



'You are the man,' cardinal's YouTube fan says

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PHILADELPHIA (CNS) - Who's that you're seeing on YouTube?

Yes, it really is really Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia.

The cardinal is providing video reflections for each Sunday of Lent, as well as for Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter on the free, video-sharing Web site, which

allows users to upload, view and share video clips.

Once on the site, www.youtube.com, visitors can easily find the reflections by typing "Cardinal Rigali" into the search area.

"YouTube is a place where people communicate a multiplicity of things, and certainly, from the viewpoint of the Church, we have a

desire to communicate Christ," Cardinal Rigali said recently. "We have the message in the Gospel - the uplifting message of Jesus, a wonderful message of hope ... of love ... of faith."

The cardinal said he hopes his contribution will be of help to people who are reflecting on God and Christ, and on the meaning of life and love.

Through the years, the Church has shown tremendous commitment to social communications, the cardinal said. "Communicating the uplifting message of Christ is just a blessing," he added.

Clearly, Cardinal Rigali is a hit on the video site, where contributions

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Organizing Ordination 2007

For the people planning it, Ordination 2007 - the historic event which will take place May 26 at the Donald W. Reynolds Center Arena on the campus of the University of Tulsa - is coming up fast. Father Matt Gerlach, director of the Office of Divine Worship, said the two priests and 11 permanent deacons who will be ordained that day is the largest number of men ever ordained in one ceremony and marks the first time priests and deacons will be ordained together. One more ordination is on the horizon: Deacon Leonardo Medina will be ordained to the priesthood June 15 in his home parish in Mexico. Those logistics won't be the concern for the busy ordination planning committee, pictured above from left: Father Gerlach, Chancellor John Johnson, Walter Stout, director of music at the Church of St. Mary, Mary Hoff, event planner and theology teacher at Bishop Kelley High School, Father Jack Gleason, director of vocations, and Mike Malcom, technical adviser at Holy Family Cathedral. Father Gerlach said the revision of the rites of ordination after the Second Vatican Council made it possible to ordain priests and deacons together in the same ceremony. "It is hoped that by joining these two actions together, the fullness of the ecclesiastical ministry will be illustrated as the Bishop joins with his priests and deacons to celebrate the Eucharist and to consecrate men for service in the Church."

Catholic Charities raises \$1.6 million from parishes

By MARILYN DUCK

Only the second diocesan-wide capital fundraising campaign in the history of the Diocese of Tulsa is in what organizers call the "parish phase," as Catholics in all 78 parishes are or will be asked to make a five-year commitment to the poor by pledging support to the Catholic Charities "Mission of Hope: Changing Lives with Love" campaign.

Catholic Charities hopes to raise \$5 million through direct parishioner-to-parishioner personal visits and strong support from pastors. The overall campaign goal is \$16 million to pay for a new, consolidated campus for Catholic Charities ministries to be built at Harvard Avenue and Apache Street in Tulsa.

Peggy Place, representing Community Consulting Services, Inc., and head of the three-member team that is helping organize the Catholic Charities campaign, gave an update March 7 to the Presbyteral Council.

As of the previous Friday, \$1.12 million had been pledged at the parish level. Add to that previous major gifts and foundation gifts, and almost \$11.5 million of the \$16 million goal has been raised.

A week later, the totals had jumped to \$1.68 million from parish pledges, pushing the overall goal to just over \$12 million.

The parish phase began the first

weekend of Lent and 70 parishes have held their campaign kickoffs, Ms. Place told Bishop Edward J. Slattery and the priests who serve on the council.

Each parish has a lay campaign chairperson, recruited by the pastor, and more than 500 volunteers are personally contacting fellow parishioners to encourage them to contribute to the campaign, said Kevin Sartorius, Catholic Charities director of mission advancement.

Of those contacted, 91 percent had made a commitment, statistics presented to the council by the consulting firm show.

Lent was considered an ideal time to ask Catholics at the parish level to make a commitment to the poor during this season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Many parishioners have been visited with specific requests based on their previous tithing to the parish - up to \$6,000 over five years for some givers, \$3,000 for others, Mr. Sartorius said.

Follow-up visits or calls are made to those people who say they want to consider whether or how much they are prepared to give, according to the strategies worked up by the consulting firm, which also helped to organize the Fund for the Future in 1998.

That campaign, also for \$16 million, was the first diocesan capital fundraising campaign.

Catholic Charities' parish campaign will culminate April 20-21 on "commitment weekend," when all those who attend Mass in the 78 parishes will be asked to make a multi-year commitment.

"What we're trying to do here is not just raise money but reach into the hearts of the people to commit to charity," the Bishop said at the Presbyteral Council meeting.

Several parishes have ongoing capital projects of their own and have sought to combine those

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Calendar

Through Holy Week

Neo-Catechumenal Way – Missionaries from the Neo-Catechumenal Way are offering catechesis throughout Lent at 7:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Friday until Holy Week. Catechesis will be offered in English at Sts. Peter and Paul Church, 1436 N. 67th E. Ave., and every Monday and Thursday in Spanish at St. Thomas More Church, 2720 S. 129th E. Ave.

Monday, March 19

Deacon night in McAlester – The final in a series of information nights for men discerning a possible vocation to the permanent diaconate will be held at 7 p.m. March 19 at St. John the Evangelist Church in McAlester.

Thursday, March 22-24

Garage sale – The Holy Family Cathedral women's club is seeking donations for its annual garage sale fundraiser, March 22-24, in the Cathedral auditorium. Furniture, appliances in working order, household and yard items, antiques, knick-knacks, jewelry, pictures, books, toys, tools and much more are appreciated. Donations may be dropped off at the church auditorium beginning Monday, March 19 from 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. They cannot accept clothes, air conditioners or refrigerators.

Friday, March 23-25

Discovery weekend – Subiaco Academy, a Catholic high school for young men located in Arkansas is hosting a discovery weekend and open house for prospective students and their parents March 23-25. The weekend is open to 7th-10th graders and their families and all accommodations including overnight stays are free of charge. Students visiting will have an opportunity to experience dorm life and class sessions, mingle with current students, and take the placement exam. Subiaco Academy is located on Highway 22 in northwest Arkansas approximately 45 miles east of Fort Smith. For more information or reservations, contact the admission office at 1-800-364-7824 or email admissions@subi.org.

Men's retreat – The office of vocations is taking registrations

for a free Catholic men's spring break retreat to Conception Seminary in Missouri from March 23-25. There will be a pilgrimage, prayer, sacraments, team sports, hiking, social time and more. Interested single men must register by March 20. For more information contact Wayne Rziha at 744-0023 ext. 18 or wayne.rziha@dioceseoftulsa.org.

Saturday, March 24

Oblate retreat – Father Godfrey Mullen, O.S.B., a Benedictine monk from St. Meinrad Archabbey, will conduct a retreat for oblates from 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. March 24 at St. Joseph Monastery, 2200 S. Lewis Ave. Cost is \$15 including lunch. All are welcome - being an oblate is not required. Please make checks payable to Benedictine Sisters and mail to Vicky O'Neil, St. Joseph Monastery, 2200 S. Lewis Ave., Tulsa, OK 74114-3117.

Catholic singles – Catholic Singles of Tulsa present Father Michael Dodd speaking on "Loneliness and the Catholic Single" and Lent from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the St. Francis Hall of St. Anne Church, 301 S. Ninth St. in Broken Arrow. Coffee and breakfast will be served prior to the lecture and after his presentation, Father Dodd will have a question and answer session. R.S.V.P. to Betty Taylor at 606-0580.

Sunday, March 25

Stations of the Cross – Young people from St. John Parish in McAlester will perform the Stations of the Cross at 6 p.m. in the Marian Chapel at Monte Cassino School, 2206 S. Lewis Ave. All are welcome to attend.

Thursday, March 29

Book reviews – In honor and in memory of the late Sister Mary Joachim, friends will gather at 7 p.m. March 29 at St. Joseph's Monastery, 21st Street and Lewis Avenue, to discuss the books Sister recommended through the years. R.S.V.P. to Gail, 749-5450, or Susie, 749-4249.

Saturday, March 31

ERiS youth rally – An ERiS youth rally (Exalt and Rejoice in the Spirit) will be held from 12:30-9 p.m. March 31 at St. Pius X Church,

1727 S. 75th E. Ave. Cost is \$15 per person, \$20 per person after March 21. The youth rally provides an opportunity for Catholic college students to minister to diocesan middle school youth and raise funds for charity. This year's proceeds will benefit the St. Francis Xavier Medical Clinic.

Palm Sunday, April 1

Seder meal – Family, friends and neighbors are invited to celebrate the Passover Seder meal at 4 p.m. April 1 at St. Augustine Church's activity center, 1720 E. Apache St. For reservations, more information or to volunteer, contact Donna Litwack at 747-0574.

Monday, April 2

Business, professional women – Please join the Catholic Business and Professional Women's Club at the Green Onion Restaurant, 4532 E. 51st St. at 6 p.m. April 2 for a spiritual retreat with Sister Julia Marie Roy, O.S.B. the Oblate Director of the Benedictines speaking on "12 Steps of Humility." Dinner will be served, cost is \$20. Call Beverly Atteberry at 918-605-1913 for reservations.

Saturday, April 7

Wesolego aleluja – Polish Easter baskets will be blessed by Father Michael Dodd at 2 p.m. April 7 at St. Anne Church, 301 S. Ninth St. in Broken Arrow. Call Urszula Swain with questions at 357-2939.

Saturday, April 14

St. Therese dedication banquet – A dedication banquet for St. Therese of the Child Jesus Maronite Catholic Church will begin with cocktails at 6 p.m. April 14 at the new church, 8315 S. 107th E. Ave., Tulsa, followed by dinner at 7 p.m. and live entertainment until 11:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30; for reservations, call Gloria Fegaly at 663-1182.

Sunday, April 15

St. Therese consecration – The Most Rev. Robert J. Shaheen, bishop of the Diocese of Our Lady of Lebanon of St. Louis, in charge of the Maronite Catholic Church for the western United States, will celebrate Mass with Bishop Edward J. Slattery at the consecration of St. Therese of the Child Jesus Church at

11 a.m. April 15. The church is at 8315 S. 107th E. Ave.

Wednesday, April 18

Newman Center dinner – In celebration of its 60th anniversary at the University of Tulsa, the annual St. Philip Neri Society Dinner will be held from 7-9 p.m. April 18 at the Allen Chapman Activity Center on the TU campus. Tickets are \$100 per person, and table sponsorship is available beginning at the \$1,000 level. This is the largest fundraiser for the Newman Center, whose mission is to prepare university students for a life of faith, leadership and service to the world. Speaker will be Father Robert Sirico, a national commentator on religion, politics and economics. For more information, call Lisa Holden at 599-0204 or 625-3201.

Saturday, April 21

Trivia night – St. Catherine School's annual trivia night will begin at 6:15 p.m. April 21 at the school, 2515 W. 46th St. For details call 446-9756.

Italian festival – A "Many Neighbors, One World" Italian festival is to begin at 6 p.m. April 21 at the Church of St. Mary, 1347 E. 49th Place with food, music and dancing. Cost is \$5 per person or \$20 per family. Children under 10 are free. Contact the parish office with questions at 749-2561.

Azalea festival – St. Therese Church in Collinsville will host its annual St. Therese azalea garden festival from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 21. Vendor tables are \$10 each. Call Dee at 371-2704 for reservations and more information or email Kim at kimkenthornhill@cox.net.

Sunday, April 22

Natural Family Planning – Workshop series begins at Saint Francis Hospital at 1:30 pm April 22. The sympto-thermal method taught by the Couple to Couple League is safe, healthy, effective and moral. Call Anna and David Niles to register, 449-8765.

Tuesday, April 24

Golf tournament – St. Catherine School is holding its inaugural classic golf tournament April 24 at

Bishop Slattery's public schedule

Sunday, March 18 - 10 a.m., Holy Family Cathedral
Fourth Sunday in Lent Mass

March 19-20 - Washington D.C.
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops committee meeting on Protection of Children and Youth

Sunday, March 25 - 10 a.m., Holy Family Cathedral
Fifth Sunday in Lent Mass

Sunday, April 1 - 10 a.m., Holy Family Cathedral
Palm Sunday Mass

Tuesday, April 3 - 5:30 p.m., Holy Family Cathedral
Chrism Mass

Thursday, April 5 - 5:30 p.m., Holy Family Cathedral
Mass of the Lord's Supper, Adoration until midnight

Friday, April 6 - 3 p.m., Holy Family Cathedral
Stations of the Cross

Friday April 6 - 5:30 p.m., Holy Family Cathedral
Liturgy

Saturday, April 7 - 8:30 p.m., Holy Family Cathedral
Easter Vigil

Sunday, April 8 - 10 a.m., Holy Family Cathedral
Easter Mass

Monday, April 9 - 7:30 p.m., Sts. Peter and Paul Church
Celebration of the Word with Neocatechumenal Way

Thursday, April 12 - 7 p.m., Christ the King
Confirmations

Saturday, April 14 - 11 a.m., St. John Church, Stillwater
Confirmations

Saturday, April 14 - 5 p.m., St. Anne Church, Broken Arrow
Confirmations

Saturday, April 14 - 8 p.m., St. Therese the Child Jesus Church
Brief speech at dedication

Page Belcher Stone Creek Course. Registration and warm-up begins at 11:30 a.m., shotgun scramble begins at 1 p.m. A post-tournament celebration is to begin at 6 p.m. Cost is \$100 per golfer, registration ends April 13. For more information contact Matt McCoy at 430-8451 or visit www.stcatherineclassic.golfreg.com

Edward J. Slattery Bishop of Tulsa

'Understand what pornography does and why we must resist it'

Shortly after arriving here in Tulsa as your Bishop, I discovered how much I depended upon my brother bishops. The task of any bishop is to teach the faith, to govern in charity and to sanctify in Christ, and there was a time, I suppose, when it must have seemed to me that each bishop exercised this triple office separately.



I don't mean in isolation from one another, since there would always be a kind of commonality in the fact that every bishop around the world received from Christ this same burden of love.

But what I discovered on coming to Tulsa 13 years ago is that what binds bishops one to the other, is not just a common task, but a profound unity of purpose and life, which I trace joyfully back to the power of the Holy Spirit to "make all things new in Christ" by restoring their original meaning, purpose and unity.

I feel the power of this unity with my brother bishops every time I preach a homily, celebrate Mass with you, teach my priests and deacons or struggle to raise funds to improve our diocesan outreach.

