jacques Candidate

San Rafael Parish, Rancho Bernardo

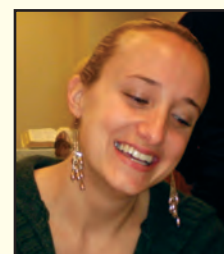
My wife attended RCIA last year and was so excited after every function that we would discuss her experiences after every meeting or church event. ... After she received the sacraments of initiation, I began regularly attending Mass with her and found I wanted to gain the serenity she was beginning to exhibit in all things. Since beginning RCIA, I have found the Catholic Church — and San Rafael Parish in particular — to be caring and friendly in a warm, family way.



Amelia Cox Candidate

St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Carlsbad

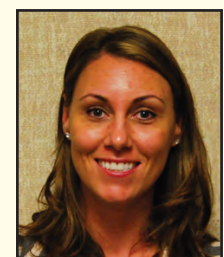
The most challenging thing for me has been understanding the Church's stance on abortion. I always believed that it was a woman's choice, but now I realize that it is really God's choice. His plan for us is much more significant than any we make for ourselves.



Andrea O'Hara Catechumen

San Rafael Parish, Rancho Bernardo

I was married in the Catholic Church to a wonderful man who is a cradle Catholic. Even though my family and his family are Catholics, I never felt the need to become a Catholic. However, as I become older and wiser, I realize that the challenges and accomplishments I have faced in my life were not by chance but were presented to me by the Lord. Being a mother and a wife gives me a greater purpose to lead a life filled with kindness, patience, honesty, responsibility and love. These character traits are hard to maintain by oneself, so I now look to my God and to my parish to help me lead the life that I was born to live.



Jewel Williams Candidate

St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Carlsbad

I believe I have become closer with God, and I am beginning to live my life the way He wants me to live. I feel there is more peace and understanding with my family since my relationship with God has gotten stronger. ... During times of temptation or confusion, I have learned to take a minute and pray for what is best for me to do. For me, acceptance into the Body of Christ means eternal love from God. To be a member of the Church is life for me. It gives me hope, understanding and love.



Tracy Lunn Catechumen

St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Carlsbad

I feel that it is a huge responsibility to be a member of the Body of Christ, and I am ready to take it on. I feel that my whole family will eventually be part of the same process, and I am ecstatic that I am becoming a member of the Roman Catholic Church, the true Church of Jesus. I am joyful about my faith and I want to share it with everyone.



The Southern Cross



PHOTOS: DENIS GRASSKA

► COADJUTOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Bishop Flores has 'no agenda but one: the love of God'

Brown of Orange and "all the wonderful people of the Diocese of Orange with whom I have spent my entire 21 years of ordained life — 18 as a parish priest and three as auxiliary bishop."

"As I anticipate the work ahead of me, the joy of visiting our churches, and schools, and institutions, and meeting and praying with the people of faith, I promise that I will try to be a good minister, a humble servant-leader for all of our communities in this diverse diocese," Bishop Flores said. "To my new family in the Diocese of San Diego ... I speak today with no agenda but one: the love of God. That agenda is Jesus Christ, love for Him, love for His cross and love for you, His Church."

Bishop Flores praised the Catholic laity, say-

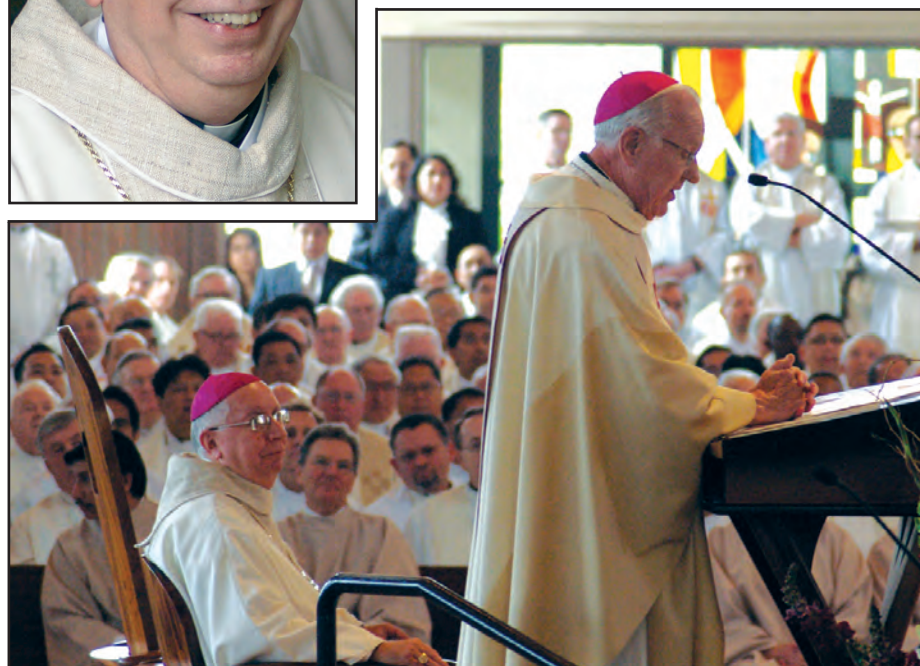
ing that they "build up our Church," and urged them to "never underestimate the importance of your role, your vocation and your mission as the body of Christ in San Diego." He also took the opportunity to "salute" his brother priests "for your ministries and for the gift of your lives to the Church."

Near the end of the Mass, Archbishop Gomez congratulated Bishop Brom and Bishop Flores on "this special moment in their lives and in the life of the Diocese of San Diego." As one who had served as coadjutor bishop to Cardinal Mahony, he quipped that he was available if Bishop Flores needed any advice.

"The only practical advice I can give you is: Be patient," he joked, "because, at some point, that word 'coadjutor' goes away."

After the archbishop's remarks, Bishop Brom turned to the man who will succeed him and asked, "So Bishop Flores, do you feel welcome? We certainly have tried to make you feel so, and have prayed not only that you will feel how truly welcome you are but that you will be blessed in your ministry here."

The Southern Cross



WELCOME: Coadjutor Bishop Cirilo B. Flores is seen interacting with his fellow bishops, meeting the lay faithful of San Diego and officially presenting the apostolic letter that named him as coadjutor bishop of San Diego in this series of photos from the welcoming Mass and reception held Feb. 13 at St. Therese of Carmel Parish.

Cursillo Movement Celebrates 50 Years in San Diego

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO — The Cursillo movement celebrated 50 years in San Diego with a Mass and Grand Ultreya.

The Catholic movement marked this milestone anniversary Jan. 28 at St. Therese Parish in Del Cerro, beginning with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Robert H. Brom. The bishop later joined the community for their Ultreya (Spanish for “onward”), a spiritual gathering that included food, fellowship and witness talks.

“The Cursillo movement has been blessed in San Diego,” Patrick O’Brien, lay director of San Diego’s English-language Cursillo, wrote in a 50th anniversary message. “An estimated 7,500 have experienced our three-day Cursillo weekend. We have gone into our family, work, church and play environments with Christ before us and Christ around us. Our method of a daily program of piety, study and action has transformed lives and generations.”

O’Brien told *The Southern Cross* that Cursillo’s purpose is to help Catholics enter into a deeper relationship with Christ and with one another, and then to change their environments for Christ. The Cursillo experience begins with a three-day weekend, during which participants listen to a series of talks on “little lessons in



ANNIVERSARY: Bishop Robert H. Brom poses with two Cursillista couples — Michael and Nichole Rivera (with their baby Austen), and Dr. Patrick and Jayne O'Brien — after the 50th anniversary Mass Jan. 28.

Christianity,” he said.

Cursillistas — the term for those who have attended the three-day weekend — follow up that experience by joining a Fourth Day Group, which holds small weekly or monthly gatherings where members discuss their spiritual journeys. Men and women are typically in gender-specific groups. There are also monthly Ultreyas, which attract even larger numbers of Cursillistas.

Though the English-language

Cursillo community was the first to be established in San Diego, the movement has since grown to include separate Spanish, Vietnamese and Filipino Cursillo communities, O’Brien said. Each of the language groups was represented at the Ultreya that followed the anniversary Mass.

Cursillo is not just a retreat, O’Brien said, but rather “a change in Christian orientation” that leads to a closer walk with Christ and

often the acceptance of Christian leadership roles.

