



Bishop Edward J. Slattery greets Pope Benedict XVI during his trip to Rome May 11. At center is Cardinal Crescenzo Sepe, prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, which directs the Pontifical Mission Societies. On March 10, Bishop Slattery attended his first meeting of the societies' Supreme Committee. (L'Osservatore Romano photo)

## Bishop Slattery says Catholics must share faith, pray for missions

By CINDY WOODEN  
Catholic News Service

ROME - Catholics who have received the gift of faith must support efforts to share that gift with others, said Bishop Edward J. Slattery of Tulsa.

"The most important thing for our people to do is to pray for the missions, because faith is the work of the Holy Spirit," the Bishop said March 10 while in Rome for a meeting and conference marking the 40th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's document on the church's missionary activity.

The conference at the Pontifical Urbanian University was sponsored by the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

In addition to participating in the conference, Bishop Slattery attended the first meeting of the newly enlarged supreme committee of pontifical missionary societies.

Named to a five-year term on the committee, Bishop Slattery represents North and South America on the board charged with overseeing the budgets and promoting cooperation among the Holy Childhood Association, the Missionary Union of Priests and Religious, the Society of St. Peter Apostle, and the Society for the

Propagation of the Faith.

The societies are connected with the evangelization congregation, promoting missionary awareness and raising money to support the Church's activity in mission lands.

Bishop Slattery said he was not told explicitly why he was chosen to represent the Americas on the committee, but he assumes it is because of his two decades of work with the Catholic Church Extension Society and his past chairmanship of the U.S. bishops' committees on the Home Missions and on Evangelization.

Opening the 40th anniversary conference, Cardinal Crescenzo Sepe, prefect of the evangelization congregation, said the Second Vatican Council not only reaffirmed the missionary obligation of every bishop and diocese, but it highlighted the responsibility of every Catholic to share the faith with others and to support mission work with their

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## Rural parishes working on ITV glitches

By BARB HILGER

The Pastoral Studies Institute is working to overcome obstacles encountered while trying to get the Interactive Video System (ITV) up and running in five rural parishes: St. John, Bartlesville; St. Clement, Bixby; St. John, McAlester; St. John the Evangelist, Stillwater, and Holy Ghost in Vinita.

The ITV system is "cutting edge for disseminating information," said Monica Skrzypczak, PSI's coordinator. Now that it is in place it is a matter of working out the problems.

Church of the Madalene in Tulsa operates as the system's hub. The equipment for the hub site cost \$15,000, plus monthly

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## Ambassador hosts bishop, priests

U.S. Ambassador Francis Rooney and his wife, Kathleen, hosted a dinner March 11 for Bishop Slattery and other priests from the Diocese of Tulsa who were with him in Rome. From left are Msgr. Patrick Brankin, vicar of deacons and pastor of St. Therese Church in Collinsville; Mrs. Rooney, Bishop Slattery, Ambassador Rooney, Father Samuel Perez, who is studying at Angelicum University in Rome; Msgr. Daniel Mueggenborg, director of admissions and associate director of formation at the North American College in Rome, and Msgr. Peter B. Wells, assigned to the Secretariat of State in the Vatican.

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# Calendar

## MARCH

### Emmaus faith-sharing

**19** The Benedictine sisters of St. Joseph Monastery will host a faith-sharing group for single Catholic women from 6:30-8 p.m. March 19 at the monastery, 2200 S. Lewis. A light supper will be served. For reservations, call 918-742-4989.

### Natural family planning

**20** The Couple to Couple League's four-part series of natural family planning classes will be from 7-9 p.m. March 20 at St. John's Health Plaza. Call Greg and Laura Ford, 712-8459, or Joan LeBlanc, 481-9091.

### Garage sale

**23** The Holy Family Cathedral Women's Club will hold a garage sale from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 23-24, and from 7:30 a.m. to noon March 25 in the Cathedral auditorium. The club is seeking donations of furniture, working appliances, household and yard items, jewelry, books, toys, tools and more. Donations may be dropped off at the church auditorium beginning March 20 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call Mary, 749-5286, or Ruth, at 627-2175, for pickup service.

### Marriage help

**24** Retrouvaille is a program offered by the Family Life Office to help couples through difficult times in their marriages. For confidential information about how to register for the spring program that begins with a weekend March 24-26, call Carol and David at 918-695-7010 or visit [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com).

### Charities dedication

**25** Bishop Edward J. Slattery will bless the land on which Catholic Charities plans to build a new campus on the southwest corner of North Harvard Avenue and East Apache Street at 10 a.m. March 25. Everyone is welcome.

### Pro-life program

**25** In recognition of the Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord, a 5 p.m. Mass March 25 at St. Thomas More Church, 2720 S. 129th East Ave., will be followed by a pro-life presentation by David Gittrich and Harry Biltz, long-time pro-life activists from Kansas. The evening also will include a light

dinner. For information, call the Family Life Office, 585-8167.