Whether seated at my desk in the Chancery or visiting parishes across eastern Oklahoma, I always have the sense that my teaching, governance and prayer is the work of the Holy Spirit Who inspires the same effort in every diocesan bishop and Who brings it to a supernatural fruition.

Because I am in union with the Spirit of Jesus through my episcopal ordination and receptive to his grace, I enjoy unity with the Successor of Saint Peter, our Holy Father in Rome, and with the entire apostolic college of bishops.

'The Church belongs to Christ as His body'

The Church belongs to Christ as His body. It is not our possession; and the apostolic unity of the bishops is one of the ways by which the Holy Spirit guarantees the authenticity of the message preached by the Church.

The Spirit who gives life to the Church through the seven Sacraments maintains its purpose through His further gift of unity. Thus we say that the Church is one throughout the world because the Spirit is One.

He inspires and impels the bishops in the fulfillment of their triple function of teaching, governing and sanctifying so that our people may be one, and the age-old divisions of race and language, culture and economics can be subsumed in the perfect promise of our new unity in Christ.

I would have to add, as a matter of completion, that this episcopal unity extends beyond this present moment. As a bishop, I am graced with a deeper unity than that of plan and purpose with all the past popes and bishops, extending in an unbroken chain back to Peter and the Twelve.

In some wholly mysterious way, when I preach and teach, I am conscious that I am preaching what Peter preached. I teach what the Apostles taught. Their voice echoes in our Cathedral; they stand with me in our common witness to the Church's faith in Jesus.

Trying something new

This is partly why, in the past four issues of the Eastern Oklahoma Catholic I tried something new. I used my bi-weekly column here to present the pastoral letter of another bishop. I have not done this before, although I have thought of doing so for some time, but certainly I felt that this was an opportune moment for me to express this fundamental unity

by reprinting Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted's pastoral letter.

First of all, Bishop Olmsted of Phoenix expressed well - probably better than I might have been able to express it - the Church's teaching on a difficult and controversial doctrine - the Church's teaching on marital intimacy. Like all of the Church's doctrine, this one is rooted in the truth of God's self-revelation in Jesus and serves to guard and restore in Christ the beauty and dignity of human sexuality which was betrayed by man's sin.

And secondly, I thought it was timely to share Bishop Olmsted's letter with you because we are in the midst of presenting our response to the Diocesan Synod, the second major theme of which concerns evangelization in our contemporary society.

Since the primary force for evangelization is the silent witness offered by strong families, if we are serious about evangelizing, then we must confront the challenges facing families in Oklahoma, from pornography to the compelling contraceptive mentality which sacralizes a culture of sterility and proposes as objects of ridicule those couples who maintain a consistent marital ethic of love and life.

Now, I have in mind the idea that it would be good to show you how I depend upon my brother bishops for their help in fulfilling my responsibility as the Shepherd of this Diocese which I love so well.

I would like to reprint in its entirety another pastoral letter, this one written by Bishop Paul Loverde of Arlington, Va., whose warning on the evils of pornography makes its theme a logical sequence to Bishop Olmsted's letter on the marital embrace and the dangers of artificial contraception.

Pornography attacks human dignity

Pornography is rampant in America, a poison that attacks the dignity of every human person in a most pernicious way.

Cost and effects: porn statistics are 'frightening'

Pornography is a real problem, and the statistics concerning its growth are frightening. The following facts have been compiled by the National Coalition for the Protection of Children and Families.

The scope and cost of pornography

- Revenue generated by the worldwide pornography industry brings in - by every conservative estimate - more than \$57 billion a year, of which \$12 billion comes from the United States;

- This exceeds the combined revenues of ABC, CBS and NBC (at \$6.2 billion) as well as the combined revenue of every professional football, baseball and basketball franchise in the country;

- \$20 billion is spent annually on adult videos and DVDs, generated from more than 800 million rentals and sales;

- Cable pay-per-view amounted to \$2.5 billion (half of all hotel guests order pornographic movies). Pornographic magazines accounted for \$7.5 billion.

The scope of Internet pornography

- \$2.5 billion in pornography is generated each year just off the Internet, where in 2004 there were already 4.2 million pornographic websites and 372 million pornographic pages;

- The U.S. Customs Service estimates that there are more

Children and teens are its youngest victims, and the Internet offers a ready source of degrading and damaging pictures.

But adults and married men - especially - fall prone to the easy addiction of pornography, which reduces the beauty of God's gift of human sexuality to a commodity, a thing which can be used and discarded, played with and then dumped.

Pornography damages families, because the man who becomes addicted to pornography no longer sees the femininity of his wife as an integral part of her personality. It becomes an object for his gratification, and she becomes an object as well.

It damages women, because the woman who consents to having magazines or videos as a third partner discovers soon enough that the marital embrace is no longer the union of two persons, but of two bodies only, with the expectation that they will move and perform more like machines.

Pornography serves to distort the imagination of young people and inure them to the most basic concept of marital love; that is, that love is the invisible essence of intimacy.

When teens learn instead that only pleasure counts, the meaning of their future lives as husband and wife will remain forever beyond their grasp. Marital intimacy remains fixed forever on the level of a selfish adolescent, and love for one's partner never grows beyond self-love as one's partner becomes "useful," a tool for self-gratification.

Bishop Loverde has graciously given me permission to share his pastoral letter with you, and I will use this space in the Eastern Oklahoma Catholic over the next four issues to publish his letter in its fullness. I think that you will agree with me that Bishop Loverde presents clearly the teaching of the Catholic Church which will help everyone who takes the time to read the next four issues to understand what pornography does and why we must resist it.

than 100,000 websites offering illegal child pornography to pedophiles and fueling the desires of predators. This amounts to \$3 billion annually.

- In 2003, there were 68 million pornographic search engine requests every single day, amounting to 25 percent of the total number of requests received!

- According to 2004 statistics, there are 2.5 billion pornographic e-mails sent every day!

- The most common ways for people to accidentally access a pornographic website is through pop-up windows (52 percent), misspelled URLs (48 percent) and autolinks in received e-mails (23 percent).

Who is involved in Internet porn?

- Seventy percent of men 18 to 24 years old visit pornographic sites in a typical month. 66 percent of men in their 20s and 30s have reported being regular users of Internet porn sites;

- Twenty percent of men and 13 percent of women surveyed admitted having accessed pornography at work;

- Forty million U.S. adults regularly visit Internet websites specializing in pornographic content;

- One out of every three visitors to all adult web sites are

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Marilyn Duck EOC Editor

Discouraged by war's toll? Come to March 19 memorial service

Most journalists have been to many public gatherings for all matter of causes. But reporters and editors in the secular press rarely go in support or opposition to the cause, and those who do risk inciting the ire – or worse - of their editors and publishers.



But if a Catholic journalist attends a March 19 interfaith memorial service for all the victims of the war in Iraq, the primary motivation will be not to report on it but to participate.

It's a better alternative to the futility of simply despairing over the cascading catastrophes of these past four years of war. Perhaps it will inject a glimmer of hope, a commodity that has dimmed as mistake piled upon mistake piled upon mistake – most of them denied or dismissed by those who led the United States into this war of choice.

Frequently, anyone who questions the wisdom or efficiency of the administration's conduct of the war is slammed as unpatriotic, sympathetic to Saddam Hussein or Osama bin Laden or hopelessly idealistic.

Just last issue, syndicated columnist George Weigel mentioned what he called "Bush Derangement Syndrome." In that context, he was talking specifically about the enmity toward President George W. Bush among atheists, who think he is part of some imminent "cowboy-evangelical apocalypse."

But many defenders of the president dismiss his critics as "Bush haters."

Pope Benedict XVI has opposed the war in Iraq from the start. Does anyone consider him a deranged Bush hater?

And might those who criticize the war's critics concede that President Bush's own actions, denials of reality and refusal to hear, much less heed, any deviation from his policies might have contributed to the bad marks a clear majority of Americans now give him on his handling of the war?

Local members of Pax Christi will be at the March 19 service. They will gather with other religious and peace groups to listen to interfaith readings and prayers for all victims of the war who have been maimed or killed or driven away from their homes.

On Page 17, you will find a Catholic News Service report on the Iraqi refugee children in Amman, Jordan, who are receiving what every child should have: a chance to learn and be safe and through the daily ministry of priests and nuns be told and showed that there is a loving God. There is room for hope for those children.

But the people who have been able to flee Iraq are the people Iraq will need most if it is ever to recover: the educated, the physicians, the engineers, the middle class. And what about those who can't get out?

Every day brings headlines about how many dozen or hundred Iraqis are killed by suicide bombs and how many Americans were blown up by improvised explosive devices or died in the latest helicopter crash.

We now have the Walter Reed Medical Center scandal, a story that has been reported by what is known as "the Bush-

hating" wing of the media but didn't gain traction until it was broken by the Washington Post. At least three commission investigations have been launched, to be carried out by people who already knew or should have known about the intolerable follow-up care some wounded U.S. troops receive.

Still, we are compelled to look for hope. Representatives of the United States and Iran actually sat down at a conference table for the first time since 1979 on March 10 in Baghdad. Representatives of Iraq's neighboring countries were called to the meeting by Iraq's prime minister to dip their toes into the prospect of regional cooperation to bring Iraq back from the brink.

The Tulsa peace events also include a 1 p.m. rally March 17 on the grounds of All Souls Unitarian Church, where there will be talks and poetry and musicians and a "circle of drummers" who will sound a drumbeat for peace before the people march up and down Peoria Avenue.

No, thanks. A dozen years of living in northern California – where nary a day goes by that somebody isn't deploying the same tactics to protest something - drummed out any inclination to take part.

But a prayer service with candles, a chance to gather with people of good will of all faiths? Many atheists might not understand, but to a Catholic, especially during Lent, it seems the only sane recourse.

George Weigel

The end of the Anglican Communion

There's an Anglican church, St. Luke's, a few blocks up Old Georgetown Road from my parish in the Maryland suburbs of Washington, D.C. St. Luke's recently posted a large sign on the church lawn: "No matter who you are, no matter what you believe, you are welcome at our table."



Which is, in one sense, a noble sentiment:

If it's meant to convey that, look, we're all sinners, and no matter how awful you may think you are, you're welcome in the communion of Christ's Church if you're truly repentant.

Judging from recent events in the Anglican Communion, however, St. Luke's sign isn't a synopsis of the parable of the prodigal son and his merciful father; it's a succinct, if unwitting, statement of why the Anglican Communion is coming apart at the seams.

No Catholic serious about the Catholic commitment to the unity of Christ's Church can take any satisfaction from today's Anglican meltdown. It now looks as if John Henry Newman was right when he concluded that Anglicanism was not a "third branch" on the tree of historic Christian orthodoxy, of which the other branches were Catholicism and the Orthodox churches of the Christian east; rather, Newman decided, Anglicanism was Protestantism in English guise.

In the wake of the Second Vatican Council, as hopes for ecclesial reconciliation between Rome and Canterbury ran high, it seemed, briefly, as if Cardinal Newman might have been wrong.

With the Anglican Communion now fracturing into a gaggle of quarreling communities no longer in communion with each other, it looks as if Newman had the deeper insight into what King Henry VIII wrought.

But neither the late cardinal nor the multi-uxorious king could have imagined that Anglicanism's breakup would result from some Anglicans' insistence that sodomy can be sacramental.

Yet that is precisely what is happening. As Canada's finest Catholic commentator, Father Raymond de Souza, wrote last year (reflecting on the attempts of Dr. Rowan Williams, archbishop of Canterbury, to hold the Anglican Communion together), "Some [Anglicans] argue that [homosexual acts] are sinful; others that they are sacramental. This is an unbridgeable gap and it appears impossible for Canterbury to straddle it, try as he might."

Dr. Williams has tried mightily; he seems to have failed. There are indeed unbridgeable gaps, and it turns out that it does matter what you believe, if you wish to be seated at "our table" – at least in the minds of the majority of the world's Anglicans, who disagree with the Episcopal Church USA's determination to bless same-sex unions and ordain practicing homosexuals to priestly and episcopal ministry.

An American Anglican clergyperson, debating all this on PBS's "NewsHour," said that, if schism were the only answer, she and her Pasadena congregation would choose "the Gospel" over "the institutional Church." From a theological point of view, no more thoroughly Protestant posing of the

issue could be imagined.

And what does standing up for "the Gospel" have to do with embracing the Zeigeist of the more delirious suburbs of the People's Republic of California?

Shortly after Rowan Williams was named to Becket's chair, we spent a cordial 90 minutes together at Lambeth Palace, Canterbury's London headquarters. I gave him a copy of "Witness to Hope: The Biography of Pope John Paul II"; we spoke of John Paul's theology of the body, and then fell to discussing the difference between "sacramental" and "gnostic" understandings of the human condition.

The former insists that the stuff of the world – including maleness, femaleness, and their complementarity – has truths built into it; gnostics say it's all plastic, all malleable, all changeable.

The sacramentalists believe that the extraordinary reveals itself through the ordinary: bread, wine, water, salt, marital love and fidelity; the gnostics say it's a matter of superior wisdom, available to the enlightened (which can mean, the politically correct).

Dr. Williams seemed convinced that the gnosticism of a lot of Western high culture posed a great danger to historic Christianity and the truths it must proclaim.

He was right. The gnosticism that infects the Episcopal Church USA has just about driven the Anglican Communion over the cliff.

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

Forum

Reach out to change young people's hearts, minds

Editor, EOC: Was it Hitler who said something like, "Win the heart of a child, and you have him for life"? The key word is "heart," not just "mind."

I read the articles in the Feb. 18 Eastern Oklahoma Catholic on "Young Catholics lack commitment to the institutional Church" and also the one on Liz Kollaja, the Girl Scout at Bishop Kelley High School and the listening conference she organized which brought together area high school students and community leaders (including Bishop Slattery and Catholic Schools Superintendent Todd Goldsmith) to discuss social issues like dating violence, eating disorders, abuse – 15 topics in all.

Bishop Slattery was quoted as saying, "Kids today suffer – and they suffer in unique ways because of the impersonal culture we live in."

Then in the Feb. 26 Tulsa World, I read the article headlined "Troops' mental health needs not met," and these three articles came together in my mind.

Perhaps in our religious education programs there could be an opportunity, on a purely optional basis, for more interaction where teens could share their personal thoughts and concerns with an adult they trust who can "be present" to them and still guide them through rough waters.

This program cannot be legislated; it is really a work of the Spirit and would require facilitators to become available.

There are some people in every parish who connect with the youth; perhaps on a monthly or quarterly basis, a time and room or home could be offered, and hearts could be reached, lives could be changed.