He noted that many Cursillistas have taken on various roles at their parishes, such as lector or extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, while others have committed to the permanent diaconate. However, most Cursillistas are simply busy expressing their faith in their home and work lives, not with words but with actions.

Regarding the future of Cursillo

in San Diego, O’Brien said, “The prospects look bright due to the fact that it enkindles the Holy Spirit in people. It’s Holy Spirit-driven. We’re not after numbers, but we already have thousands of people spread around this diocese who practice our method.”

In his homily at the anniversary Mass, Bishop Brom stressed that Christians must be “centered in Christ” and are “sent ... to continue His mission.”

“Centered’ and ‘sent,’” the bishop said. “These two words ... are core to our vocation, our common vocation as Christian men and women and ... in a special way to Cursillistas.”

Bishop Brom reminded the Cursillistas that centering oneself in Christ makes it possible to “voyage in peace” even amid “the storms of life.” Once centered in Christ, he said, Christians are sent forth to use their God-given gifts to bring others into communion with God and one another.

“Jesus is the human face of God,” Bishop Brom said. “We are to continue to make the face of Jesus a tangible reality in our homes, families and places of work. That’s Cursillo. That’s our common calling.”

For more information, visit www.cursillosd.org.

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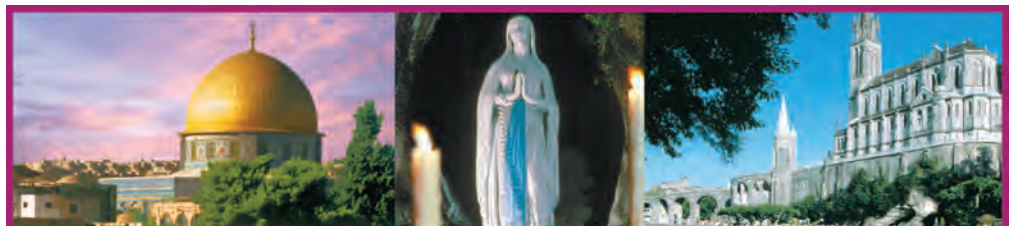


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Partner in the Mission Through the Annual Catholic Appeal

By Bishop Robert H. Brom

As the baptized children of God, we are invited to be Partners in Mission through our contributions to the Annual Catholic Appeal. I am grateful to the many of you who have been faithful contributors in years past.

Each year, the proceeds from the Annual Catholic Appeal help support:

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Catholic Charities is the primary social service agency of the diocese. It assists approximately 300,000 people each year by providing a variety of services to the needy.

PRIESTLY AND RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS

Our Church continues to need dedicated priests and religious. Support for the promotion of vocations to the priesthood and to religious life, as well as for the formation of candidates, can always be put to good use.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

Through well-developed programs of preparation for marriage, as well as programs for marriage/family enrichment, men and women are helped to live their call to discipleship in authentic partnership for the whole of life.

VALLEY PARISH DEVELOPMENT

Our Lady of Guadalupe (Calexico), Our Lady of Guadalupe (El Centro) and Christ the King Mission (Salton Sea area) need assistance to relocate and rebuild their facilities in order to adequately respond to their needs.

Annual Catholic Appeal response envelopes and cards are available at all parishes, or contributions can be made at the diocesan Web site, www.diocese-sdiego.org. I invite you to be Partners in Mission through a very generous contribution to the 2012 Annual Catholic Appeal.

The Southern Cross



Dream of New Church Coming True for Oceanside Parish

St. Thomas More Parish breaks ground on new church, parish offices

By Chris Smith

OCEANSIDE — More than 500 enthusiastic parishioners turned out as St.

Thomas More Parish broke ground for its new church and parish offices.

The groundbreaking ceremony was held Jan. 29 on land adjacent to the 22,500-square-foot multi-purpose parish center, which has served as the community's worship space for more than 10 years.

The event represented a dream come true

for parishioners, many of whom who have been with the parish since its humble beginning in 1985. For the ceremony, parishioners formed a human perimeter around the actual area where the church will be constructed.

Bishop Robert H. Brom presided at the ceremony, assisted by the parish's pastor, Father Michael Ratajczak.

Bishop Brom praised the parish for the way its members have given of their time, talent and treasure.

The bishop praised the parish for the way its members have given of their time, talent and treasure. He stressed the importance of continuing to listen and respond positively to God's word as the parish moves forward.

Father Ratajczak thanked parishioners for their generous support of the construction project. He identified members of the parish leadership team and described the multiple tasks that went on behind the

scenes to make the dream a reality.

The project fulfills a \$10-million campaign to build a permanent church with seating for 1,000 people, a bell tower, a daily chapel, a memorial garden and parish offices on a 15-acre parcel. It is being designed by Renzo Zecchetto Architects, the Los Angeles County architect who also designed the Lux Institute in Encinitas. T.B. Penick & Sons, Inc. of San Diego is assisting with the design build of the project, along with the parish's interior design consultant, Robert Habiger of Dekker/Perich/Sabatini of Albuquerque, N.M.

St. Thomas More Parish is a Catholic stewardship-based faith community, composed of more than 1,000 households, serving more than 3,500 individuals, with boundaries that encompass parts of Carlsbad, Oceanside, Vista and San Marcos. Parishioners are active in a full range of nearly 100 ministries, including faith formation, liturgy, marriage and family life, social ministries and hospitality.

The groundbreaking ceremony was followed by a reception prepared by many dedicated volunteers and attended by nearly all 500 people who were present for the groundbreaking.

The Southern Cross

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Parish Pulls Through Financial Difficulties by Banding Together

By Harold Gansert

LEMON GROVE — With more than 4,000 parishioners and almost 600 school students, St. John of the Cross Parish is one of the largest Catholic faith communities in the Diocese of San Diego.

But because of the recession and the high level of unemployment in the Lemon Grove and La Mesa area, the parish has seen hard times in recent years. These difficulties have saddled the parish with substantial debt. In addition, church facilities have been in serious need of renovation, including repairs to the roofs and other major structures throughout the parish's 20-acre campus.

Thanks to the generosity of the parishioners themselves, this situation is already turning around.

It all started with Father Peter Navarra, pastor of St. John of the Cross, who requested that the parish examine its financial records over the past decade. As a result of this review, it was discovered that



PARISH RENEWAL: Father Peter Navarra, pastor of St. John of the Cross Parish, greets parishioners after Mass.

while parish collections had remained steady, the U.S. dollar is worth 16 cents less today than it was in 2005.

At Sunday Masses, Father Navarra informed parishioners about the state of the parish's finances. But instead of simply

explaining the situation, he and his staff reached out to the entire parish community for assistance.

Staff members and volunteers greeted parishioners outside the church after all the Masses to register new parishioners, new volunteers and new participants for the "scrip" program. A "Can You Help?" feature was added to the parish bulletin, informing parishioners that it takes an average of \$2,400 a day to run the parish, and that given the parish's current financial constraints, an increase in tithing was desperately needed.

In the following weeks, the parish saw a 33-percent increase in collections and the registration of more than 200 new parishioners. More than 30 new volunteers, representing a spectrum of talents from accountants to exterminators, put their skills to work for the parish.

Recent renovation and restoration work, made possible by volunteers, has resulted in a signifi-

cant improvement in the parish's appearance. This endeavor includes the repairing of damaged roofs, painting and landscaping throughout the parish.

"All Christians are in need of constant renewal along with the churches that serve them," Father Navarra said, "and here at St. John of the Cross, God's call was answered ... even during these tough times."

"The greatest gift," he added, "is that the parish has come together as a community of faith. This acknowledges that they do not just come to church to pray, but that their prayer, in the true Christian tradition, is not an end in itself but the means to an end which is service and charity to all our brothers and sisters. Good stewardship always proceeds from the liturgy in giving time to each other by using individual talents in building St. John of the Cross Parish and, in essence, building the kingdom of God."

The Southern Cross

Late Father Penko Was Drawn to Priesthood from Early Age

SAN DIEGO — Father Francis G. Penko, a retired priest of the Diocese of San Diego, died Feb. 5. He was 77 years old.

Father Penko's funeral Mass was celebrated Feb. 10 at Mission San Diego de Alcalá. As



homilist, Father John Proctor delivered a tearful goodbye to his dear friend. Bishop Robert H. Brom thanked all of those who had helped Father Penko along his spiritual journey, including relatives, friends, parishioners and brother priests.