### Pro-life program

**26** The pro-life speakers David Gittrich and Harry Biltz, will present their presentation after the 9:30 a.m. Mass March 26 in the Sister Jamesetta room at Sts. Peter and Paul Church, 1436 N. 67th East Ave. Refreshments will be served. They will appear at 1:30 p.m. at McGuire Hall at St. Benedict Church, 2200 W. Ithica St. in Broken Arrow. For information, call the Family Life Office, 585-8167.

## APRIL

### Pre-Cana class

**8** The next Pre-Cana marriage preparation class will be from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. April 8 at Church of the Madalene, 3188 E. 22nd St. Cost is \$35 per couple, paid at the door. A box lunch will be served. Register with the Family Life Office at 585-8167 or online at [www.familylifetulsa.org](http://www.familylifetulsa.org).

### Newman Center dinner

**19** The annual St. Philip Neri Newman Center Dinner will be at 7 p.m. April 19 at the Allen Chapman Activity Center on the University of Tulsa campus. Guest speaker will be Father Joseph Fessio, S.J., provost of Ave Maria University, editor and founder of Ignatius Press and former student of then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI. Tickets are \$100 per person, and table sponsorship is available. For information, contact Susan Gawey at 599-0204.

### Benedictine life experience

**21** The Benedictine sisters of Red Plains Monastery in Piedmont will host a Benedictine Life Experience weekend for single Catholic women from 7 p.m. April 21 until 2:30 p.m. April 23 at the monastery, 728 Richland Road. The theme is "Listening for the Voice of God," and the weekend will focus on an immersion into the Mystery of Christ. There is no cost. For information or reservations, call 405-373-4565 or email [benedictinevocation@ionet.net](mailto:benedictinevocation@ionet.net).

### St. Catherine trivia night

**29** St. Catherine School will hold a trivia night at 5:30 p.m. April 29 in the school activity center, 2515 W. 46th St. Tables for

six are available for \$60, or individual tickets can be purchased for \$10. Guests must be 21 or older. For information, contact Catherine Nichols, 808-9587.

## VOLUNTEERS

### Emergency assistance

Holy Child Emergency Assistance is in urgent need of volunteers to help with sorting donations and assisting clients. Please call 585-5186 or apply at Madonna House, 749 N. Denver Ave., Tulsa.

### Clear Creek Monastery seeks help

Friends of Our Lady of Clear Creek Monastery's development office need to fill volunteer positions. Anyone seeking a rewarding opportunity to help build something beautiful for God is asked to contact Gretchen Murray, director, at 918-749-4449. Office is located on South Harvard Avenue at 47th Street.

### St. John Auxiliary shop

The St. John Medical Center gift shop seeks part-time volunteers to work in the St. John Auxiliary's largest fundraising project. Shop proceeds contributed more than \$1 million to help with the center's recent expansion. Over the years, gift shop revenues have helped buy medical equipment, elevators and hospital refurbishments. Gift shop auxiliary volunteers assist customers, fill telephone orders and maintain inventory. Flexible hours. For information, call 744-2198 or visit the volunteer services page on [www.stjohnhealthsystem.com](http://www.stjohnhealthsystem.com).

### Translators needed

Catholic Charities needs volunteers who can translate for Spanish-speaking pregnant women who have doctor's appointments through the Xavier Clinic Pregnancy Services program. Assistance with transportation for the women also would be helpful. Persons interested in volunteering can call Irma at 582-0881 or Marcela at 585-8199.

### Serra Club

The Serra Club of Tulsa fosters and promotes vocations to the priesthood and vowed religious life. Please see Internet address [www.dioceseoftulsa.org/vocations](http://www.dioceseoftulsa.org/vocations), click Serra Club or Tulsa or call

742-1107 to learn if you might choose to participate in Serra.

### Hispanic center seeks volunteers

The Hispanic Helping Center is seeking volunteers who can make a difference in the lives of the poor and immigrants. Catholic Charities is seeking people who will answer phones and assist clients in a number of ways, including finding employment. Tutors for school-age children and English-learning adults are needed. Transportation, helping clients make doctor's appointments and other services also are provided. For more information, contact Marcela Prescott, social service coordinator for the center at 2436 E. Admiral Blvd., 585-8199.

## TRAVEL

### Pilgrimage tour to Ireland

Father Tim Davison will lead a pilgrimage tour to Ireland July 10-21. Cost is \$2,995 from Tulsa, plus approximately \$150 for airport tax and fuel surcharges. After arrival in Dublin, pilgrims will set out on a journey in the path of St. Patrick via an air-conditioned luxury coach to County Wicklow, County Tipperary, County Cork, County Kerry and other stops before touring Northern Ireland and returning to Dublin. Daily Mass will be offered. To reserve a space, obtain an application form by calling 1-800-334-5425.

### Holy Land pilgrimage

Father Mike Knipe and Father Joe Townsend will lead a pilgrimage to the Holy Land from Nov. 6-15 with an optional, four-day trip to Cairo. The pastor of St. Pius X Church and associate pastor of St. Mary Church will lead a journey in the land of Jesus, including the streets of Cana, the Upper Room, site of the Last Supper and the Mount of the Beatitudes. Other stops will be the site of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, His agony in the Garden, the crucifixion, His tomb and the place of His resurrection. Tour includes daily Mass, airfare from Tulsa, accommodations in first-class hotels, breakfast, dinner, English-speaking guides and all service charges and local taxes. Cost is \$2,349 per person, \$699 per person addition for the Egypt extension. Contact St. Pius X Church, 622-4488.