**Kay Limke
Collinsville**

'How can I help?'

Editor, EOC: I have just finished reading the Feb. 18 Page 1 story by Father Joe Townsend, "Soul-searing visit to Haiti leaves priest grappling with questions." It is 10:45 p.m., and it may be a very long time before I sleep tonight.

I am a journalist, and I had no idea children were subsisting, really starving, on mudcakes mixed with butter and salt. I am a strong supporter of the United Nations, and I had no idea U.N. forces had entered Mass and killed children and adults.

I have been very ignorant of the dire conditions in Haiti. I do not know what I will do next to help; give more money to Catholic Relief Services? I don't know.

I am grateful to you for publishing Father Townsend's article. His words haunt me.

Bless you for raising questions in my mind: What can I do, how can I help?

**Patti Weaver
Cushing**

Editor's note: *Father Joe Townsend said the Office of the Propagation of the Faith hopes to bring Father Tom Hagan, the priest whose mission he visited in Haiti, to the Diocese of Tulsa this spring.*

More traditional approach?

Editor, EOC: Please allow me to make a few suggestions in response to the Feb. 18 EOC column, article reflecting on the March for Life. While I am not necessarily opposed to public protests, I do believe a more "traditional" approach to combating evil may be more effective.

Take for instance Our Lady's appearance to the three young children at Fatima in the early 20th century. The Blessed Virgin Mary asked these innocent children to "pray and do penance" for the sins of mankind. No doubt, our Blessed Mother knew that the Heavenly Father could not resist the prayers and penances of these precious little ones.

Why not take the example of Fatima and apply it to our fight against evil in our own day? We are certainly aware that most abortions are the fruit of unchastity. Therefore, perhaps we should pray and do penance in reparation for sins against holy purity.

In a spirit of reparation and penance we could:

1. Dress modestly, endeavoring to avoid tight or revealing clothing (especially at Holy Mass).

2. Practice custody of the eyes, resolving to avoid impure images.

3. Practice custody of the tongue, resolving to eliminate impure and suggestive words from our conversation.

4. Practice custody of the ears, resolving to avoid all impure speech and music.

5. Attend Holy Mass daily if possible.

6. Pray Holy Hours of Adoration (especially on Friday as Bishop Slattery has asked.)

7. Pray the Holy Rosary (especially with the family) daily if possible.

8. Practice frequent confession (at least once a month).

These are but a few examples of acts that have traditionally been employed to combat evil. Instead of storming Washington, perhaps "storming Heaven" with these voluntary, sincere acts of piety we will appease God's displeasure, and He will shower upon us the graces needed to live holy and chaste lives.

**Mark Boutross
Tahlequah**

More birth control peril

Editor, EOC: In the last EOC, the Bishop wrote an extensive letter on restoring families and contraception. I would like to thank him for speaking up. These issues have been avoided way too long by many of our clergy, as we are bombarded by the world and given incorrect information by the media and little know the other side of the story.

Vasectomies are the most overlooked and least spoken part of contraception. As women see the ill effects of birth control and don't want more children, men may consider this alternative, but the family usually is never made aware of the side effects for the men.

A study by the Couple to Couple League found this procedure affects the antibodies in the man's body that are used to protect the body against specific diseases in our environment. When the body gears up its defenses to destroy cells of its own making, as after a vasectomy, then the body becomes autoimmune, meaning allergic to itself.

Two large studies on vasectomies conducted through the Harvard School of Medicine found the overall risk of prostate cancer increased between 66 and 60 percent – increasing to 89 percent for those who had vasectomies 20 or more years earlier.

The coronary artery surgery study, which analyzed 1,106 men, found a two and a half times greater risk for kidney stones among vasectomy patients between 30 and 35 years old.

It just goes to show me that you don't mess with Mother Nature and the Holy Mother Church. The wisdom of *Humanae Vitae* is right on target. For more information on this subject, visit www.ccli.org or call 517-471-2000.

**Kathie Jackson
Tulsa**

EOC publication dates and deadlines

Eastern Oklahoma Catholic publication dates and deadlines for the new year:

Publication	Deadline
April 1	March 23
April 15	April 6
April 29	April 20
May 13	May 4
May 27	May 18
June 10	June 1
June 24	June 15
July 22	July 13
Aug. 5	July 27
Aug. 19	Aug. 10
Sept. 2	Aug. 24
Sept. 16	Sept. 7
Sept. 30	Sept. 21
Oct. 14	Oct. 5
Oct. 28	Oct. 19
Nov. 11	Nov. 2
Nov. 25	Nov. 16
Dec. 9	Nov. 30

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Letters to the editor from the readers of the Eastern Oklahoma Catholic are welcome. The EOC reserves the right to edit the letters for length. Letters must include the writer's name and address.

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Pope, Catholic media workers strategize on how to best use new media

By CINDY WOOTEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Taking advantage of new media to spread the Gospel, the Catholic Church also has an obligation to point out areas where the media have a harmful effect, especially on children, Pope Benedict XVI said.

The pope called on media operators "to safeguard the common good, to uphold the truth, to protect individual human dignity and promote respect for the needs of the family."

Meeting March 9 with members of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, Pope Benedict spoke of the benefits of greater access to quality entertainment, information and educational opportunities through the media.

But he also expressed concern about the "increasing concentration" of the media in the hands of a few multinational conglomerates and said that "much of what is transmitted in various forms to the homes of millions of families around the world is destructive."

Strategies for using new technology to communicate the Gospel message and for counteracting the negative impact of the media dominated the council's March 5-9 meeting at the Vatican.

U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley, council president, told members that the Church must fulfill its responsibility to share with all people "the message of their origin in God, their destiny with him in heaven and their redemption in Jesus Christ."

The problem, he said, is that the message of salvation "must compete with thousands of other messages - messages that perhaps appear immediately more appealing or more tempting."

U.S. Sister Judith Zobelein, a Franciscan Sister of the Eucharist who works in the Vatican's Internet office, said the Church must expand its presence on the Internet. But it must do so in a way that helps lead people from a "virtual" experience of faith and community to a personal encounter with the Lord and participation in a parish.

The Vatican's Web site has helped people who were already part of a real community connect in a virtual community with the Vatican, accessing documents and even sending email greetings to the pope, she said.

The next step must be using the Internet to reach those who are not part of any concrete community.

In an attempt to ensure that an Internet search of things Catholic leads to finding a real experience of the Church, Sister Zobelein said, the Vatican's Internet office is running a trial e-learning site.

"Perhaps the biggest reason for choosing e-learning is that young adults today live and learn on the Internet more



Pope Benedict XVI uses a laptop computer as he addresses members of the Italian bishops' conference in the synod hall at the Vatican May 18, 2006. (CNS file photo/L'Osservatore Romano)

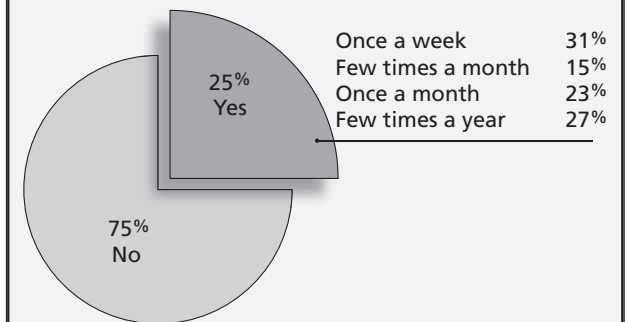
than any other particular place," she told the council.

The topic chosen for the first course was the meaning of suffering, using Pope John Paul II's 1984 apostolic letter along with "photos, music, images, questions and additional reflections," she said.

But unlike most Internet courses, the Vatican proposal

Diocesan Newspaper Readership

In the last six months have you read your diocesan newspaper?



Source: Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate ©2007 CNS

includes regularly scheduled face-to-face meetings of participants.

"The anonymity of the Internet must at some point lead to the desire and opportunity for an actual human encounter," Sister Zobelein said.

The hope, she said, is to use the "virtual" community created through the Internet "to nourish the actual community" and a desire to participate in parish life.

Irish Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin said diocesan newspapers and contact with religion reporters from secular newspapers continue to be important ways for the Church to get its message out and "on the public record."

But because newspaper readership is shrinking, he suggested the Church invest in professionally organized focus groups to study how much of the Church's message is being heard and by whom.

Archbishop George H. Niederauer of San Francisco told the council that "one size does not fit all" when communicating in the modern world; the Church needs specific projects aimed at the young, the elderly, active Catholics, the alienated and those who are indifferent.

And, he said, the council should act as a clearinghouse for the best Church communications practices.

Bishops from Africa, Asia and Latin America urged the council not to assume their people have the same kind of media access that people in Europe and North America have.

Radio is hugely important in Africa; the Internet is dominating the media scene in much of Asia, and Latin America still has a stable television audience.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, director of the Vatican press office and Vatican television center, outlined several communications priorities, including efforts "to make the pope's thoughts and the position of the Church known in the Muslim and Arab-speaking world."

YouTube *Continued from page 1*

may be rated, and the number of times they have been viewed are also made public.

According to the archdiocesan Office for Communications, on Ash Wednesday, the day the Cardinal's first Lenten reflections were posted, his video was one of the top-linked videos in the category "People and Blogs."

By the afternoon of March 12, the cardinal's first posting had received almost 17,000 views.

Here is a sampling of the responses to the cardinal's reflections posted on YouTube:

"Cardinal Rigali - you are the man. Thanks for keeping it real."

"Another amazing message! ... The messages are helping me to

reflect during the holy season of Lent. I ask you, my brothers and sisters in Christ, to pray that I may go the extra mile during this season and really help bring a bit more light to people who are still in darkness."

"What a beautiful meditation on the importance of truly listening to God in our times of prayer, lest they

become episodes of fruitless, one-way babble. Thank you, Cardinal Rigali!"

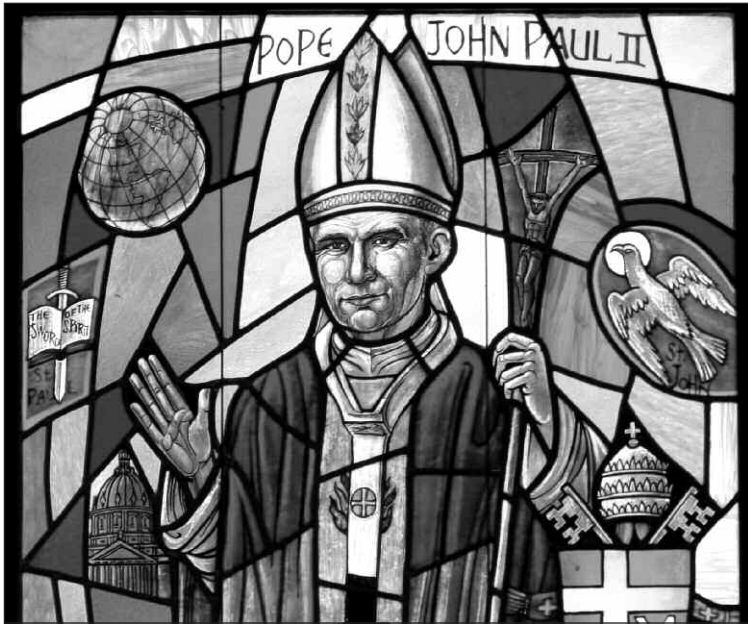
"I think this is s-o-o-o cool!"

"Keep 'em coming, Cardinal Rigali ... proud to be Catholic."

"This is super. It makes me feel good to know that our Church is reaching out to God's children through modern technology."

"Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Justin Cardinal Rigali went to the spiritual desert, where the people are. 'This man eats and drinks with sinners' - such was said of our Lord Jesus. Praise God that the Word has reached the tube!"

Requests pour in for John Paul II prayer cards, relics



The late Polish pope is depicted in a stained-glass window at St. Hyacinth Church in Glen Head, N.Y. (CNS photo)

ROME (CNS) - The Rome diocesan office charged with promoting the sainthood cause of Pope John Paul II has exceeded its postage budget because of increased requests for prayer cards and relics of the late pope.

"We were getting about 50 requests a day, but overnight it grew to between 500 and 1,000 requests," a spokeswoman for the office said March 2.

"We could not have foreseen this demand," she said. "It's an avalanche."

Franciscan Brother Chris Gaffrey, who assists the office with English translations, told Catholic News Service that the vast majority of requests in late

February and early March were coming via email from the United States.

CNS had published a story about the cards and relics Feb. 26, and dozens of Web sites and blogs, or Web logs, ran links to the story.

The prayer cards and relics, a small piece of one of the white cassocks worn by Pope John Paul, always will be distributed free of charge, but without an increase in donations the office cannot afford to mail them, Brother Gaffrey said.

While one writer kindly sent the office his express mail account number, others wrote requesting cards for their entire parish without even thinking of

what it would cost to ship them from Italy, he said.

An individual prayer card, relic and copy of the cause's magazine, *Totus Tuus*, could be mailed to the United States for about \$5, Brother Gaffrey said.

Several options for sending donations can be found on the official web site of Pope John Paul's sainthood cause - www.JohnPaulIIBeatification.org - which was experiencing interruptions in service because of the increased traffic in early March.

The mailing address of the office is: Postulazione Giovanni Paolo II, Vicariato di Roma, Piazza San Giovanni in Laterano 6A, 00184 Rome, Italy.

Church teaching on care for dying has been hijacked, priest-physician says

CHICAGO (CNS) - Church teaching on end-of-life issues is much more than "dilemmas and controversies," a priest-physician told a gathering of Catholic health care ethicists in Chicago March 1.

"Don't let people hijack our Church anymore," said Jesuit Father Myles N. Sheehan, a geriatric oncologist who is senior associate dean for educational programs at the Stritch School of Medicine at Loyola University Chicago.

"Let's pay attention to Church teaching and not to what someone reads in this liberal magazine or that conservative magazine," he added, noting that the 46-page "Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services" is "a three-line document to the rest of the world."

Too often, Church teaching is reduced to "feeding tube in or out? Ventilator on or off?" he said. But an obsession with the controversies "makes us forget our areas of broad agreement."

Father Sheehan spoke on the second day of a three-day conference on "Catholic Health Care Ethics: The Tradition and Contemporary Culture," sponsored by the Neiswanger Institute for Bioethics and Health Policy at Loyola's medical school and by the Catholic Health Association.

Addressing the most famous end-of-life case in recent years, the Jesuit said the events leading to the death of Terri Schindler Schiavo in March 2005 were "rare, unusual and a tragedy" but have little to contribute to the richness of

"You don't have to be more Catholic than the pope. If the pope (John Paul II) can die in his bed at home, why do we have to die in the ICU?"