Born on July 24, 1934, in Cleveland, Ohio, Father Penko was attracted to the priesthood during his years as a Catholic school student in the 1940s.

In a homily delivered on the occasion of his 50th anniversary of ordination, Father Penko recalled, "Like many kids my age, I was enthralled by the Mass — the ritual, the language, the vestments, incense, organ music, hymns."

In addition to becoming an altar server, young Francis Penko also celebrated pretend Masses with his friends during childhood playtime. In place of wine, there were soft drinks; oyster crackers substituted for hosts. Though he and his friends knew it was all pretend, he had a sincere desire to truly transform simple bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ.

Father Penko attended Borromeo Seminary College in Wickliffe, Ohio, from 1954-1956, and St. Mary Seminary in Cleveland from 1956-1960. He was ordained for the Diocese of Cleveland on May 28, 1960, by Cardinal John Krol.

Father Penko came to the Diocese of San Diego in September 1978 and was incardinated into the diocese on July 30, 1981. In San Diego, he served as a counselor at Catholic Community Services, director of the Family Life Center, and a faculty member at St. Francis Seminary. He also served as pastor of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and St. Kieran parishes. After retiring in late June 2004, he served as transitional pastor at Corpus Christi Parish in Bonita, before retiring again on June 30, 2005.

"I've known Father Penko since he first

arrived in San Diego, but got to know him better when I was in my first pastorate at Holy Spirit Parish and he was pastor of a neighboring parish, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart," recalled Msgr. Dennis Mikulanic, who currently serves as pastor of San Rafael Parish. "He always had good advice on how to deal with situations that arose in that part of the city and, to me, he was always a model pastor: prayerful, educated, balanced and caring. Frank had a wonderful, dry sense of humor that spoke volumes without saying a lot. I didn't share his fondness for slot machines, though."

In May 2010, while celebrating his 50 years as a priest, Father Penko reflected on his mortality and on the spiritual growth that he

continued to experience even in retirement.

"I'm still learning more and more about God, probably because, in retirement, I have more quiet time for reflection," he said. "But honestly, because ... I am also a lot closer to meeting Him personally one of these days. What I am learning more and more clearly is that God manifests Himself to us through relationships — and not merely in structures, in institutions, in ritual, as important as these sometimes may be."

The Eucharist is about relationship, Father Penko added. It is about Jesus giving Himself totally to us and inviting us — as individuals and as a community — to give ourselves completely to Him.

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Relic of Blessed John Paul II Is Gift for Polish Community, Entire Diocese

By Denis Grasska

PACIFIC BEACH — St. Maximilian Kolbe Mission, home to San Diego's Polish Catholic community, has become the first church in the diocese to receive a first-class relic of Blessed John Paul II.

A drop of the late pope's blood, contained in a gold reliquary and accompanied by an official certification of its authenticity, was blessed by Bishop Robert H. Brom and venerated by the faithful Feb. 5.

Bishop Brom celebrated Mass for the community and then joined them at a reception in the church hall.

"To have that relic is a privilege for us ... because John Paul II was from our nation," explained Father Jerzy Frydrych, a member of the Society of Christ, who serves as chaplain of St. Maximilian Kolbe Mission.

Father Frydrych, who concelebrated the Mass with Bishop Brom, told *The Southern Cross* that he had personally requested the relic from Polish Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow, formerly personal secretary to Pope John Paul.

Father Frydrych hopes that the relic will inspire Polish Catholics in this Local Church to better understand and adhere to Blessed John Paul's teachings. However, he said, the relic is not just for the spiritual benefit of the Polish community.

"We didn't want to keep Pope John Paul II just for us, because he's the pope for everybody," Father Frydrych said, adding that he wants "to open that gift which we have received to the whole diocese."

For those who were unable to attend the Feb. 5 Mass, there will be many other opportunities to venerate the relic.

Since Advent, the Polish mission has offered an English-language Mass at 5 p.m. every Saturday. Now, on the first Saturday of each month, the relic will be exposed for veneration during and after that Mass. First Saturdays are traditionally days of Marian devotion, Father Frydrych said, explaining that Blessed John Paul's own devotion to the Blessed Mother made it a fitting day to venerate the relic as well.

The relic also will be venerated on the first Sunday of each month, during and after the community's Polish-language Masses.

During the Mass Feb. 5, the relic and the official certification signed by Cardinal Dziwisz were carried up to the altar as part of the offertory procession. The bishop blessed the relic after Communion. Immediately following Mass, Father Frydrych returned to the front of the church and a line formed to venerate the relic.

In his homily, Bishop Brom referenced Blessed John Paul's virtues and shared personal anecdotes of his own interactions with the late pontiff.

"Today, as we welcome the blood relic of John Paul II, as we bless it for veneration here in this mission and in the Diocese of San Diego," the bishop said, "we can pay him no greater tribute than to heed his voice from the Basilica of St. Peter's as he began his pontificate and carried his message throughout the world: 'Open wide the doors to Christ.'"

For more information, contact St. Maximilian Kolbe Mission at (858) 272-7655 or visit www.polishmission.org.

The Southern Cross



PAPAL RELIC: A first-class relic of Blessed John Paul II can be seen in the foreground as Father Jerzy Frydrych (left) and Bishop Robert H. Brom (right) celebrate Mass Feb. 5.



LEADERS: From left, Jim DeHarpporte (regional director of CRS West/San Diego), Lucas King (country representative for CRS Haiti), Schuyler Thorup (regional director for Latin America and the Caribbean), Brian Goonan (regional representative for South America) and Rodrigo Valdivia (chancellor of the Diocese of San Diego and CRS diocesan director) pose for a group photo at a training and business meeting Feb. 2.

CRS Staffers Reflect on Strategies, Success of Projects

ALCALA PARK — Catholic Relief Services (CRS) staff from the Latin American and Caribbean region held their executive leadership training and business meeting Jan. 30-Feb. 3 at the University of San Diego's Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice.

As the official international humanitarian organization of the U.S. Catholic Church, CRS serves the poor in about 100 countries around the world. Each year, CRS staff from various regions of the world gather to reflect on strategic approaches, share lessons learned, and strengthen their skills in order to carry out CRS' mission more effectively.

CRS programming in Latin America and the Caribbean focuses on meeting critical and immediate basic needs (i.e. health services, emergency aid such as Haiti, etc.) while at the same time addressing the long-term, structural factors that make poverty a chronic problem in the region. For instance, all CRS projects are designed to strengthen the ability of local communities and their organizations to meet their own needs and to work more effectively with their local governments, thus reducing their reliance on international assistance.

This year's gathering of the Latin American and Caribbean region brought together more than 25 leaders from Central America, South America and the Caribbean. Discussion topics included: food security, job creation, skill development, the root causes of violence, migration and the environment. Holding the meeting at USD afforded the opportunity to learn from the approaches being taken in the United States on these issues, to explore ways to collaborate with the university, and to link with efforts of the Catholic community in the United States to assist the poor and promote equity in their relationships with their brothers and sisters south of the border through such CRS programs as Fair Trade, Operation Rice Bowl and Advocacy.