Church teaching on care for the dying.

"This was a family that hated each other," he said of the Schindler family and Michael Schiavo, Terri's husband, adding that he would not want such a case to be the basis for decision-making in his own death or anyone else's.

"What do you do" in cases like that? he asked. "Run away screaming? Lock the family in a room with their hands tied behind their backs until they can reach an agreement?"

But instead of focusing on unusual cases, Father Sheehan said the Church's rich tradition in support of palliative care - reinforced by the teachings and example of Pope John Paul II and the teachings of his successor, Pope Benedict XVI - must be brought to the

forefront.

"People are ethically illiterate rather than understanding that they are heirs to a great tradition," he said.

Some people come into the hospital saying, "You have to do everything (in my medical treatment) because I'm Catholic," Father Sheehan said.

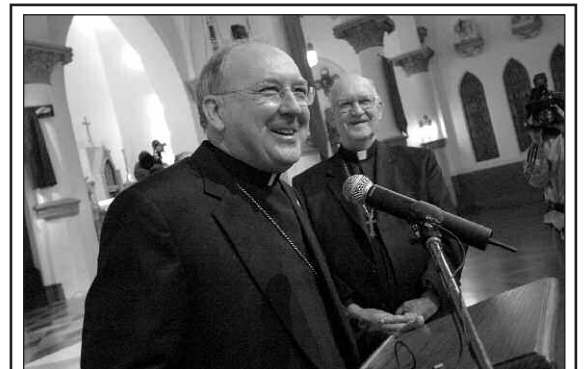
"But you don't have to be more Catholic than the pope," he added. "If the pope (John Paul II) can die in his bed at home, why do we have to die in the ICU (intensive care unit)?"

He also criticized the physician who "always insists on a feeding tube" for his patients, regardless of their individual circumstances. "That guy and (assisted suicide advocate) Jack Kevorkian are flip sides of the same coin," he said.

Physicians and other medical professionals sometimes get caught up in discussing "the rules" and fail to see the patients in front of them as human beings, he said.

He told the story of one elderly patient whose left side had been affected by a stroke and who could not see the food placed on her left side or eat it since she was left-handed. While others were discussing whether she needed a feeding tube because she was not eating, "I sat down for 30 minutes and fed her," Father Sheehan said.

"Sometimes ethics committees have great fights but ignore the suffering that is in front of them," he said. "They walk by people who are starving and talk about feeding tubes."



Bishop Kevin J. Farrell, newly appointed to head the Diocese of Dallas, and retired Dallas Bishop Charles V. Grahmann share a light moment at a Dallas press conference March 6. (CNS photo/Texas Catholic)

Dallas bishop resigns, successor named

WASHINGTON (CNS) - Pope Benedict XVI accepted the resignation of Bishop Charles V. Grahmann of Dallas March 6 and named Auxiliary Bishop Kevin J. Farrell of Washington to succeed him.

The pope also named Msgr. Glen John Provost, a priest of the Diocese of Lafayette, La., as the new bishop of Lake Charles, La. He succeeds Bishop Edward K. Braxton, who was transferred to Belleville, Ill., in March 2005.

The Lake Charles Diocese had been without a bishop just nine days short of two years. Bishop-designate Provost is to be ordained a bishop April 23 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Lake Charles.

Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States, announced the changes in Washington March 6.

Bishop Grahmann, who turned 75 last July, has headed the Dallas Diocese since 1990. In the intervening years it has grown from 212,000 Catholics in a population of 2.5 million to just under a million Catholics in a population of nearly 3.5 million.

Psychology needed to identify 'deep-seated' homosexuality

ROME (CNS) - A leading canon law expert said that in applying the Vatican's directive against admission of homosexuals to the priesthood, seminary authorities should make use of psychological sciences to distinguish between "deep-seated" and transitory homosexual tendencies.

Jesuit Father Gianfranco Ghirlanda, rector of the Pontifical Gregorian University and an adviser to several important Vatican agencies, said the use of psychology was a complex but necessary means of establishing the true nature of homosexual traits.

Psychological evaluations alone can never substitute for the informed decisions of bishops and seminary authorities, but such testing must be taken into serious consideration, Father Ghirlanda said.

He made his comments in the March 4 issue of the Jesuit journal

La Civiltà Cattolica (Catholic Civilization), whose contents are reviewed by the Vatican prior to publication.

In 2005, the Vatican issued an instruction saying the Church cannot allow ordination of men who are active homosexuals or who have "deep-seated homosexual tendencies." The norms do not rule out ordination for men who have experienced transitory homosexual tendencies or episodes, as long as they have been overcome for at least three years.

The wording of the document prompted much debate about the nature of the homosexual inclination and the ability of Church authorities to distinguish between permanent and transitory tendencies.

Father Ghirlanda wrote that it was clear that bishops and seminary superiors should make use of one or more psychological

experts when there is a question about homosexuality in a candidate.

The purpose is not simply to weed out those with homosexual inclinations but, in the case of transitory tendencies, to help the candidate overcome them, he said.

"In fact, the range of situations between deep-seated homosexual tendencies and transitory homosexual tendencies is as great as the number of individual cases. What may at first seem deep-seated could turn out to be conquerable with therapy," he said.

The priesthood candidate has a moral duty to comply with psychological testing and eventual therapy in such cases, he said.

But such testing or therapy cannot be imposed on a candidate and requires his prior, informed and explicit consent.

The results of such psychological consultations

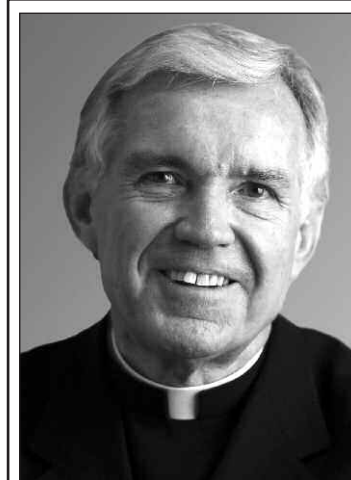
should not be communicated to seminary superiors without the candidate's written permission.

Father Ghirlanda said this presents seminary superiors with a delicate task: They cannot use psychological testing to intimidate priesthood candidates, but they should consider refusal to comply as an element in their decision about seminary acceptance.

When there are doubts about suitability of a candidate, Church law makes it clear that he should not be admitted, he said.

Father Ghirlanda said similar evaluations may also be needed for heterosexual candidates to the seminary. A heterosexual who is lacking in "psycho-affective and religious maturity" should also be excluded from the priesthood, he said.

The difference, he said, is that it is more difficult for a person with deep-seated homosexual tendencies to reach such maturity.



Father Jack Wall

Popular Chicago pastor to head Extension Society

CHICAGO (CNS) - Father John J. "Jack" Wall, pastor of Chicago's historic Old St. Patrick's Church, co-founder of the Theology on Tap program and a seminary classmate of Bishop Edward J. Slattery, was named president of the Chicago-based Catholic Church Extension Society, a post Bishop Slattery held before he came to Tulsa.

Father Wall succeeds Bishop William R. Houck, 80, who retired from the post at the end of February. The appointment was announced March 1.

Catholic Extension serves 80-plus mission dioceses in the United States. Over its 100-year history, it has distributed more than \$400 million in donations for church construction, religious education and seminary formation, campus and outreach ministries, evangelization and salaries for missionaries.

For Father Wall, the Church's mission is defined more by what it does than where it is located, after seeing his own parish reach far beyond its local ZIP code. Since he started at Old St. Patrick's as pastor in 1983, he has seen the parish grow to more than 4,000 active members.

"At Old St. Pat's, I knew early on that the traditional, geographically or ethnically defined parish was not what could happen here," said Father Wall, a co-founder of the popular Theology on Tap program for young adult Catholics.

'Comfort my people' is New Orleans bishop's motto

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) - As music regally heralded a procession of priests and bishops to the altar at his episcopal ordination Mass, New Orleans' new auxiliary bishop wiped a tear while passing his mother and father, Theresa and Luke Fabre, seated in the first pew.

"Don't cry, son," Theresa Fabre said she told Bishop Shelton J. Fabre as he walked by. "I can't express the joy in my heart. It brought tears to my eyes."

The former pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Baton Rouge was consecrated an auxiliary bishop of New Orleans Feb. 28 at St. Louis Cathedral. At age 43, he is the youngest U.S. bishop and one of 10 active African-American Catholic bishops serving in the United States.

New Orleans Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes was the principal consecrator at the Mass. Bishop John H. Ricard of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Fla., who is Bishop Fabre's cousin, and Baton Rouge Bishop Robert W. Muench were co-consecrators.

Retired New Orleans Archbishops Philip M. Hannan and Francis B. Schulte, along with other bishops, concelebrated.

"We thank God for this moment and all of you participating," Archbishop Hughes told those gathered at the opening of the Mass, urging everyone to assist Bishop Fabre to become a "wise administrator and a holy priest."

"I stand before you today grateful to all those people who have comforted me," said Bishop Fabre, who chose "Comfort my people" from Chapter 40, Verse 1 of the Book of Isaiah as his episcopal motto.

"God has blessed me with those who have



Bishop Shelton J. Fabre, new auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, receives the Archbishop Rummel crozier from Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes during his Feb. 28 episcopal ordination at St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans. Bishop Fabre, 43, former pastor at Sacred Heart Church in Baton Rouge, La., is the youngest U.S. bishop and one of 10 active African-American Catholic bishops serving in the United States. (CNS photo)

helped me become the person that I am today. ... I stand before you deeply grateful for my new family here in the Archdiocese of New Orleans and look forward to the opportunities

that will come for us to worship together and get to know one another better," he said.

He told the congregation he could see their "resiliency of faith" in the face of their "recent struggles."

"It makes me immensely proud to become a part of the strong faith history of this great archdiocese," Bishop Fabre said. "There are always graces that can be found in challenges, and I am confident that together, we will encounter God among this grace as we seek to be faithful to the Lord who has been faithful to us."

His family, sitting proudly in the first two pews of St. Louis Cathedral, reiterated what a treasure New Orleans has in Bishop Fabre.

"He's always guided me when I had any questions about faith," nephew Boris Fabre said. "He was always the first person I would go to."

"I always knew he would be a priest," said his older sister, Diane Signater, 55, who drove from Morganza to attend the ordination with her husband, Lionel, and her children.

"We thank the Lord he was chosen. Shelton is very patient and kind. He will be a bishop of the people; somebody who can bring the community together," she said. "A lot of people have come to listen to him that were not Catholic and then became Catholic. He is full of wisdom. New Orleans needs him."

Archbishop Hughes lauded Bishop Fabre for answering God's call to the priesthood and encouraged him to look for God's grace to find the courage and a "father's self-sacrificial love and care for his family" that is needed to fulfill his mission as a bishop.



Rite of Election

Larry and Karen Gray of St. Patrick Parish in Sand Springs, greet Bishop Edward J. Slattery at the Celebration of the Rite of Election March 4 at Holy Family Cathedral. About 325 people – 75 catechumens and 250 candidates to continuing conversion – came to the Cathedral the first two Sundays in Lent to be presented to the Bishop and affirm their desire to be initiated into the sacred mysteries at the next Easter Vigil.

Maronites will consecrate church April 15

The weekend of April 14-15 will be one of great joy as the largest Eastern Catholic community in Oklahoma will hold a dedication banquet on Saturday evening and at 11 a.m. Mass the following day will consecrate its “permanent home” with the Most Rev. Robert J. Shaheen, bishop of the Diocese of Our Lady of Lebanon, and Bishop Edward J. Slattery.

Father Elias Abi-Sarkis, pastor of St. Therese of the Child Jesus Maronite Catholic Community, said the dedication of the new church is a watershed event for the eastern Catholic tradition in Oklahoma.

The Maronite Mass, which dates directly to the fourth and fifth centuries in ancient Galilee and Canaan, is celebrated mostly in

English but also in ancient Aramaic, the language Jesus spoke.

It is one of 22 liturgical traditions within the Catholic Church, along with the Roman rite. Its sacraments are recognized by the Vatican and are available to Catholics worldwide.

St. Therese has about 40 families, but Father Elias – who came to the Diocese in 2002 to direct the building of the church – has met many Roman Catholics in the Diocese of Tulsa, and he is inviting them to the banquet and Mass.

“The eastern Catholic Church is not well known in northeastern Oklahoma, and we look forward to being a home for both natives to the area as well as for those who

come from the Middle East,” he said.

“We pray that we might serve as a place for those who have left the faith to return.”

The dedication banquet begins with cocktails at 6 p.m. April 14, with dinner to be served at 7 p.m. Live entertainment will be offered until 11:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30, and reservations can be made by calling Elie Waked, 316-250-8881, or Gloria Fegaly, 918-663-1182.

The 11 a.m. April 15 Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Shaheen, who is based in St. Louis and is the Maronite bishop for the western United States. He came to Tulsa in 2005 when ground was broken on the St. Therese site at 8315 S. 107th East Ave. in Tulsa.

Diocesan briefs

Beth Donovan dies

The Rite of Christian Burial was celebrated March 13 at Church of St. Mary, the home parish of Birthright of Tulsa co-founder Elizabeth “Beth” Donovan, 88, who died March 10.

Over the past 30 years, she devoted herself to Birthright of Tulsa, a volunteer lay ministry that she and her late husband Gerald founded to provide support for women with problem pregnancies.

She received the Pinnacle Award from the Mayor’s Commission on Women, the Knights of Columbus volunteer award, and was a Lady Commander of the Equestrian Order of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre.

Born in Chicago at the hour of the Armistice that ended World War I on Nov. 11, 1918, as a young woman she was named “Miss Notre Dame” – which is where she met her husband and later married him the week before Pearl Harbor.

After the war, Mr. and Mrs. Donovan moved to Tulsa, where over a half-century he built a distinguished law practice. While raising their five children, Mrs. Donovan launched her career of service as a community volunteer, teaching her children by example. She worked with troubled girls at St. John Vianney School, and with polio victims at Sunnyside.

She was active in her parish, the St. John Hospital auxiliary and the Tulsa Psychiatric Center. She and her husband provided a home to many as an overflow house for Catholic Charities.

She also was preceded in death by granddaughter Maura McCusker and is survived by her children Mary McCusker of California; Kathleen Macmanus of Virginia; Dr. G. Kevin Donovan, Paddy Swiney and Erin Donovan, all of Tulsa, plus 19 grandchildren and a dozen great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations were requested to the Catholic Charities Capital Fund Campaign or Birthright of Tulsa.



**Elizabeth
“Beth”
Donovan**

Interfaith service March 19

Local observance of the fourth anniversary of the beginning of the Iraq War will be capped by a solemn commemoration at 7 p.m. March 19 at Eastside Christian Church, 15th Street and Indianapolis Avenue in Tulsa. Pax Christi of Eastern Oklahoma is among the sponsors.

The Interfaith Memorial Service for All Victims of War in Iraq will feature the reading of names of Oklahomans who have died in Iraq, followed by the ringing of a bell and a moment of silence.

Members from Tulsa’s diverse religious community will offer readings and meditations for all victims maimed or killed in the war.

The service will end with a candle-lighting ceremony, and a reception will follow. Donations of toiletries, sunscreen and socks for U.S. troops will be collected.

Other sponsors include Pastors for Peace, Tulsa Interfaith Alliance, Tulsa Peace Fellowship, Peace House Tulsa and Green Country Society of Friends (Quaker.)

For more information, contact Mary McAnally 583-3651.

Stewards called to Lubbock

A couple from the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City who are active in prison ministry and a highly sought stewardship priest who has visited the Diocese of Tulsa are among the speakers at the Region X Stewardship Conference, “God’s Gifts at Work,” hosted April 20-21 by the Diocese of Lubbock.

Because of the growth of stewardship ministries in several parishes, the quality of the workshop’s offerings and the relative closeness of Lubbock (about 450 miles), Diocesan Stewardship Director Bob Gisler said he hopes priests and lay people from eastern Oklahoma will be able to attend.

Mr. Gisler said if enough people sign up, the total cost would be about \$200 per person.

For more information, contact him at 294-1904

Morning, evening prayer come to Resurrection

Peter Byrne walked into Church of the Resurrection the morning of March 3 to lead morning prayer and was delighted to see dozens of people already in the church.

Alas, they were there for a Saturday morning Women's Club retreat, not for the prayer services that Mr. Byrne and fellow deacon candidate Ernesto Fernandez have organized for most days during Lent.

That morning, attendance was just four people, all of them holdovers from the 8 a.m. daily Mass. But the numbers don't faze anyone; Bishop Edward J. Slattery, told of the turnout later that morning said, "Well, four is fine."

"I just think it's another way to remind us we're in Lent. We're in this Holy season, and we should make the most of it," said Sandra Shea, who along with Bob Pielsticker, Victoria Alvarez and Virginia Dickson joined in that day's recitation of the morning prayers for Tuesday of the Second Week of Lent.

"Most of us are already here for daily Mass, and it's a logical extension," Mr. Pielsticker said.

Mr. Fernandez typically leads evening prayer, though he and Mr. Byrne back each other up if a

schedule conflict arises.

Typically, James Scarpetti – a deacon candidate who will be ordained May 26 – is around for one or both daily prayers. Deacon Ken Schumacher, ordained in 1999, also sometimes is involved, jokingly saying that if there's any glitch in the plans, it becomes a case of "Make the deacon do it."

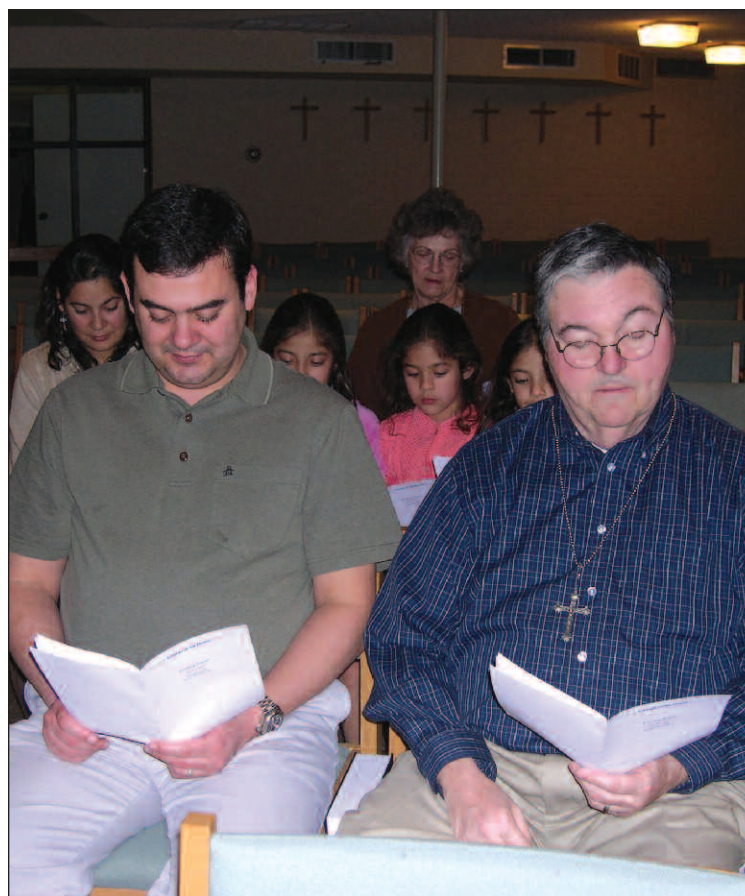
In truth, all the clergy and clergy-in-formation said they are quite pleased with the additions.

"It's the prayer of the Church, and I'm happy for it to be available to the parishioners," Father Steve Austin said March 6.

Resurrection's pastor finds the prayers on www.ebreviary.com and prints out 12 copies for each daily service.

Mr. Byrne and Mr. Fernandez are in the second class of deacons studying for the permanent diaconate. They began what will be five years of study last fall, and it was through their formation that they realized the morning and evening prayer services would be an ideal way to provide the service of preparing for and reflecting on Mass that is a crucial role deacons play.

A similar effort is under way at Christ the King Church under the leadership of Dean Wersal,



Ernesto Fernandez, left, and Peter Byrne lead evening prayer March 8 at Church of the Resurrection. Joining them are Mr. Fernandez's family – wife, Lorena and daughters Anna, 10, Jacqui, 8, and Stefania, 7 – and parishioner Sandra Shea.

another deacon candidate who is leading evening prayer for the parish.

At St. Therese in Collinsville,

where Msgr. Brankin, vicar of deacons, is pastor, the full Liturgy of the Hours is offered every day: morning prayer,

daytime prayer (also called mid-morning, midday or midafternoon prayer, depending on the time of its celebration) evening prayer, night prayer and the office of readings, which is suitable for use at any time of day or night.

The California News Service stylebook says general Church law in the Latin rite requires ordained ministers – bishops, priests and deacons – to pray the Liturgy of the Hours daily. Some religious orders and lay institutes require their memberships to observe this prayer, and the norms encourage all Catholics to make it, especially primary hours or morning and evening prayer.

On March 4, the day after he finished a weeklong spiritual retreat at the Vatican, Pope Benedict XVI said in his noon blessing that prayer is not optional for Christians.

"Dear brothers and sisters, prayer is not an accessory, an optional, but rather is a question of life or of death," the pontiff said. "In fact, only someone who prays and who trusts in God with filial love can enter into eternal life."

Donations sought for Father Fulton fund

Members of the Mount Saint Mary High School class of 1954 are spearheading a fundraising drive to begin a major upgrade of the Oklahoma City school's football stadium and name it after Father Kenneth S. Fulton, a retired Diocese of Tulsa priest who was Mount Saint Mary's athletic director from 1950-1954.

The alumni also hope to establish a scholarship in honor of Father Fulton, who taught freshman and sophomore religion classes.

Father Fulton was ordained in 1950 in Oklahoma City and served many parishes in the state, including St. Jude in Tulsa, 1960-1967; Sts. Peter and Paul, 1967-1972; St. Clement in Bixby, 1972-1975; St. Therese, Collinsville, and St. Henry, Owasso, from 1975-1985, and St. Patrick Church in Sand Springs, 1985-2000.

Since retiring in 2000, Father Fulton has been assisting the pastor at St. Thomas More Parish in Tulsa.

Mrs. Joan Wirt, a parishioner of Tulsa's St. Pius X Church who is helping to promote the drive, said organizers are hoping for widespread participation in the campaign.

"If you would like to make a contribution, please send donations and/or pledges to Mount Saint Mary High School, 2801 S. Shartel Ave., Oklahoma City, OK, 73109, Attn: Father Fulton Recognition Campaign," Mrs. Wirt said.



Father Kenneth Fulton

Charities *Continued from page 1*

fundraising efforts with the Catholic Charities appeal.

Another concern was raised by Father Daniel Campos, a council member who is associate pastor of St. Francis Xavier Church in Tulsa. He and Father Jose Maria Briones have been trying to convince the predominantly Hispanic parish "to become more conditioned to the American way" of sustained commitments to the poor.

"In the Hispanic community, it's viewed as just one pledge, one time, that's it," Father Campos said.

Father Tim Davison, who was pastor of St. Francis Xavier before being assigned to Sts. Peter and Paul, pinpointed another problem with Hispanic parishioners – their high rate of mobility.

"Keeping track of them is hard," he said, noting some Hispanics move every two or three months. For many immigrants, a five-year commitment seems incomprehensible.

Msgr. Patrick Gaalaas, vicar

general, suggested that pastors present the Catholic Charities commitment as analogous to a family's need to buy groceries every week and its need to make car payments for several years in order to have transportation.

Although the consulting firm has provided a specific format to be followed in the parish phase – including signing a pledge form, recruiting volunteers and submitting weekly progress reports – there is flexibility in the process.

Pornography *Continued from page 1*

women, and sexually oriented chat rooms are visited by twice as many women as men;

- Ninety percent of kids 8-16 years old using the Internet have viewed pornography on-line (most while doing their homework);

- The average age for people to become exposed to Internet porn is 11 years old, and among

For example, although in personal visits to some donors the \$6,000 or \$3,000 level of commitment was suggested, Mr. Sartorius said Catholic Charities will welcome whatever the faithful choose to give.

"We just ask them to pray about it, and (the level of support) will be whatever their prayer leads the people to do."

Presbyteral council members Father Jack Gleason and Matt Gerlach are co-chairmen of the parish phase of the campaign.

underage viewers of pornography, children from 12 to 17 are the largest consumers of porn in the U.S.

What are its effects?

- Forty-seven percent of Christians surveyed said pornography has become a major problem in their home.

Kathy Rodgers

Regional conference provides 'invaluable help' in building stewardship

The Region X Stewardship Conference will be April 20-21 (Friday and Saturday) in Lubbock, Texas, this year. The conference gathers people interested in promoting the practice of stewardship in general and at the parish level in particular.



It's always an interesting crowd. Enthused about their faith and their call to discipleship, participants strive to focus parish-wide attention to living as a steward, not one who owns things, but one who must care for things given to him.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops defines stewardship as:

- Receiving the gifts of God with gratitude
- Cultivating them responsibly
- Sharing them lovingly in justice with others
- Standing before the Lord in a spirit of accountability.

The conference attendees come to the conference to learn what that looks like on the parish level.

I attended my first conference in Austin several years ago. We were pretty new with stewardship at my parish (St. Mary), so we were looking for ideas for the children and young people and how to present the spiritual part of stewardship. (Stewardship requires prayer and discernment.)

It was helpful to hear stories, collect good ideas and realize some of our challenges were commonplace. Gayle Long, our stewardship director, and I split up to attend workshops because there were so many that were appropriate to our

needs.

One of my favorites was on hospitality at the last regional conference in Fort Worth. The presenter ran a consulting firm for training customer service people, and she knew a great deal about making people feel welcome and included.

While nothing can replace genuine interest and care for people, there are many ways to express such interest and care for parishioners and visitors. So much of being successful in the hospitality we offer lies in holding ourselves open and attentive to one another.

Many of the people encountered at the conference are like-minded, realizing that improving the practice of stewardship within the parish will address many parish concerns.

They want their churches to be places of welcome where people connect and live out their call to discipleship. They want parishioners to know they have talents and gifts, and they want their parish to be structured to be able to use those talents and gifts.

They know there is vibrancy to life when it is lived as a steward, and they want others to experience such a life.

This year's regional conference will offer the collective experience of parishes in Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas, along with guest presenters and keynote speakers from other dioceses. The Lubbock folk are especially excited about the program speakers this year because they received a grant from a Houston foundation that enables them to bring in some very strong presenters.

One of these is Father Dan Mahan, who will present the priests' session on Friday. Father Mahan was a featured

speaker at the Fort Worth conference, spoke at the Diocese of Tulsa Stewardship Day last spring and led a Lenten mission retreat at Christ the King last month.

In his book, "More than Silver or Gold: Homilies of a Stewardship Priest," Father Mahan notes:

"Stewardship is a spirituality - and therefore a way of life - that is deeply rooted in the person of Jesus Christ. As He draws us closer to Himself day by day, we build a sense of communion in our Church and come to understand more clearly that God has given each of us something to do that no one else on earth can do."

The conference provides invaluable help to those starting and continuing to promote the practice of stewardship in their parishes. It is a place to listen, to share questions and to get some answers to the questions that draw so many of the attendees to the conference:

- What will my parish look like if the parishioners intentionally practice stewardship as part of their discipleship?

- What will change and how can my stewardship committee facilitate that change?

Everyone is welcome to attend, even if your parish is not actively promoting the practice of stewardship. Please contact the Diocese of Tulsa Office of Stewardship for the registration form and more details at 918-294-1904.

Kathy Rodgers is a parishioner of the Church of St. Mary in Tulsa.

Job opportunities

Jobs in a Box, a service to readers of the Eastern Oklahoma Catholic, carries ads free of charge. Brief ads will run in two issues of the EOC. Please be specific when listing skills and/or experience offered or required for a particular job.

Write to:

Jobs in a Box, The Eastern Oklahoma Catholic
P.O. Box 690240, Tulsa, OK 74169

Fax your information to 294-0920.

E-mail to easternokcatholic@dioceseoftulsa.org

HISPANIC CHILD CARE - Our Lady of Refuge Hispanic Helping Center of Catholic Charities is looking for two creative, organized and loving people to provide child care for pre-school age children once a week during the Hispanic Women's Support Group meetings. The paid position requires a background check, is for four and a half hours per week starting at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesdays. Call Marcela Frescott, 585-8199 or send resume to mfrescott@catholiccharitiestulsa.org.