The Southern Cross

With Charming Anecdotes, Author Paints Personal Portrait of Mother Teresa



Mother Teresa of Calcutta: A Personal Portrait
By Leo Maasburg
Translated from German by Michael J. Miller
Ignatius Press (San Francisco, Calif., 2011)
206 pp., \$22.95

Reviewed by Father Charles L. Fuld

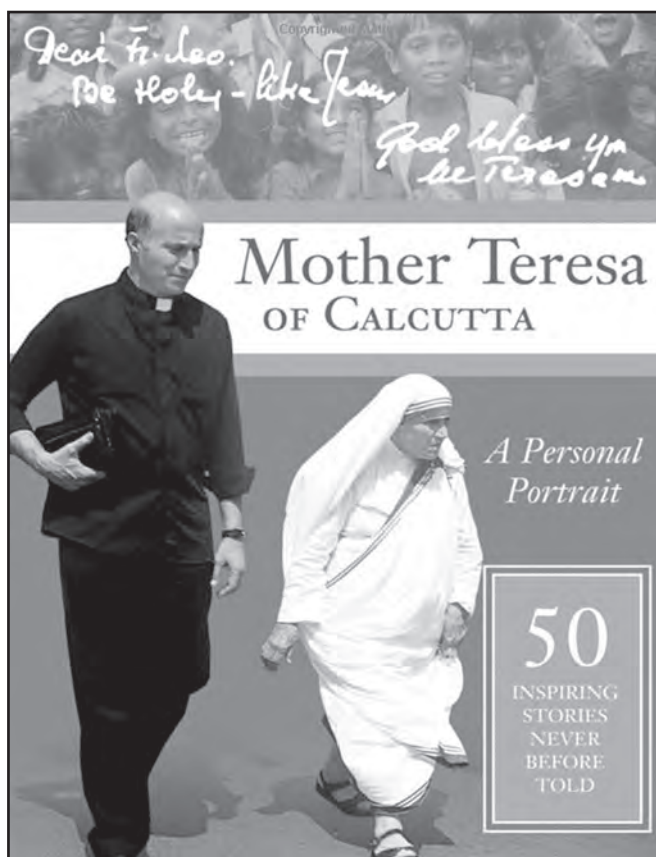
I will always be grateful to Bishop Robert H. Brom for taking me along with him as he showed Mother Teresa three potential homes for her religious sisters here in San Diego.

It was 1992. Everywhere we went that day, people clustered to see her and she responded to every one of them, especially the children, not only with a smile and by holding their hands, but often with the gift of a rosary or holy card she happened to have with her. After looking at the three properties, she ultimately selected a simple, single-family home in St. Jude Shrine of the West Parish.

"We'll start a fund drive to buy the place for the sisters," the bishop offered. "No, there will be no fund drive," she answered — and sure enough the money promptly arrived from one of her sources. That was that!

It was with that memory that I approached Msgr. Leo Maasburg's new book, *Mother Teresa of Calcutta: A Personal Portrait*.

Blessed with the gift of languages, Msgr. Maasburg met Mother Teresa shortly after he was ordained in 1982. An Austrian by birth, he met her in his capacity as a translator for his bishop. Then — reluctantly — he became her driver, and eventually he became her priest companion as she and her sisters traveled to India, Rome, Moscow, Cuba,



New York and the rest of the world until her death in Calcutta on the evening of Sept. 5, 1997.

Father Leo, as she called him, points out that Mother Teresa had several heart operations, but that "neither a weak heart nor well-meaning advice from her doctor could slow her down or keep her from taking on the burden of a

full work day."

The collection of photographs, taken by Msgr. Maasburg, and the stories contained in the book give a magnificent insight into this woman who saw herself as "a pencil in God's hand." The stories include encounters with Blessed John Paul II and with heads of state, as well as accounts of how she managed to do what no one — either inside or outside the Soviet Union — thought possible: "bring Jesus to Russia's poorest of the poor, right in the heart of communism [under which supposedly there were no "poor"], both in the Blessed Sacrament and in loving service from a religious congregation."

Everyone who reads this book will find their own favorite stories, but mine happens to concern her relationship with the press. Msgr. Maasburg confides that Mother Teresa thoroughly disliked being photographed. However, because she could hardly avoid it, she made a "contract with heaven," as she used to say; for every photo taken of her, she asked Jesus to release a soul from purgatory and bring it to heaven. Thus she managed to offer up the tiresome business of being photographed. When she arrived at an airport or on stage, a veritable storm of flashing cameras would begin. When this went on for a very long time, she would say with a broad smile, "That's enough. Purgatory is empty." Then there was the journalist who asked Mother Teresa the secret of her worldwide success. She had a simple answer: "Every morning, I receive Holy Communion."

The Southern Cross

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

Upcoming Parish Mission Will Nourish Catholics with Music

Angotti and Anslinger to perform, preach at All Hallows Parish

By Colleen McNatt

LA JOLLA — Too often, Lenten sacrifices include abstaining from chocolate or avoiding the frequent fast-food fix. This Lent, award-winning missionary John Angotti intends to nourish local Catholics through "a musical retreat" with co-presenter and parish strength-builder Leisa Anslinger.

"Believe, Belong, Make a Difference" will be held at 7 p.m., Monday, March 26, at All Hallows Parish.

Catholic key-meister Angotti, who has been honing his piano skills since age 7, brings his personal musings and medley to this parish mission format, which is not for the "sit down and listen" type of crowd. The interactive concert will engage the entire family. Angotti will include contemporary tunes for the confirmation-age and younger crowd as well as traditional hymns for older generations.

Next month, Angotti's new CD will be available (Check

<http://johnangotti.com> for release date). The CD will include the popular ballads "God Is Good" and "I Believe Because You Love Me," which is a compilation of Facebook stories on faith.

Anslinger, who has been working in a parallel path to Angotti, basically as a full-time missionary and director of Catholic Life and Faith (www.catholiclifeandfaith.com), will showcase her prayerful and practical reflections for attendees during breaks from the musical fare. Although she and Angotti have worked together in larger collaborative settings, the La Jolla concert will be the first time the pair shares a more intimate experience with attendees who wish to repurpose their faith and reaffirm what it means to be a Catholic in the 21st century.

The duo will focus on reenergizing concert-goers for the purpose of revisiting their liturgical experience. Instead of reacting to the nuances of the Mass, Angotti and Anslinger want Catholics to create an energy that will carry them throughout the week. The event will combine prayer, praise and Angotti's self-described "feeding session" where con-

cert-goers will "be washed in the music and the words."

"Is the world a better place because I went to Mass on Sunday?" Angotti asks rhetorically. If the answer is "no," Angotti and Anslinger challenge Catholics to think about their individual participation at weekly Mass and how to tweak their routine if they find themselves running out of steam.

"How much energy are we creating?" Angotti queries about our role in weekly liturgy. If the power of participation at Mass is waning, Angotti and Anslinger redirect our motives in their mission to share faith, witness conversion and challenge with the Gospel teachings of Jesus.

Tickets are now available for "Believe, Belong, Make a Difference." Youth groups are strongly encouraged to attend and may contact All Hallows Music Director Jennifer Michael for group rates. General admission is \$12.

All Hallows Parish is located at 6602 La Jolla Scenic Drive South, La Jolla 92037.

For more information, contact Jennifer Michael at (619) 589-6437, e-mail ijnmichael@cox.net or visit www.allhallows.com.

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For Sherwood Pictures, Filmmaking Is Just Another Ministry

Ken Bevel stars in 'Courageous,' now available on DVD

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO — Thanks to his roles in two Sherwood Pictures productions, millions of people have seen Ken Bevel on the big screen.

But that taste of stardom hasn't given him delusions of grandeur.

Like everyone else associated with Sherwood Pictures, the film studio based out of Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Ga., Bevel approaches filmmaking as a form of ministry. He is currently a senior associate pastor at Sherwood Baptist.

"In the church, Sherwood Pictures is really another ministry for us," Bevel explained during a Jan. 23 phone interview with *The Southern Cross*. "It's no different from an usher ministry, or a greeter ministry, or someone working in the parking lot. It's all the same."

"Courageous," the fourth and latest film from Sherwood Pictures, was released last month on DVD and Blu-ray. In the film,

four sheriff's deputies (one played by Bevel) and a civilian friend make a formal resolution to truly live up to their calling as Christian fathers.

After Sherwood Pictures' previous film, the marriage-minded "Fireproof," a film about fatherhood might have seemed like a natural follow-up, but Bevel said the idea came only after much prayer. He revealed that the filmmakers typically take about 18 months to pray over two questions: Should we make another film and, if so, what should it be about?

Feeling that God was calling them to make a film about fatherhood, Bevel said, the filmmakers began researching the subject and encountered the "staggering" statistic that 36 percent of U.S. children live without a father.

The importance of fathers is "a topic that is really taken lightly in our society today," he said, "but at the same time, it's been impacting our families to the point where you're seeing our society crumble."

Bevel noted that film and television depictions of fathers have drastically changed since the 1950s and 1960s. Back then, he said, a father was depicted as "the

figurehead for his family" rather than "the laughingstock" who offers no guidance and cedes all family leadership responsibilities to his wife.

"We're trying to counter that by saying, God did not intend for the family to be that way," Bevel explained. "He intended for it to be very different, and [He holds] the man responsible for leading his family to Christ."