PRINCIPAL - San Miguel School of Tulsa, serving approximately 75 students in grades 6-8, seeks a principal for the 2007-2008 school year. Ideal candidate will be highly motivated with excellent people skills who will help ensure the long-term future and success of the school, overseeing all administrative functions. Applicants must be practicing Catholics, have a master's degree - preferably in education administration - and

classroom teaching experience. Must demonstrate a working knowledge of and practice strong educational, administrative and communications abilities and commitment to partnership with the Diocese of Tulsa, parents and faculty. Salary and benefits are commensurate with experience and qualifications. Interested applicants should contact the President/Principal Search Committee, 820 S. Boulder Ave., Tulsa, 74137, 582-9177.

MEDICAL ASSISTANT - Xavier Medical Clinic (a program of Saint Francis Health Systems and Catholic Charities) has an immediate opening for an assistant to the medical director. Good interpersonal and organizational skills, attention to details and basic computer literacy required; ability to speak English and Spanish strongly preferred. A medical background would be most helpful. The position requires 20-25 hours per week with possible expansion. Duties include organization and coordination of multiple office functions including filing, ordering supplies, appointments, patient records, data entry, payment and financial arrangements, assisting with medical clinic programs and coordination of some volunteer activities. Provide resume to: Phyllis W. Lauinger, M.D., Xavier Medical Clinic, 2448 East Admiral Blvd. Tulsa, OK 74110.

TRANSLATORS/INTERPRETERS - Saint Francis Hospital has immediate openings for on-call translators/intepreters available Monday through Friday during the day. Candidates must be bilingual in medical terminology and must pass a medical Spanish proficiency exam. Candidates

must have high school diploma or GED. Please call 494-1451 for additional information or apply online at www.saintfrancis.com under nursing support/translator.

PART-TIME JANITOR - Catholic Charities of Tulsa seeks a part-time janitor. This evening and possible weekend position requires a high school diploma/GED or janitorial experience. Duties include routine sweeping, mopping, vacuuming, dusting, light lifting, emptying trash, cleaning restroom, periodic deep cleaning at office facilities and clinics. Interested individuals should make initial application to Catholic Charities, 739 N. Denver Ave., P.O. Box 6429 Tulsa, Okla. 74148, (918)585-8167, FAX 918-582-2123.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL - St. Vincent de Paul School, a pre-kindergarten through seventh-grade school in Rogers, Ark. with approximately 345 students, is seeking an assistant principal. Candidates must have prior demonstrated leadership abilities or current educational assignments and must be a practicing Catholic. Preferred qualifications include three or more years of teaching or administration experience in a Catholic school setting, master's degree and Arkansas certification (or certifiable) as an elementary/middle school principal. Send a letter of interest and resume with references to Kristine Grelle, St. Vincent de Paul School, 1315 W. Cypress, Rogers, AR 72758 or call 479-636-4421.

DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS - The Springfield Catholic school system in Missouri is seeking

candidates for director of schools. Applicants must be active Catholics, possess minimum of a master's degree in teaching and administration. The director serves as spiritual and educational leader for 1,350 students and their families in four elementary schools and one high school. The director is executive officer of the Springfield Catholic school system board and manages ademic programs and fiscal responsibilities. Qualified applicants may direct inquiries to the Springfield Catholic schools central office at 417-865-5567.

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT - The Springfield Catholic school system in Missouri is seeking a director of development. Candidates must be practicing Catholics, self-starters and demonstrate skills needed to implement comprehensive development program. Computer experience with Microsoft programs and website maintenance is highly preferred. Review of applications began March 12 and will continue until position is filled. For application and other information, call Springfield Catholic schools central office at 417-865-5567.

PHOTOGRAPHER AND ASSISTANTS NEEDED

- A photography company owned by St. Benedict's parishioner is seeking staff for part-time/seasonal work. Digital experience required but will train the right person. Prefer applicants have their own equipment. Good pay for contract work. Photography assistants need not have experience, will train. Both positions require flexibility, good with children, reliable transportation and the ability to work Saturdays. Please call Michelle at 252-3394.

Missionaries' children spending semester at Sts. Peter and Paul, Kelley

By **BARB HILGER**

It is a Thursday afternoon on the school grounds at Sts. Peter and Paul School, and three children blend in with all the others in their school uniforms and hoodies. But these three are unique: They began their school year in Amarillo and came to Sts. Peter and Paul in January with their parents, Vincent and Caliz Kay, as part of a Neocatechumenal Way missionary team.

Marina is in seventh grade, Luis in fourth and Javier is a second-grader. Their older brother and sister, Pablo, 15, and Miriam, 14, both attend Bishop Kelley High School. Still at home are 4-year-old Carmen and Andres, who is 2. The Kays have traveled with their children as part of the Neocatechumenal Way missionary team since Miriam was 2.

They are leading a Lenten retreat at Sts. Peter and Paul Church and St. Thomas More Church.

The Neocatechumenal Way originated in the "slums of Madrid" in the early 1960s and was recognized by Pope John Paul II in 1990. The Christian initiative consists of priests and lay people who commit to live out the grace of baptism through ongoing catechesis, communal and private prayer, all leading to active service in the Church.

Mr. Kay had fallen away from the Catholic Church until in his early twenties when he learned about the Neocatechumenal Way. His family was leaving for an evening of catechesis at their church in Los Angeles, and he remembers that it



Luis and Javier stand outside of Sts. Peter and Paul School with seminarian Jaime Hoyas, and their sister Marina Kay.

was raining. When he wanted to know what was so important that would make them go out in the rain, their answer was "Jesus Christ."

He wound up going with them, and it was a decision that changed his life.

Mr. Kay met his wife in Spain in 1989 while attending World Youth Day, when he was part of the Neocatechumenal Way mission in South Madrid. The couple married in 1990 and became a missionary team.

They don't spend much time there, but home for the Kay family is Los Angeles, where the children have aunts and uncles and cousins. Leaving Los Angeles is always difficult, even for the relatives who are left behind.

"When we leave the cousins are envious because we are traveling," Mr. Kay said. But, he added, traveling is "not all roses."

Yet it has been a way of life for all the children, and many of them were born while the family was on the road: Marina on the East Coast, Javier in Rome. The newest Kay will arrive this May while the family is in Tulsa.

In Los Angeles, Mr. Kay works as a dental technician, a job he said he has been fortunate to be able to return to each time the family comes home.

The missionary life means the children spend at least one semester away from their home and school in Los Angeles each year. This year has been different in that the kids will have spent the entire year away, the first semester in Amarillo, this semester in Tulsa.

"There is a definite sacrifice on their part, but they see that it is done for Jesus Christ," the children's father said. "They see how it helps people."

room in the van," Luis explained.

When the baby is born, seventh-grader Marina will get promoted to the airplane for the return to Los Angeles.

The Sts. Peter and Paul students provided a response typical of elementary-age children to the question of how they like school. "OK." Luis piped up that he likes recess best.

The list of where they have lived and attended school is long, and when asked to name them, each child remembered someplace different to add. Michigan, Oregon, Nebraska and Texas were a few of the states, but they've lost track of the cities.

"They see a broad spectrum of life in different parts of the country," Mr. Kay said.

For the children, each new mission trip means starting in a new classroom, making new friends and beginning anew – again.

"Teachers are always surprised at how adept they are, managing to blend in and contribute," their father said. "This has been their way of life since they were small."

"Sometimes they like the people but not the place," said Jaime Hoyas, a seminarian who also is part of the missionary group and has traveled with the Kays for two years and is regarded by the children as another, bigger brother.

What missionaries are doing where

A missionary family – two parents with seven children – has moved into the St. Thomas More rectory. Pastor Father Carl Kerkemeyer offered his home to the Kay family while they are in Tulsa leading Lenten catechesis for the Neocatechumenal Way at his parish and also at Sts. Peter and Paul.

Since the Vincent and Caliz Kay arrived in January, Father Kerkemeyer has been living with Father Tim Davison in the rectory of Sts. Peter and Paul, as is Jaime Hoyas, a seminarian at St. John Vianney Theological Seminary who accompanied the Kays to Tulsa, and Padre Eduardo Gonzalez Martinez, a priest from Spain, where the Neocatechumenal Way originated.

The missionary couple's eldest children, Pablo and Miriam, are attending Bishop Kelley High School. Marina, Luis and Javier Kay are going to school at Sts. Peter and Paul. The Kays will continue living at St. Thomas More's rectory until Mrs. Kay delivers their eighth child at the end of May.

The Neocatechumenal Way missions are held in English at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays at Sts. Peter and Paul, 1436 N. 67th E. Ave.

The missionaries also lead sessions at 7:30 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays at St. Thomas More, 2720 S. 129th E. Ave.

A history of the Neocatechumenal Way is available at www.camminoneocatecumenale.it.



The Kay family, from left: Pablo holding Andres; Miriam, Marina, Caliz and Vincent, at front are Luis, Javier and Carmen.



San Miguel students retreat to Cascia Hall

San Miguel School sixth graders hit the ground running during a retreat Feb. 23 at Cascia Hall School. The retreat was organized by Cascia seniors Yannick Loya, Stephanie Sawyer, Andrea Cody and Katie Neal and juniors Gracie Jennings and Camille Jeong at the request of San Miguel Director Curt Adams. The students volunteered at San Miguel during their "minimester" in January and worked with Development Director Margaret Ellison to organize and implement three different retreats for sixth through eighth grade taking place Feb. 9 and 23.

Catechesis in the palm of your hand

Local groups take their faith-filled messages and teachings to the Internet in the hopes of reaching broader audiences in their own environments – on their own time. Online streaming and downloadable content such as Catholic radio shows, college evangelization and Scripture studies spreads the Catholic message to listeners all over the world. Local sound bites available online include:

College evangelization

"On the U" is a new podcast being produced by Campus Minister Steve Nelson and students of the Newman Center at the University of Tulsa. It is a Catholic-oriented podcast for and about the lives of college students with topics ranging from "dealing with your roommate" to the Catholic charismatic renewal. Check out the website at ontheu.blogspot.com or look for it on iTunes.

In February, programs included "Student Lenten practices," "How do you pray?," "What about Ash Wednesday," "Preparing for Lent" and a two-part discussion of social justice.

Catholic radio show

"We're Deacon Tim and Cyndi, and we like to talk about how to live an ancient faith in a modern world." Cyndi Kane interviews Deacon Tim Sullivan weekly on important Catholic issues as they relate to the modern world. New 13 minute interview available each Monday at www.twoedgetalk.com, or go to iTunes podcasts and search for Two Edge Talk. A "comments" section of the show's website acts as a forum for a variety of engaging ecumenical discussions.

Last month programs included "Turbo-charge your spiritual life" and "Suffering? Me? Umm, no, thanks!"

Msgr. Dan – from Rome to your living room



The Sunday Gospel Scripture study program, offered through the Pastoral Studies Institute and previously available only through a DVD format, is now available for listening or downloading online at www.sundaygospel.blogspot.com. Participants will learn topics ranging from the cultural world of Jesus, the theology of the Gospels, early Church history, and practical spirituality.

Msgr. Daniel Mueggenborg, currently assigned to the Pontifical North American College, began recording the DVDs when he was pastor of St. Clement in Bixby and has continued sending them after he went to Rome.

The podcasting does not require specific computer programs or skills, just audio speakers and broadband Internet.

Rome pilgrimage needs 10 more participants

Dr. Henry Harder, retired chancellor of the Diocese of Tulsa and current auditor for the marriage tribunal, began a whirlwind "armchair" tour of Rome March 15 in the Marian Center of St. Clement Church in Bixby.

The 10-week lecture series through the Pastoral Studies Institute will delve into historical and religious dimensions of major sites in Rome and other Italian cities while examining each site's archeological and architectural significance. The remaining classes are to be from 7-8:30 p.m. March 22 and 29; April 19 and 26; May 3, 17, 24 and 31 and June 14.

But the "armchair" tour is just preparation for the real deal – assuming at least 10 more people sign up for the pilgrimage, which needs at least 20 participants to be feasible.

Msgr. Dan Mueggenborg, vice rector for administration, director of admissions and formation adviser at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, will lead the pilgrims to the same sites discussed in the classes. The pilgrimage departs July 22 and returns Aug. 2.

Dr. Harder and Msgr. Mueggenborg have orchestrated this in-depth combo-package twice before – once in April 2004 and again last July.

"You can't see it all in the short time you're there," Dr. Harder said of the sites Msgr. Mueggenborg offers on the pilgrimage. "You've got to know what to look for." He

said the pilgrimage is more than a trip, and participants see more than art – rather, they witness historical depictions of Catholic faith.

"Faith has been expressed in art for more than 2,000 years," said the former English professor who specialized in medieval literature.

The history of Rome is full of nuances that easily can be missed by the uninformed observer, he said. Dr. Harder recalled how the Sistine Chapel becomes a "crush of people – all staring up at a ceiling they've seen a million times before" in various renderings.

"One wall illustrates Christ handing the keys to St. Peter, which is very important to our faith, and most people miss it. There's more to see than a ceiling."

Although the classes have already begun, walk-ins are invited to attend one or all of the remaining sessions. The entire 10-week series costs \$50, including course materials. But for those who wish to only attend a few lectures, Dr. Harder said the PSI would accept \$5 per class.

"It's an intellectual and entertaining introduction to Rome – whether you plan to go there or not," Dr. Harder said.

The trip to Rome costs \$3,970 per person and Monica Skrzypczak, coordinator of the Pastoral Studies Institute, said 10 people have registered, but at least 10 more are needed for the trip to take place. A deposit of \$500 will hold a seat if it is received by March 27.



Msgr. Dan Mueggenborg, at center of photo, pointing, explains the sculptures of Biblical history on the facade of Orvieto Cathedral to Diocese of Tulsa Catholics who made a pilgrimage to Rome with him in 2006. (Photo by Dr. Henry Harder)

Pius X students place fourth at state tournament debut

St. Pius X School's academic bowl team went to state for the first time in history – and brought home a trophy.

After an undefeated 16-0 season, winning regional, district and area bowls, the team took fourth place at the state academic bowl tournament Feb. 24 in Oklahoma City. St. Mary School also attended the tournament and placed fifth.

The eight-man St. Pius X team is made up of seventh and eighth graders who have been competing in academic bowls together for four years. Coach Lisa Proszek said the group is tight-knit and that they are all “smart, smart kids.”

“When we had our first practice in September, I told them ‘you are the team to go to state.’”

They practiced after school once a week – twice a week prior to the state competition. Occasionally, conflicts arose when a student had football practice, Math Counts or some other extra-curricular obligation. But Mrs. Proszek said she did everything she could to work around their schedules.

“They all bring such different talents to the table.”