In addition to challenging societal notions about fatherhood, the makers of "Courageous" also aspired "to rise above" the perception that Christian films are "cheesy and low-budget," Bevel said. Continuing to improve with each production, the filmmakers made use of better cameras and incorporated more action sequences and special-effects shots than in any of their previous films.

Though the film wears its Christianity on its sleeve, Bevel said, Sherwood Pictures does not exist just to entertain Christian audiences. The goal, he said, is to make "a movie that helps change a generation" and delivers the message that "there is hope in Christ." Bevel believes that even less spiritually-inclined viewers will be able



KEN BEVEL

to relate to "Courageous" because fatherhood is "a universal topic ... Everybody's got a dad."

Throughout the filming of "Courageous," Bevel said, it was clear that this was not a Hollywood movie set. For instance, he said, production days often began with Christian devotions and prayer for God's blessing.

"We're asking for God's guidance and favor on what we're doing," he said. "We're just a little, small church in Georgia. ... We have to depend on God to give us everything that we need."

"You'll see people praying, you'll see people encouraging one another on the movie set," Bevel said. "You don't see any cursing or kicking people off the set. You see a lot of encouragement and people joining together for one common goal, which is to glorify God."

The filmmaking ministry of Sherwood Pictures does not end when a finished film is released in theaters or on DVD. Like it did with previous releases, Sherwood Pictures has produced a series of resources that will help viewers take the lessons of "Courageous" and put them into practice. These resources can be found at www.courageousthemovie.com.

With a production budget of only \$2 million, "Courageous" has taken in more than \$34.5 million at the box office. "Fireproof," produced three years earlier for half a million, has brought in almost \$33.5 million. With numbers like these, it's only natural to assume that Sherwood Pictures will continue making films. But, Bevel said, that decision will be made only after much prayer.

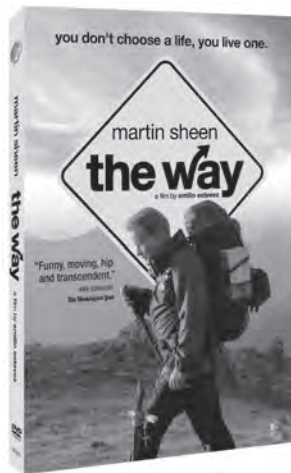
The Southern Cross

Win a Copy of 'The Way'

Three lucky readers will win a copy of "The Way," released on DVD Feb. 21.

The film tells the story of a grieving father (portrayed by Martin Sheen) who travels to France to retrieve the body of his son (played by real-life son Emilio Estevez), who died while walking an ancient Christian pilgrimage route known as the Camino de Santiago. In tribute to his son, Sheen's character undertakes the pilgrimage himself and embarks on a life-changing journey. Estevez also wrote and directed the film.

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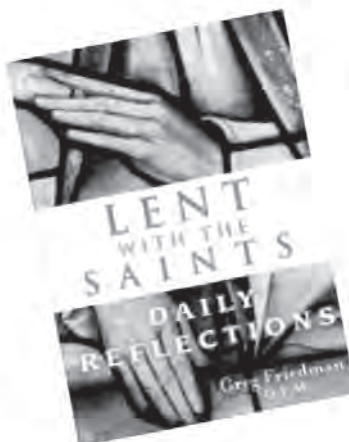
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From the 1950s through the late 1970s, Karol Wojtyla (Pope John Paul II) was a professor of moral philosophy at the Catholic University of Lublin in Poland, specializing in sexual ethics and what we call today “marriage and family life.” He produced two important books touching on these matters, *The Acting Person*, a rigorously philosophical exploration of Christian anthropology, and *Love and Responsibility*, a much more accessible analysis of love, sex and marriage. These texts provided the foundation for the richly textured teaching of Pope John Paul II that now goes by the name “theology of the body.” As was evident throughout his papacy, John Paul had a deep devotion to young people, and he wanted them to see the teaching of the Church in regard to sex, not as a burden, but as an invitation to fuller life. In the context of this brief article, I would like to develop just one insight from John Paul’s rich magisterium on sex and marriage, for I share the perennial concern of older people that too many young people are treating sex in a morally casual way.



Father Robert Barron

Karol Wojtyla taught that in making an ethical decision, a moral agent does not only give rise to a particular act, but he also contributes to the person he is becoming. Every

time I perform a moral act, I am building up my character, and every time I perform an unethical act, I am compromising my character. A sufficient number of virtuous acts, in time, shapes me in such a way that I can predictably and reliably perform virtuously in the future, and a sufficient number of vicious acts can misshape me in such a way that I am typically incapable of choosing rightly in the future. This is not judgmentalism; it is a kind of spiritual/moral physics, an articulation of a basic law. We see the same principle at work in sports. If you swing the golf club the wrong way enough times, you become a bad golfer, that is to say, someone habitually incapable of hitting the ball straight and far. And if you swing the club correctly enough times, you become a good golfer, someone habitually given to hitting the ball straight and far.

John Paul put his finger on a problem typical of our time, namely, that people think that they can do lots of bad things while still remaining, deep down, “good persons,” as though their characters are separable from the particular things that they do. In point of fact, a person who habitually engages in self-absorbed, self-destructive and manipulative behavior is slowly but surely warping her character, turning herself into a self-absorbed, self-destructive and manipulative

The Acts We Perform; the People We Become

person. Viewed from a slightly different angle, this is the problem of separating “self” from the body, as though the “real person” hides under or behind the concrete moves of the body. Catholic philosophy and theology have battled this kind of dualism for centuries, insisting that the self is a composite of spirit and matter. In fact, it is fascinating to note how often this gnostic conception of the person (to give it its proper name) asserts itself and how often the Church has risen up to oppose it.

Now apply this principle to sexual behavior. Study after study has shown that teenagers and college students are participating more and more in a “hook-up” culture, an environment in which the most casual and impersonal forms of sexual behavior are accepted as a matter of course. As recently as 25 or 30 years ago, there was still, even among teenagers, a sense that sexual contact belonged at least in the context of a “loving” or “committed” relationship, but today it appears as though even this modicum of moral responsibility has disappeared. And this is doing terrible damage to young people. Dr. Leonard Sax, a physician and psychiatrist, explored the phenomenon of the hook-up culture in his book *Why Gender Matters*, a text I would warmly recommend to teenagers and their parents. He

described that tawdry moral universe in some detail, and then he remarked that his psychiatrist’s office is filled with young people — especially young women — who have fallen into debilitating depression, anxiety and low self-esteem. Dr. Sax theorized that these psychological symptoms are a function of a kind of cognitive dissonance. The wider society is telling teenagers that they can behave in any way they like and still be “good people,” but the consciences of these young people are telling a different story. Deep down, they know that selfish and irresponsible behavior is turning them into selfish and irresponsible people — and their souls are crying out. Their presence, in Dr. Sax’s waiting room, witnesses to the truth of John Paul’s understanding of the moral act.

I might sum up John Paul’s insight by saying that moral acts matter, both in the short run and in the long run. For weal or for woe, they produce immediate consequences, and they form characters. And so I might venture to say to a young person, tempted to engage in irresponsible sexual behavior: Please realize that, though you may not immediately appreciate it, the particular things you choose to do are inevitably shaping the person you are becoming.

Father Robert Barron is the founder of the global ministry, Word on Fire, and the Francis Cardinal George Professor of Faith and Culture at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Ill. He is the creator and host of a new 10-episode documentary series called “Catholicism.” For more information, visit www.wordonfire.org.

Vaccinating Our Children for Sexually Transmitted Diseases?

Last October, an advisory committee of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta recommended that 9- to 12-year-old boys be vaccinated against the human papillomavirus (HPV), a virus transmitted through sexual contact. The goal of the recommendations was to prevent cancers caused by HPV, such as certain cancers of the digestive tract.



Father Tad Pacholczyk

The same committee had already recommended, back in March of 2007, that girls and young women between the ages of 9 and 26 be vaccinated against HPV, to help prevent various cancers of the reproductive tract, such as cervical cancer.

While the motivation to prevent cancer and diseases is clearly good, a universal recommendation of this type raises ethical concerns. Because the recommendations of the committee relate to important aspects of human behavior and sexuality at formative ages for children and adolescents, parents need to look at the psychological and social messages they might be con-

veying by choosing to vaccinate their children against HPV. Beyond all the medical considerations, parents also have a duty to inoculate their children against harmful and immoral behaviors. Thus, decisions about vaccinations ultimately need to be made on a case-by-case basis within a particular family.

Parents are often rightly concerned that getting their kids vaccinated for a sexually-transmitted virus could be taken to signal tacit approval of pre-marital sex. Young people might surmise that their parents and physicians do not believe they can remain chaste, but instead begrudgingly expect them to become sexually active prior to marriage.

The widespread phenomenon of condom distribution among youth certainly conveys the same message, and young people today are not fools; they perceive how the culture around them has caved in on this question, no longer insisting, or even believing, that they have the wherewithal to refrain from pre-marital sex. Girls and boys are no longer treated as

free individuals who can make higher and better choices when encouraged and supported, but instead are treated as mere creatures of sexual necessity. I recall one time speaking with a middle-aged woman about the CDC vaccination recommendations. “When I was a girl, if my mom had taken me to get vaccinated for a sexually-transmitted disease, I would have been horrified,” she said. “I would have wondered to myself, ‘What does she suppose I am, a tramp or something?’”

Parents do need to be careful about conveying a sense of fatalism when it comes to questions of the sexual behavior of their kids. Against the backdrop of a highly permissive culture, parents, who are the first educators of their children in sexual matters, are right to be concerned about sending conflicting messages.

Pursuing universal vaccination for sexually-transmitted diseases like HPV could have the unintended effect of setting up a false sense of security, a kind of mental “safety net,” for boys and girls who are potentially sexually-active. In

the hormonally-charged environment of adolescence, young people might come to believe that the risks of pre-marital sex would be reduced by the vaccination, to the point that they would be “protected” and could risk promiscuous behaviors, when in fact, they would be increasing their odds of contracting sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs) of any kind.

To consider an example where using the HPV vaccine might be sensible, we could consider a young woman who had been chaste all her life but who was preparing to marry a man whom she suspected had been sexually active (and might therefore expose her to HPV in their marriage). She could decide, prior to marriage, that receiving the HPV vaccination would be reasonable, and even without any suspicions about her future spouse’s past behavior, she might still prefer to leave nothing to chance.

Evaluating the potential risks and benefits of vaccinating boys or young men would similarly indicate various situations where the HPV vaccination would be rea-

sonable. Also, at younger ages, children may not need to know the exact purposes behind a vaccination. They could simply be told by their parents (if they even asked) that the vaccine would protect them against possible cancers in the future.

Parents themselves, however, might still have doubts about the safety of the HPV vaccine, given that its side-effects and complications are still being actively debated and studied. They might still have questions about its long-term benefits since it affords only a 5-year window of protection, and has only been surmised, but never scientifically demonstrated, to prevent cancer at a timepoint far in the future.

In sum, many factors need to be considered. Rather than a universal mandate, a careful, case-by-case risk/benefit analysis ought to be made by each family to determine whether the HPV vaccine is a reasonable choice, not only medically, but also in terms of where a young person may be in his or her life as a “moral agent.”

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D., earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Mass., and serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia (www.ncbcenter.org).

Why do adults become Catholics? There are as many reasons for “converting” as there are converts.



George Weigel

Evelyn Waugh became a Catholic with, by his own admission, “little emotion but clear conviction”: This was the truth; one ought to adhere to it. Cardinal Avery Dulles wrote that his journey into the Catholic Church began when, as an unbelieving Harvard undergraduate detached from his family’s staunch Presbyterianism, he noticed a leaf shimmering with raindrops while taking a walk along the Charles River in Cambridge, Mass.; such beauty could not be accidental, he thought — there must be a Creator. Thomas Merton found Catholicism aesthetically, as well as intellectually, attractive: Once the former Columbia free-thinker and dabbler in communism and Hinduism found his way into a Trappist monastery and became a priest, he explained the Mass to his unconverted friend, poet Robert Lax, by analogy to a ballet. Until his death in 2007, Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger insisted that his conversion

Converts and the Symphony of Truth

to Catholicism was not a rejection of, but a fulfillment of, the Judaism into which he was born; the cardinal could often be found at Holocaust memorial services reciting the names of the martyrs, including “Gisèle Lustiger, ma maman” [“my mother”].

Two of the great 19th-century converts were geniuses of the English language: theologian John Henry Newman and poet Gerard Manley Hopkins. This tradition of literary converts continued in the 20th century and included Waugh, Graham Greene, Edith Sitwell, Ronald Knox and Walker Percy. Their heritage lives today at Our Savior’s Church on Park Avenue in New York, where convert author, wit, raconteur and amateur pugilist George William Rutler presides as pastor.

In early American Catholicism, the fifth archbishop of Baltimore (and de facto primate of the United States), Samuel Eccleston, was a convert from Anglicanism, as was the first native-born American saint and the precursor of the Catholic school system, Elizabeth Anne Seton. Mother Seton’s portrait in the offices of the archbishop of New York is somewhat incongruous, as the young widow Seton, with her children, was

run out of New York by her unforgiving Anglican in-laws when she became a Catholic. On his deathbed, another great 19th-century convert, Henry Edward Manning of England, who might have become the Anglican archbishop of Canterbury but became the Catholic archbishop of Westminster instead, took his long-deceased wife’s prayer book from beneath his pillow and gave it to a friend, saying that it had been his spiritual inspiration throughout his life.

If there is a thread running through these diverse personalities, it may be this: that men and women of intellect, culture and accomplishment have found in Catholicism what Blessed John Paul II called the “symphony of truth.” That rich and complex symphony, and the harmonies it offers, is an attractive, compelling and persuasive alternative to the fragmentation of modern and post-modern intellectual and cultural life, where little fits together and much is cacophony. Catholicism, however, is not an accidental assembly of random truth-claims; the creed is not an arbitrary catalogue of propositions and neither is the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. It all fits together, and

in proposing that symphonic harmony, Catholicism helps fit all the aspects of our lives together, as it orders our loves and loyalties in the right direction.

You don’t have to be an intellectual to appreciate this “symphony of truth,” however. For Catholicism is, first of all, an encounter with a person, Jesus Christ, who is “the way, the truth and the life” (John 14:6). And to meet that person is to meet the truth that makes all the other truths of our lives make sense. Indeed, the embrace of Catholic truth in full, as lives like Blessed John Henry Newman’s demonstrate, opens one up to the broadest possible range of intellectual encounters.

Viewed from outside, Catholicism can seem closed and unwelcoming. As Evelyn Waugh noted, though, it all seems so much more spacious and open from the inside. The Gothic, with its soaring vaults and buttresses and its luminous stained glass, is not a classic Catholic architectural form by accident. The full beauty of the light, however, washes over you when you come in.

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

Lent Is Like Grandma’s Little Black Skirt

In the summer of 2009, my husband and I went to a reunion on his side of the family. Aunt Lucia told a story about John’s grandmother. I never met Grandma Bossert. She passed away long before I married into the family. But Aunt Lucia said Grandma had a little black skirt. She’d owned it for as long as Aunt Lucia could remember. Grandma used the skirt as a kind of measuring tape to monitor weight gain. When she couldn’t get the side zipper to zip, she would cut back on what she ate until it fit her again.



Denise Bossert

I’ve seen pictures of Grandma Bossert. She looked like a Hollywood star even when she was well into her sixties, thanks to that little skirt and constant vigilance.

Our Church calendar is like Grandma’s skirt.

On fat Tuesday, we try on our spiritual skirts, and we realize that we have gotten a little out of shape. Our baptismal vows aren’t fitting like they should. And for 40 days, we submit to the process of self-denial and service to others. We ask for the grace to re-order our disordered lives, so that on Easter morning, we are ready to

meet the risen Lord.

We have ways of measuring our progress just as Grandma Bossert had her side zipper. We know what to do when things are out of control. Oh, we don’t have to put on sad faces and act sullen about the self-denial. Even Grandma Bossert could put on a 30-dish meal for family while simultaneously keeping her eyes on that little black skirt. In fact, she let the season of self-denial turn her focus outward. Her attention went to those around her. Did they have enough to eat? Had they seen the spätzle? Did they need more coffee?

Her focus was on the needs of those around her, even as she quietly modified her own habits.

That’s how we should be during Lent. We should remain faithful to our Lenten promises even as we let our energies turn outward. How can we simultaneously deny ourselves and also meet the needs of those in our midst? The Church has the answer: 40 days of re-ordering our lives and offering ourselves up for others. We become more like Christ when we enter into the season of Lent.