This was her first year as head coach, but she said she has been a part of the program for the past six years, beginning when her oldest son was at Pius X. Both of her children are now at Bishop Kelley High School but Mrs. Proszek said she will continue coaching at St. Pius X because the students are “so much fun.”



The St. Pius X academic bowl team includes, from back left, Coach Lisa Proszek, Jon Fincher, Hunter Cole, David O'Connor and Patrick Harle. At front are Alex McKinstry and Cameron Newton.

Everybody can participate in academic bowl; all they have to do is show up. The Pius X coach said what really struck her about the program were the benefits to participants' self-esteem.

“Other students tell the team members, ‘Wow, you're really smart!’ and you can see

their eyes shine with pride and an added bounce in their step.” She believes the positive recognition the students receive helps them feel good about themselves and understand that it's all right to demonstrate their abilities rather than try to keep them under wraps.

“I noticed my son would hide how smart he

was until he began competing with academic bowl. It gave him a chance to shine and learn it's fun to be smart.”

She said the team is uniquely strong in that all participants are energetic, cooperative and well-rounded. “Some teams have one superstar who answers all the questions. Each of our kids likes to buzz in, but they also take turns.”

In addition to the state academic bowl tournament, there also were basketball tournaments going on in Oklahoma City the weekend of Feb. 24. Some of the students also were on the basketball team and were out until 11 p.m. the night before the bowl. The actual competition was a seven-round event lasting more than four hours without any bathroom or snack breaks.

Alex McKinstry, who is a seventh-grade team member, thought “it was cool hanging out with the team in Oklahoma City.” But eighth-grader Jon Fincher contends that the Pius X team had the most fun of all the schools at the tournament.

Father Mike Knipe and several St. Pius X teachers made the trek to watch the bowl as well as the basketball tournaments.

From here, the team will continue competing via a computer-based system allowing them to test their knowledge against other schools across the globe, including Japan and Saudi Arabia. In the past with this program, the school has placed first in Oklahoma and ranked among the top 100 schools worldwide.

Prayer movement going strong in Tulsa

By CANDICE CALHOUN and MARK STEICHEN

In the 2007th year of Our Lord, Feb. 26, electric guitars, bass and drums rang out in praise of the Triune God for the first time ever at the St. Rita Chapel at Cascia Hall School. The historic first XLT at Cascia Hall was held thanks to the enthusiastic support of Augustinian Youth Ministry Sponsor Kevin Weaver and Headmaster Father Bernie Scianna.

XLT house-band Filioque began the evening by leading more than 30 young people in praise music followed by a talk from the headmaster entitled “The Pursuit of Happiness.”

The U.S. Declaration of Independence defends every human person's right to pursue happiness, but it doesn't guarantee any right to be happy.

Father Scianna addressed how individuals are to pursue happiness in their lives. He suggested that happiness is not to be found in

something external, but in our striving to be excellent.

A common misconception today is that excellence means being good at everything. But the reality is, no one can be excellent at everything. Father Scianna reminded the group that, while all are created equal in dignity, not everyone is created the same. Each person is different, with diverse gifts and abilities. He said the call to be excellent is a call to cultivate and develop those gifts God has given.

It took St. Augustine many years to discover true happiness. Before his conversion to Christianity, St. Augustine sought happiness in many external things - money, power, sex among them. It was only later in his life that he learned that Jesus Christ dwelled in the depths of his heart and in the heart of every single person.

After he was touched by this truth, St. Augustine was never the same. As he said in his famous prayer, “You have made us for

yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.”

Being followers of Jesus Christ does not without challenges and misfortune - suffering is a part of life, Father Bernie reminded the Cascia students. People will suffer and make mistakes, but this should not block the pursuit of excellence and happiness.

As Mother Teresa often said, “We are not called to be successful, but faithful.”

Father Scianna's message was always to be faithful to one's self, as the person God created. With this focus, and through living rightly and “excellently” in the world, then society surely will begin to change.

After his talk, Father Scianna led the young people in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. “May Jesus Christ, truly present in the Eucharist, be our happiness. May we find in Him our inspiration and strength to live each day in pursuit of excellence, for the glory of His Name.”

Teens get shot of theology with new small faith group

St. Mary Church is testing the water on a new discussion group for young people in eighth through 12th grades.

“Coffee Talk,” the brainchild of St. Mary's youth coordinator Candice Calhoun, began last fall as an informal gathering of young St. Mary's parishioners at Shades of Brown coffee shop and, after four meetings, shows signs of success.

Associate Pastor Father Joe Townsend has been known to drop in on the talks and on Jan. 29, seminarian Mark Steichen stopped by to discuss vocations and how to recognize God's calling.

“We usually have anywhere from five to 12 kids show up, and the ‘regulars’ really want to be there,” said Ms. Calhoun. “We just sit around tables or couches and talk.”

The Feb. 12 discussion was an all-girls affair and, being two days before Valentine's Day, revolved around love and dating.

“At these meetings, we discuss anything from saints to the Bible to the true definition of love,” said St. Mary's parishioner Lauren Pasque, who is a junior at Bishop Kelley High School. “Every time I go, I always come away with not only new information, but also a new perspective on an issue.”

The youth coordinator said “Coffee Talk” is just something the church has tried a couple of times to see what interest is out there. Currently, she schedules the gatherings whenever space in the parish calendar allows but said she would love to see it grow into something more organized like Holy Grounds, the young adult speaker/discussion series developed by the Diocesan young adult ministry council.

'Suffer the little children'

Amman churches offer projects, schools, hope for Iraqis

By JUDITH SUDILOVSKY
Catholic News Service

AMMAN, Jordan - Though Mariam Tonni, 11, remembers her home in Iraq, she prefers now to draw faces with large smiles, perfect rows of teeth and detailed hair. Her sister, Myrna, 9, likes to draw girls with fancy dresses going to parties.

"I remember our house and our garden. I remember my friends and neighbors and school. But I don't miss it there. That was our country; now we live here," Mariam said.

The girls and their two siblings

"So many children need psychological help.

Some children lash out

and others do not

communicate, and yet

others are depressed.

When we pray they ask

why God couldn't help

them stay in their

country."

are part of a group of Iraqi refugee children who regularly come to Sts. Peter and Paul Melkite Catholic Parish in Amman to participate in the Iraqi Children's Art Exchange Project.

Normally some 28 children attend the two-hour classes in the afternoon, but on a rainy mid-February day many parents kept their children home, noted art teacher Sander Matika.

The art project, a child-to-child art exchange program set up in

September by Massachusetts preschool teacher Claudia Lefko with the assistance of Father Nabil Haddad, the parish priest, meets in the parish basement. It is one of several informal schools set up by churches and congregations for Iraqis, many of whom are in Jordan illegally and keep their children out of public schools, confused by a myriad of regulations.

The children's art project exposes the children, ages 4-12, to art and music and some basic academic subjects. The art work is sent to American children, who then send drawings back in an effort to create a dialogue between the youngsters.

The pictures have been displayed in galleries, schools, libraries, universities, conferences and hospitals from New Jersey to Nova Scotia, and in Amman.

"We decided to start not just an art school program but an informal community center where we can receive people," said Father Haddad, who oversees the project in Amman while Ms. Lefko directs it from Massachusetts. So far they have sent two packages of pictures to the United States.

At first, said Father Haddad, the children's pictures expressed their preoccupation with loneliness and war. Their subjects changed slowly to include birds, hearts, animals and smiling faces.

"We don't talk about the war and Iraq to them. We want them to live their childhood. We want them to have joy and hope. The first drawings showed loneliness: a boy sitting alone. Now you can see the change," he said.

"They appreciate the joy they have now, when they dance and sing. We need to show them we care, and the best place to do that is under the umbrella of the 'House of Love' - the Church.

"We don't tell them what to draw, but we show them that we care, and we show respect. When you maintain their dignity, even children can feel that," the priest said.

Earlier that morning, four classes had been in full swing at the Franciscan Sisters of Mary convent, where the nuns run a school for Iraqi refugee children. A group of 11 kindergartners sat at



Iraqi refugee children play a game at a special school for them at the Franciscan Sisters of Mary convent in Amman, Jordan, Feb. 14. Nuns at the convent started the school to help Iraqi children whose education had been interrupted by war. (CNS photo)



Iraqi refugee Myrna Tonni, 9, shows her drawing at a session of the Iraqi Children's Art Exchange Project in the basement of Sts. Peter and Paul Melkite Catholic Parish in Amman, Jordan, Feb. 13. (CNS photo)

little desks crammed into the kitchen as they used colored markers on a worksheet.

When the school opened in September, the children were eager to return to their studies, which had been interrupted by the war, said Sister Warda Kairouz, the school director. The children, who are divided into four levels, come four mornings a week and count the days until the weekend is over.

"We used to see the children watching television or playing in the streets. We decided we had to do something for the children. We couldn't leave them without an education," said Sister Warda. The program is partially subsidized by the New York-based Pontifical Mission for Palestine under the auspices of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association. The convent absorbs the cost of school supplies

for the students and overhead expenses.

The Franciscan school provides a three-month crash course for the children to help them catch up on the main subjects, said Sister Warda. After three months they may go to one of the higher-level classes. Eleven of their students have "graduated" to public school, she said. This rotation method allows more children to attend the classes.

The children have dreams of becoming doctors, lawyers, pharmacists, ophthalmologists, nurses, farmers, police officers and artists.

"I want to learn how to read and write so when I grow up I can have a life," said 9-year-old Baibon.

Although they were expecting some of the children to have adjustment problems, the nuns were surprised to find how seriously some of them have been affected by the upheaval in their lives.

"So many children need psychological help. Some children lash out and others do not communicate, and yet others are depressed. When we pray they ask why God couldn't help them stay in their country," she said. "We need money to send them to referrals for psychological treatment. It costs a lot here."

For some children this is the first time in three or four years they have attended school.

Magd, 12, told about how his church school had been bombed in Iraq. Ten-year-old Diana has never been to school but has caught up quickly with her classmates, said English teacher Sami Alisha Zora, one of two Iraqi teachers working at the school. He said he wants to help the Iraqi children "live as ordinary children."

Sara, 14, who last attended school in Iraq in 2004, said it was "amazing" to be studying again. She said she would like to be a doctor when she grows up.

"In Iraq you can't teach, with all the bombing there may be only one class a week," said math and science teacher Manal Lutef, the other Iraqi teacher. She fled to Jordan two years ago when her church was threatened and one worker was killed by Islamic extremists.

Extension Magazine marking centenary with cover art of past

CHICAGO (CNS) - For 100 years Extension Magazine, monthly publication of the Catholic Church Extension Society, has entered the homes of Catholics, many of whom sent in donations to help the Church's home missions.

For those old enough to remember, many of Extension's covers in the 1940s and 50s, painted by some of the leading artists in the heyday of magazine illustration, were celebrations of Catholic Americana done in a style reminiscent of the Norman Rockwell classics that graced the covers of The Saturday Evening Post.

The first issue of Extension Magazine was dated April 1906, just a year after the society was



founded. At its peak it was one of the nation's largest Catholic family magazines, with a circulation of nearly 600,000.

To mark its centenary year, the magazine is reproducing some of the best of those mid-century

covers.

Extension Magazine started reproducing the selected classic covers with its January 2006 issue and is continuing through its April 2007 issue, when the centenary year ends.

"This was an era of Americana art that's been lost, so it's been a big hit with many of our readers, young and old," said Bradley Collins, Extension's editor.

Extension communications director Mark Andel said copies of

the anniversary issues were still available and the covers can be viewed on the society's web site, www.catholicextension.org.

In the past century the Catholic Church Extension Society has distributed more than \$400 million in support of the home missions. Its activities included funding for the building of 12,000 parishes and parish centers as well as contributions to the training of countless priests and catechists, funding for religious education and salaries for missionaries.

Bishop Edward J. Slattery was president of Extension Society from 1976-1994, and Msgr. Patrick Brankin served as the magazine's publisher.

'Most positive cinematic depiction of a priest in recent memory'

By HARRY FORBES
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK - "Beyond the Gates" (IFC) towers above most current films, with even the more worthy ones seeming like fluff in comparison. It's a gripping film about one of recent history's most regrettable episodes: the international community's failure to come to the aid of the thousands of men, women and children who lost their lives during the Rwandan genocide.

This dramatization focuses specifically on the 1994 siege of a secondary school there. Father Christopher (John Hurt), a dedicated Catholic priest who runs the Ecole Technique Officielle and Joe Connor (Hugh Dancy), an idealistic young British teacher who hopes to "make a difference" - both fictional characters - view with growing alarm the escalating violence just outside their gates by the Hutu majority against their Tutsi brethren, whom they regard as mere "cockroaches."

Father Christopher is inspired by an actual Bosnian priest named Father Vjeko Curic who sheltered Tutsis during the genocide.

The school grounds - guarded by Belgian security forces on the behest of the United Nations (but only to maintain the peace, not enforce it) - become a sanctuary against the violence just outside its gates. Among the students is a sensitive young Tutsi girl, Marie (Clare-Hope Ashitey), to whom the priest and Joe form a paternal attachment.

When the violence reaches a critical stage, Father Christopher finds hundreds more Tutsis begging for shelter. The U.N. security forces are inclined to refuse entry, but Father Christopher insists they be let in.

Some 2,500 Tutsi citizens ultimately found refuge there, but it would only be temporary. Even with machete-wielding Hutus hovering with deadly intent, the U.N. - which refused to label the Rwandan atrocities "genocide" as it would oblige them to intervene (a stance echoed by the United States and the United Kingdom) - would recall its troops, leading to a hasty evacuation, but shamefully, of only the white people.

The decisions made by Father Christopher and young Joe at this point are pivotal to the film's theme of personal choice.

The Catholic element here is strong. Father Christopher believes in saying Mass no matter what the outside danger, and throughout, is shown carefully explaining the significance of Catholic doctrine and rituals. Despite a short-lived despair, stemming from his helplessness at the violence he's powerless to alleviate, his character is one of the most positive cinematic depictions of a priest in recent memory.

Books offer insights for a spiritual break or a life-changing journey

SACRED LISTENING

By James L. Wakefield. Baker Books (Grand Rapids, Mich., 2006). 208 pages, \$12.99.

FINDING SANCTUARY: MONASTIC STEPS FOR EVERYDAY LIFE

By Abbot Christopher Jamison. Liturgical Press (Collegeville, Minn., 2006). 182 pages, \$19.95.

Reviewed by BOB ZYSKOWSKI
Catholic News Service

Looking to take a break from the cell-phone-text-messaging-multitasking world? Figure a not-too-thick book on something that sounds spiritual ought to do the trick?