At the end of 40 days, we know that we could let things fall apart again, or we can ask God for the grace to keep our lives in right order. Lessons learned during Lent stay with us — if we let them.

We learn to love. We learn how to be holy. We ask for the grace to overcome our weaknesses. When we have self-doubt and don’t think we can make it, we study the lives of the saints and get inspired. We pick ourselves up and do a serious examination of conscience. We submit to the sacrament of reconciliation and lose the baggage we carry. We begin and end each day with a simple dedication of our day to God.

We make progress in personal sanctification by actively engaging the season of Lent. The spiritual equivalent to a little black skirt and an act of the will.

Go ahead. Do some self-assessment. Does the skirt fit? There are so many ways to learn to be holy — as many ways as there are Lenten promises. Pick one. Keep your promise. Turn your energy outward to those in need. Eventually, your spiritual skirt will fit like a glove.

And just like Grandma Bossert, you will move about your kitchen with grace and dignity, asking everyone around you, “Have you seen the spätzle? I made it just for you.”

Denise Bossert lives in the Archdiocese of St. Louis and is a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in New Melle, Mo. Visit her blog at catholicbygrace.blogspot.com.

Lenten Sacrifice



ABSTINENCE

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



FASTING

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



SELF-DENIAL

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



PRAYER AND CHARITY

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

A Cardinal's Final Blessing

The December issue of *The Southern Cross* included a small article in its Local Briefs section titled "Media-Friendly Cardinal Foley Dies at Age 76." That article reported that U.S. Cardinal John Patrick Foley, "who spent more than two decades leading the Church's social communications council and later worked for the Church in the Middle East, died Dec. 11 after a battle with leukemia."



Deacon Ralph Skiano

The cardinal, who was ordained in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, died in the very same hospital in which he was born — the Fitzgerald-Mercy Hospital in Darby, Pa.

**Jesus said,
'Whatever you do to
the least of My
people, you do unto
Me.' It seems as
though the cardinal
was true to Jesus'
words right up to
the time he died.**

While I never met Cardinal Foley, I feel that he has touched my family and me in a very personal way. I grew up in Darby and actually worked as a teenager in the kitchen of the hospital where he passed away. My

younger sister, who still lives in the area, lost her job with the bank about four years ago and began working as part of the maintenance crew at Fitzgerald-Mercy Hospital about two years ago.

On Nov. 15, my sister came home from work to find that her husband of almost 40 years had taken his own life. That night, she called me with the sad news. Because of some conflict in our family, my sister had not spoken to me for about four years prior to this, but our relationship began to heal over the next few weeks. I spoke to her almost daily as she struggled with the shock and grief of the tragedy.

The first week in December, she told me that after she returned to work, "A cardinal who is dying noticed how sad I looked, and I told him what had happened. He was so nice to me, and he gave me a blessing and prayed a 'Hail Mary' with me."

I asked what his last name was, but at that time, she didn't know. When I spoke to her on Dec. 17, she said: "Oh, you know that cardinal I told you about. His name was Foley and he just died last Sunday. I saw on the TV that he served at the Vatican and all. The people at work are telling me that he may have given me his last blessing before he died."

Jesus said, "Whatever you do to the least of My people, you do unto Me." It seems as though the cardinal was true to Jesus' words right up to the time he died. Near the end, he reached out to my sister, the cleaning woman who had lost her husband to suicide. God bless him. His actions challenge us to continue to let God work through us, mediating His love to others, until the last moment of our lives.

The Southern Cross

Deacon Ralph Skiano is associate director of the diocesan Office for Marriage and Family Life and serves at St. Mary Magdalene Parish.



CARDINAL JOHN P. FOLEY

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EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHETICAL MINISTRY

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Imperial Valley Course

"Infant Baptism Team Formation" with Deacon Ron and Rae Arnold, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 25, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Calexico. Fee: \$30.

Master Catechist In-Service

"Dangerous Eucharist and the Death-Defying Role of Catechesis" with Nick Wagner, from 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (includes lunch), Thursday, March 1, at the diocesan Pastoral Center. No fee. Note: This in-service is for master catechists only.

Catechist Workshop

"Teaching Young People About Liturgy and Sacraments" with Teresa Moya, from 6-9 p.m., Friday, March 9, at St.

DIOCESAN PROGRAMS

Anthony of Padua Parish, Imperial. Fee: \$15.

Orientación para Formadores de Catequistas

"Eucaristía: Presencia Real de Cristo" con Padre Emmet Farrell, 1 de marzo, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (incluir almuerzo), en el Centro Pastoral. No hay costo.

Imperial Valley Catechist Workshop

"Catechists Are a Gift" with Mary Jo Waggoner, from 9 a.m.-noon, Tuesday, April 10, at St. Anthony of Padua, Imperial. Fee: \$15.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Crime Victim or Family Member?

If you are in need of spiritual support and would like to

give or receive support from other people like you in similar circumstances, please contact the diocesan Office for Social Ministry's Restorative Justice Program at (858) 490-8375; en Español, (858) 490-8327; or e-mail jwalsh@diocese-sdiego.org. For more information, visit www.diocese-sdiego.org/restore.

Friends/Family of Incarcerated

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

Ministry to the Incarcerated

Catholic adults can serve on teams ministering to Catholic inmates in a variety of detention facilities. For information,

visit www.diocese-sdiego.org/restore, e-mail jwalsh@diocese-sdiego.org or call (858) 490-8375.

Courage

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

Encourage

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

PARISH EVENTS

Lenten Fish Dinners
• 5 p.m., March 9, at St. Didacus Parish. Menu includes baked fish, rolls, coleslaw, potatoes and fruit cocktail. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. For information, call (619) 255-2572.

• 5-7:30 p.m., every Friday during Lent, in the church hall at St. Mary Parish, Escondido. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Regina Coeli Council 4953. Location: 1160 South Broadway, Escondido 92025. Prices: adults, \$7.99; youth, \$5.99; family, \$25 (two parents and up to four children.)

Healing Mass
A Mass and healing service will be held March 19 at St. Therese of Carmel Parish. 6:30 p.m., praise and worship; 7 p.m., healing Mass, followed by healing service. Celebrant: Father Patrick J. Crowley. For information, call (858) 481-3232.

Parish Mission
• “Start Lent with Christ” with Father Stan Fortuna, CFR, will be held at 7 p.m., Feb. 23, at St. Patrick Parish, Carlsbad. For more information, call (760) 729-2866.

• “Eucharist and Stewardship: A Catholic Way of Life,” March 5-7, at St. Brigid Parish in Pacific Beach. Presenter: Bishop Sylvester Ryan. For information, call (858) 483-3030.

Sung Contemplative Rosary
7 p.m., Feb. 24, at San Rafael Parish in Rancho Bernardo. Featuring the Sorrowful Mysteries of Lent. All are welcome to sing and pray along with members of the parish choir, focusing on the last days in the life of Christ through visual means (beautiful icons), scriptural readings and song. For information, call (858) 487-4314.

Springfest!
St. Columba School’s “Springfest” Carnival & \$1,000 Opportunity Draw will be held from 10 a.m.-7 p.m., April 28, at St. Columba Parish (3365 Glencolum Dr.).

PARISH EVENTS

Activities include food and game booths, music and entertainment. For more information, call (858) 279-1882.

Christian Poetry Workshop
St. Joseph Cathedral will host a workshop for Christian poets on June 9. Poets also can submit original, unpublished poetry for inclusion in Poetry in the Cathedral 2012. For information, visit www.poetryinthecathedral.com.

GROUPS

Fundraising Dinner
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School will hold a fundraising dinner, “Keep the Dream Alive,” March 10 in Hannon Hall (42nd and Orange, San Diego 92105). Cost: \$50/person. Proceeds help OLSH continue to provide Catholic Education in City Heights. For information, e-mail OLSHalum@gmail.com or call (858) 349-9149.

Blessed Sacrament Women’s Club
Annual card party and luncheon, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., March 10, in Blessed Sacrament Parish’s church hall. Cost: \$10/person. To RSVP, call (619) 286-9945.

Bake/Craft/Boutique Sale
An indoor sale will take place in Santa Sophia Parish’s Prendergast Hall after all Masses March 10 and 11. The parish is now accepting reservations to sell items. The event is sponsored by the parish’s Women’s Guild. Sign up now to guarantee your spot. For information, call (619) 471-5837 or Kathy (619) 690-0826.

Golf Tournament
St. Francis of Assisi School will host its annual golf tournament March 16 at Twin Oaks Valley Golf Course in San Marcos. For information, visit sfv-vista.org or call (760) 945-8044.

Council of Catholic Women
Oceanside Deanery. Meeting/luncheon at

GROUPS

11 a.m., March 14, at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Encinitas. Cost: \$5. RSVP by March 9. For information, call (760) 436-0151.

Incest Survivors Anonymous
A new 12-step San Diego program meets: Sundays, 4-5:30 p.m., at the Theosophical Society (3772 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego); Thursdays, 7-8:15 p.m., at County Health & Humans Services (3851 Rosecrans St., San Diego Room). Men and women welcome. For information, call (858) 541-0558.

Pro-Life Rosary
A group of North County parishioners meets every Monday, from 10-10:30 a.m., to peacefully pray the rosary in front of the Carlsbad Planned Parenthood Clinic (1820 Marron Rd.). For information, e-mail JHodges001@hotmail.com.

Women’s Christian Fellowship
Women’s Christian Fellowship invites everyone to a healing Mass (with Father Mike Barry), 9:30 a.m.-noon, March 29, at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish’s Conference Center, Carlsbad. For information, call (760) 436-3875 or visit www.womenschristianfellowship.org.

Cill Dara Book Group
The group meets from 6:30-8:30 p.m., every third Wednesday, in the Matthew Room, located upstairs in St. Brigid Parish’s Ministry Center. For information, e-mail leehulburt@gmail.com.

‘Love Our Priests’
The “Love Our Priests” prayer group will meet for Mass at 10 a.m., May 5, at Ascension Parish in Tierrasanta. Guest: Father Rex Kintanar from the Philippines. Bring a potluck dish and friend. For information, call (858) 560-7132.

Holy Spirit Ministries
• Monthly holiness class, 5-9 p.m., date to be announced, in the St. Augustine High School chapel.

GROUPS

• Mass/healing service, 7:30 p.m., March 2 and March 19, at Holy Spirit Parish. Healing service with Eucharistic exposition and adoration follows Mass.
• Men’s group meets in Escondido at 7 p.m. Another men’s group meets in Chula Vista. Call office for information.

• Contemplative retreat, March 6-11, at Holy Trinity Hermitage.
• Bible study continues, at 7 p.m. (a new time) in the church hall at Holy Spirit Parish. Listen on-line at <http://www.newcce.com/live>.
• For information, call (619) 262-9685 or visit www.holyspiritministry.net.

Lay Carmelite Vocation
Do you feel called to a closer walk with Christ, to be nearer to Him in prayer? Perhaps a Lay Carmelite Vocation is calling you. For information, call (619) 254-4036.

WORKSHOPS, RETREATS AND CONFERENCES

After-Abortion Healing
Rachel’s Hope will offer an after-abortion healing retreat for Catholic (and Catholic-

WORKSHOPS, RETREATS AND CONFERENCES

friendly) women, March 9-11, at the diocesan Pastoral Center. Cost: \$45; partial scholarships available. Confidentiality maintained. For information/registration, call (858) 581-3022 or visit www.RachelsHope.org.

Silent Ignatian Retreats
Preached by Miles Christi priests. For men: March 2-4 in Oceanside. Spiritual talks, Eucharistic adoration and daily Mass. For men, contact californiamen@spiritualexercises.net or (858) 768-0782; for women, contact california@spiritualexercises.net or (209) 357-0128.

Women’s Retreats
• A women’s retreat weekend with Father Stan Fortuna, CFR, will be held Feb. 24-26 at Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside. For more information, call (619) 884-3829 or e-mail wmmretreat@gmail.com.
• “The Feast of Heaven and Earth,” St. Francis Women’s Retreat 2012, will be held April 27-29 at Oakbridge Christian Conference Center in Ramona. Retreat cost: \$185 (discounted to \$175 if paid in full by March 15); partial scholarships available. For information, call (760) 500-3201.

WORKSHOPS, RETREATS AND CONFERENCES

‘Healing of Memories’
9 a.m.-4 p.m., March 10, at St. Therese of Carmel Parish (4355 Del Mar Trails Rd.) Workshop will explain how you can achieve healing from life’s hurts. Led by Father John Hampsch, CMF. Registration: \$30. For information, call (858) 481-3232 or e-mail jfirsching@sttheresecarmel.org.

Discernment Days
• The Sisters of Nazareth invite young women seriously considering a religious vocation to attend a discernment day, March 11, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., at Nazareth House San Diego, 6333 Rancho Mission Road, San Diego. For information or to RSVP, call (310) 614-9570 or e-mail vocations@nazarethhousela.org.

• The Sisters of St. Benedict, Ferdinand, Ind., invite single women aged 18-40 to a discernment weekend March 16-18. There will be opportunities to meet Benedictine sisters, share in their community life and prayer, and meet other discerning women. For information or to register, visit www.thedome.org, call (800) 734-9999, or e-mail vocation@thedome.org.

BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Bulletin Board is a free service of *The Southern Cross* newspaper.
- **All announcements appear on a space-permitting basis.**
- Announcements (30 words maximum) can be e-mailed 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.

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A listing of services provided by businesses and professionals in the San Diego area. Also see your 2011 Catholic Directory Yellow Pages

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La Jolla, CA 92037
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See ad in annual directory

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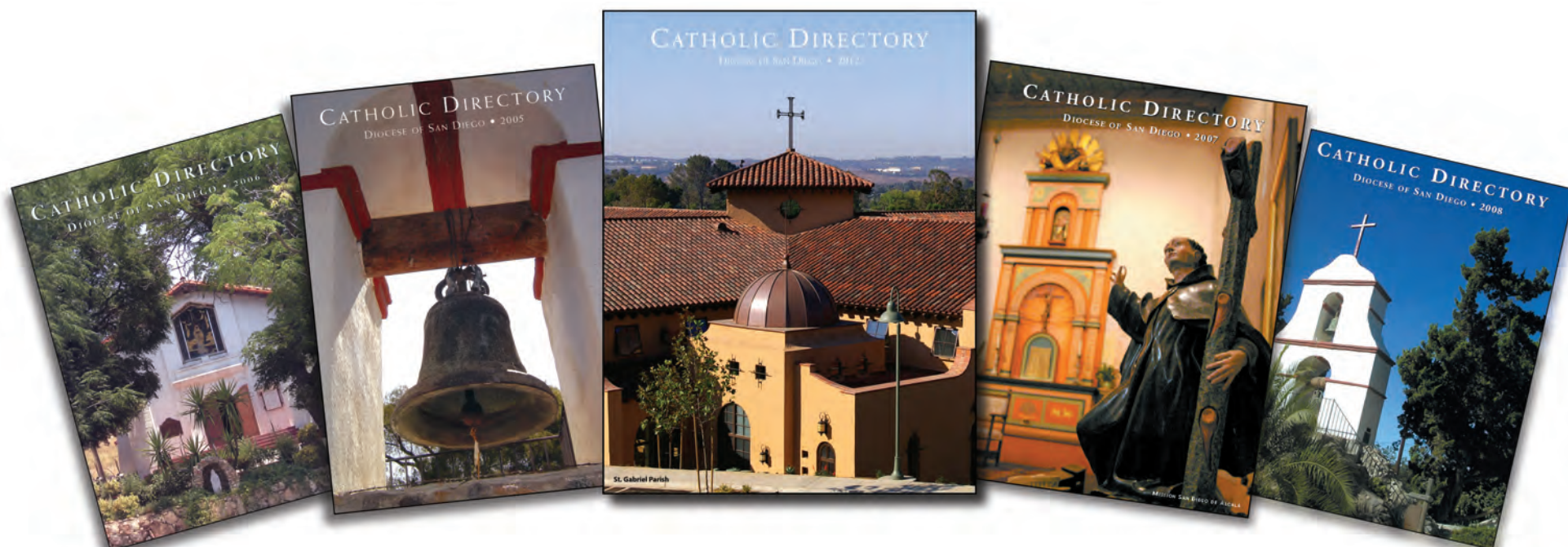
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