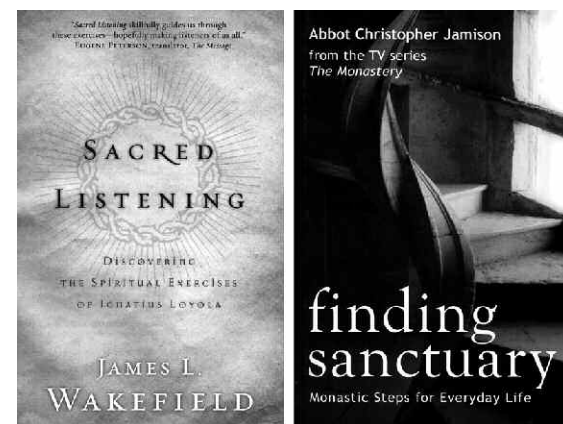
The works by this handful of authors might catch your eye in the religion section of your local bookstore. All could offer that short-term fix that seems so inviting.

But if you take to heart the message that these books on contemplation preach, you might be started on a life-changing, lifelong trek to a more meaningful, more satisfying spirituality.

In "Sacred Listening," the Rev. James L. Wakefield, a Lutheran pastor and seminary professor who did Ignatius' "Spiritual Exercises" with members of his congregation, adapts the Jesuit regimen for people who do not have a formal spiritual director to act as their guide. But right from the start Rev. Wakefield makes the point that the exercises are not a short-term program or pop fad.

After all, Ignatius of Loyola wrote these meditations on the Gospels to clarify and deepen one's commitment to Jesus Christ. Taking up the "Spiritual Exercises" is hard work - work Rev. Wakefield urges readers not to take on alone. Ideally one should work the exercises with a companion or small group.

The challenge, of course, is in the contemplation, and, after all, that's Rev. Wakefield's and Ignatius' goal. "Taking time to review your day with the Lord should



be part of your routine," the book says. "Every day, spend at least 15 minutes reviewing your life. ..."

Benedictine Abbot Christopher Jamison hasn't penned just a primer on making space for quiet-time in busy lives; the leader of Worth Abbey in England offers a recipe for changing lives altogether, a way-of-life plan aimed at bringing not just a short-term haven but meaning and satisfaction to one's existence.

This easy-reading volume came to be following the amazing popularity of a BBC television series, "The Monastery." TV cameras followed five men as they tried to live the monastic life for 40 days and 40 nights. The series drew an audience of 3 million, and hundreds signed up for retreats at Worth Abbey.

"Finding Sanctuary" uses anecdotes about the five men in the television series, but only to illuminate the steps from monastic life that make sense for those of us who don't live behind monastery walls. The gift that Abbot Jamison presents is showing how readily those things that make a monk's life rich are able to do the same thing for all of us.

After working my way through "Finding Sanctuary" I realized I'd highlighted more than a hundred sentences that I found had meaning for me, and I'd stuck "Post-It" notes on more than 50 pages because I knew I'd want to get back and make many of these part of my own life. You will, too.

By MARYANN JARRETT
and AMANDA WILLIAMS

Providence. That is Bob Wilson's one-word explanation for how he came to be at Church of the Madalene working with the parish's young people. He said this providence was "the gentle urgings of a caring God throughout his life" and, most recently, in his acceptance of the position of director of youth formation at Madalene.

Mr. Wilson began this new role last summer after serving as youth director for St. Francis Xavier Church and St. John Church in Stillwater for three years.

Though Mr. Wilson is a man declaring big plans to re-energize and evangelize Madalene's youth program, he also believes "good conversation and one-on-one (basketball) hoops can't hurt, either."

The native Tulsan and his wife, Taina, have five children: three girls ages 4, 7 and 25, and two boys who are 18 and 20. Mr. Wilson said he was raised a "generic Protestant" and graduated from Will Rogers High School. He married his Presbyterian wife when he was 20 and they opened Pit Barbeque in Owasso.

After their first three children were born, Mr. Wilson decided to return to school. The couple sold the restaurant and moved to Bartlesville, where he enrolled in Bartlesville Wesleyan College - not because it was a Methodist school, but because it was handy.

While pursuing his studies, he worked as a lab technician at a hospital in Coffeyville to support his growing family. Three years later, he received his bachelor's degree double-majoring in behavioral science and theology.

During his last year at Wesleyan, Mr. Wilson and his wife became Lutherans, which he said was "a sort of

compromise for two people who wanted to become Catholic but were afraid to make the leap."

By that time, he had begun discerning a call into Christian ministry, and the family moved to St. Louis, where he entered Concordia Lutheran Seminary. After completing four years of theological study and a, internship, Mr. Wilson graduated with his master of divinity. He was ordained a Lutheran minister in 1995.

The Lutheran church sent him and his family to the "middle of nowhere, Kansas," he said, to a town called Sylvan Grove, where he was pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran Church for five years while simultaneously pastor of St. Paul Lutheran in Ellsworth for three. He and his wife also welcomed their fourth child into the family while in Sylvan Grove.

But Mrs. Wilson was becoming increasingly disenchanted with the Lutheran church, and, "pastor's wife" or not, she continued to study Catholicism. She led the way, challenging her husband with questions and discussions about Catholic history and doctrine, and, "with the truth on her side," won



Bob Wilson

Fostering deeper faith for youth

every religious argument, thereby beginning their journey to Catholicism.

He resigned as pastor of his Lutheran churches, a decision he said was heartbreakingly difficult because he had been a minister and a pastor for years, and suddenly his religious vocation was gone.

The Wilson clan moved to Oklahoma City, where their fifth child was born. The former pastor took a job in financial and insurance services, but said that deep in his heart was a yearning to somehow work again for God.

Apparently, he said, God concurred, for by now he and his wife had gone through R.C.I.A. together and were finally - and "gratefully" - Roman Catholics.

He called the Oklahoma City Archdiocese and the Diocese of Tulsa and sent them his resume. Carol Robinson, coordinator of catechetical services, happened to see it and called Father Ken Harder in Stillwater, who hired Mr. Wilson as director of religious education for the Stillwater parishes in 2003. Two years later, Mr. Wilson entered the permanent diaconate program, "feeling God calling me back into an ordained ministry."

When he saw Madalene's ad for a director of youth formation, Mr. Wilson said he knew the job would bring him and his family back home to Tulsa, which would be a more convenient place to continue his diaconate studies.

He said he knew too, that the new job would offer a

"broader and more challenging position with the opportunity to offer Madalene's children, pre-school through high school, the direction and involvement necessary for them to grow solidly in their faith as they themselves were growing up."

"We were looking for someone to implement our vision of total faith formation for our youth," said Father Jack Gleason, Madalene's pastor and director of vocations for the Diocese. "We needed someone who could address the classroom needs of religious instruction but also incorporate a service and fellowship component. That's why we hired him - he can do it, and he's excited about it."

Father Gleason said one of things he likes most about Mr. Wilson is how he wants to involve parishioners in youth ministry. "Bob always says it's not just something he does; the entire parish should be involved in coordinating resources, whether it's teaching, attending youth events or organizing service projects."

Since the new youth director's arrival, the youth room has been renovated and furnished with a mini-basketball court, kitchenette and large-screen television. But a youth program is more than a new room, Mr. Wilson said.

"An individual conversion and relationship with Christ Himself is the ultimate goal. Helping young people attain an outreach, or an 'other' mentality, to consider being Christ in this world to others is a second goal."

"Right now young people seem to want to go deeper in their faith, and if we can provide the resources - well, that's great!" said Father Gleason.

Youth ministry has its challenges. Mr. Wilson said that Madalene is home parish to young people from many different high schools making it hard to form a cohesive, active group.

His plan is to build for the future by starting a youth group program for fifth graders through junior high. "This way, when they reach high school, they will already have a strong fellowship at the parish."

"He has quickly gained the trust and respect of the high school kids who look forward to Wednesday evening meetings about youth and religion," said Shreese Wilson, Madalene parishioner and mother of two. "His theology knowledge keeps the older students interested in their faith and Bob's ability to share his own faith history has proven invaluable."

To help foster unity, Mr. Wilson has begun planning for the national youth rally at Steubenville South in Louisiana to take place June 22-24. He said that 1,700 young people gathering together for the Eucharist will be an experience young Catholics shouldn't miss.

Portions of this profile came from MaryAnn Jarrett, who is a contributing writer to the Church of the Madalene bulletin.

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— Father Jack Gleason

In 2005,

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Connections

To let other parishes know what's happening in yours, please submit photos and news items to *Connections*, P.O. Box 690240, Tulsa, Okla. 74169-0240. Call us with news at 918-294-1904, fax us at 918-294-0920, or send e-mail to easternokatholic@dioceseoftulsa.org.

Another way to share the news is to add the EOC to your parish bulletin mailing list. We receive a few bulletins from outlying parishes, and it would be helpful to receive more bulletins to help us learn about news and provide a variety of information in *Connections*.

St. Joseph in Bristow is doubly generous

By **BARB HILGER**

BRISTOW – Two major fundraising appeals are running almost simultaneously in the Diocese of Tulsa, and both have been met with an outpouring of generosity among the people of St. Joseph Church in Bristow.

At a March 4 parish dinner to support the Catholic Charities capital fundraising campaign, parishioners committed \$36,000 to the cause. The parish goal had been \$12,000.

And just two weeks after the Diocesan Development Fund kicked off Feb. 3, St. Joseph Church parishioners had achieved 174 percent of the financial goal that was set at \$4,299.

“Bristow parishioners are incredibly generous and supportive of the Church,” said Father Matt Gerlach. Father Gerlach is pastor of St. Joseph’s in addition to being pastor at St. Catherine Church in Tulsa and co-chairman of the Catholic Charities parish phase.

For the Catholic Charities “Mission of Hope: Changing Lives with Love” campaign, Father Gerlach deviated from the plan outlined by a consulting firm. Rather than visit parishioners in their homes, he invited them to the parish for dinner.

The food was prepared by Deacon Tom Loney and his wife Betty at a cost of just \$500. Given the \$36,000 in donations that were committed, the pastor was fairly delighted with the result.

He said that like many non-Tulsa parishes, Bristow had some initial resistance to the major fundraiser by the Tulsa-based Catholic Charities. But Father Gerlach pointed out that some people in Bristow who need assistance do travel to Tulsa.

Plus, he said, he and the parish volunteers for the Catholic Charities project have been driving home that “there’s a world beyond Bristow,” and the call to help the poor is universal in the Church.

But on the DDF success, Father Gerlach attributes the success to the ease of the program guidelines furnished to parishes and pastors by DDF Director Joan Dorney. “I follow the program, and for the last five years it has worked,” he said.

Deacon Loney served as chairman of the DDF campaign at the parish, and he agreed the early results are not unusual for Bristow. “The people at St. Joseph’s do an excellent job of sharing their time, talent and treasure willingly,” he said.

He also agreed with Father Gerlach that following the campaign procedure works well. One addition he said made a difference this year was the space on the envelope allowing people to mark that they were not able to contribute at this time. “This was a good addition because at least we know we have reached them. And people are still praying for the campaign so they are still contributing in their own way,” he said.

In addition to underwriting the many ministries operated by the Diocese, exceeding the goal has another advantage: Fifty percent of all money contributed above the goal is returned to individual parishes.

Parish-by-parish DDF results are available online at www.dioceseoftulsa.org in the Stewardship and Development section.



Father Steve Austin explains to the FIRE group how solitude and silence lead to prayer.

Adult ed classes in McAlester thrive

MCALESTER – For the last four years, St. John Church in McAlester has been on FIRE. Families Involved in Religious Education has been a hit with parishioners, who have received adult education from speakers throughout the Diocese.

The program meets the first Wednesday of each month before the children’s religious education classes. Several committees, including the Ladies Guild, the Knights of Columbus and the parish council, take turns providing dinner for the monthly event.

For the final session this school year, 60 people attended a March 7 talk on prayer by Father Steve Austin, pastor of Church of the Resurrection in Tulsa.

Father Austin began by telling the group that solitude and silence lead to prayer. Citing Scripture, he also told them that “through prayer our hearts come into union with God’s heart,” said Mary Grimm, president of the FIRE committee.

In addition to the informative talks, parishioner Jeanene Butler said she enjoys FIRE for the opportunity it provides to get together with other parishioners.

While the program began four years ago with local speakers, the adult education committee took charge two years ago with the goal of bringing in priests and deacons from the all over the Diocese.

“We’ve been very fortunate the priests have put us on their busy schedules,” Mrs. Grimm said.

This year the series of speakers began with Frosty Troy, founding editor and publisher of the Oklahoma Observer, a crusading newspaper based in Oklahoma City whose motto is “to afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted.”

Mr. Troy grew up in St. John’s parish and came back to share his memories.

Other speakers in this year’s series have been Father Mike Knipe from St. Pius X Church in Tulsa; Father Richard Cristler, pastor of Sacred Heart in Wilburton, St. Catherine of Siena in Talihina and Holy Trinity in Clayton, and Deacon Sid Starr from Holy Rosary Church in Hartshorne.

“We appreciate the priests outside of the McAlester area taking time to come here. We don’t always have the opportunity to attend programs in Tulsa,” Mrs. Grimm said.

Father Cristler has come every year, and Mrs. Grimm said he is an excellent speaker, then added that all of the speakers have been wonderful.



Retreat participants, from left, include Anne Zinn, Sally Denney, Theresa Brennan, Joeline Roy and Doris McGann.

Spiritual weeding, planting, pruning

STILLWATER – Sister Julia Roy, O.S.B., was on hand Feb. 24 in Stillwater, when 35 women from St. Francis Xavier Church and St. John the Evangelist Church gathered for a Lenten spiritual gardening retreat.

Using bedraggled plants in need of attention as the focus of the retreat, Sister Julia led the women through Scripture passages that focus on gardens. The gardens of Eden, Gethsemane and the garden at the tomb were three images she used, said Ann Govak, a parishioner at St. Francis Xavier.

Mrs. Govak had been through the retreat with Sister Julia once before, and she organized the event for the women of the Stillwater parishes.

Part of the retreat is devoted to gardening tasks on plants the women brought with them. “Weeding, planting and pruning, all of these are tasks that happen in our spiritual lives as well,” Sister Julia said.

Prayer and gardening are about observation, she said. “Once the women work on the plants and see what a difference the work does, it has an effect, more so than anything I could tell them.”

Sister Julia works as assistant to the president at St. Gregory’s University in Shawnee. She developed the retreat five years ago for a group of deacon’s wives and has since adapted it for other groups.