## Bishop Slattery's public schedule

**Sunday, March 19 – 10 a.m.**

Third Sunday of Lent Mass, Holy Family Cathedral

**Monday, March 20**

Visits St. Meinrad Seminary

**Tuesday, March 21 – 9:30 a.m.**

Addresses seminarians on Solemnity of St. Benedict

**Wednesday, March 22 – 10:30 a.m.**

Talks on Passion narratives at Women's Daytime Bible Study, Church of the Madalene

**Saturday, March 25 – 10 a.m.**

Blesses ground for future Catholic Charities complex southwest corner, Apache Street and Harvard Avenue

**Saturday, March 25 – 5 p.m.**

Mass and banquet at St. John Nepomuck Church, Yukon, Knights of Columbus fourth-degree exemplification

**Sunday, March 26 – 10 a.m.**

Fourth Sunday of Lent Mass, Holy Family Cathedral

**Thursday, March 30 – 11:30 a.m.**

Mass, St. Francis Hospital, on first of a two-day St. Francis Xavier Fair to teach the good works of St. Francis Xavier on the 500th anniversary year of his birth.

**Sunday, April 2 – 10 a.m.**

Fifth Sunday of Lent Mass, Holy Family Cathedral

**Sunday, April 9 – 10 a.m.**

Sixth Sunday of Lent Mass (Palm Sunday), Holy Family Cathedral

## HOLY WEEK

**Tuesday, April 11 – 2 p.m.**

Lenten Day of Prayer, Holy Family Cathedral

**Tuesday, April 11 – 5:30 p.m.**

Chrism Mass, Holy Family Cathedral

**Thursday, April 13 – 8:45 a.m.**

Mass and homily at Conner Correctional Center, Hominy

**Thursday, April 13 – 5:30 p.m.**

Mass of the Lord's Supper, Holy Family Cathedral

**Friday, April 14 – 3 p.m.**

Stations of the Cross, Holy Family Cathedral

**Friday, April 14 – 5:30 p.m.**

Liturgy and homily, Holy Family Cathedral

**Saturday, April 15 – 8:30 p.m.**

Easter Vigil Mass and homily, Holy Family Cathedral

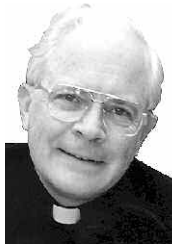
**Sunday, April 16 – 10 a.m.**

Easter Mass, Holy Family Cathedral

**Edward J. Slattery** Bishop of Tulsa

## Clear obstacles that deny Catholics full understanding of Mass

*Editor's note: Today we are publishing the sixth in a series of articles detailing Bishop Slattery's response to the pastoral recommendations issued by the members of the Diocesan Synod. In his fifth article (appearing in the March 5 edition of the Eastern Oklahoma Catholic,) the Bishop asked that our liturgies be characterized by a deep silence which would allow God's creative Word to be clearly heard above the distractions of lesser conversations and music which is sung or performed as background filler. Bishop Slattery also challenged those responsible for our liturgies to be careful to maintain (or restore) the proper balance in our liturgies between sound and silence, word and melody and finally between proclamation and response.*



*In this sixth article, the Bishop offers celebrants, liturgical ministers and planners a further challenge to remember that since the Mass is a real Sacrifice by which the faithful are given a share in the unique, unrepeatable and all-sufficient sacrifice of Christ on the cross, it may never be used for anything else - neither for teaching, nor to build community spirit or parish identity, all worthwhile but secondary sentiments.*

*In order that you be better able to connect this article in the Eastern Oklahoma Catholic with the article of the last issue, we will repeat the final paragraphs from that article as the introduction to this article.*

### Music can be a distraction

In my travels around the Diocese, I have noted certain communities where the music at Mass has tended more toward entertainment than toward prayer. The choir or cantor consciously draws the attention of the congregation to their performance and really stirring performances are rewarded by the congregation's grateful applause.

In this case, the placement of the choir, cantor or musicians in the most visible and prominent part of the sanctuary, not only proves to be a distraction to the congregation, but provides a kind of center stage for a concert of religious music. In this case, the music becomes the center of the experience, the sacramental transformation of the worshipper is reduced to his or her mere inspiration and the liturgical action of the Mass becomes itself a distraction.

While such a scenario is still quite rare in our Diocese, I think we are in danger of moving in that direction and it concerns me as your Bishop.

### Highlighting other worthwhile causes

We must also be aware that musical entertainment is not the only thing which can compromise the prayerful integrity of the Mass. The Eucharist is just as compromised whenever we use the liturgy to highlight an agenda or cause other than the worship of the Father. This is true no matter how positive or useful the other causes may seem.

For this reason, I want to remind the faithful of the Diocese that the Mass stands alone as a complete action in itself.

It is that perfect sacrifice from which the Church derives Her life; thus the liturgy must never be used as an opportunity to teach, as the context for a history or an art lesson, as the background for a concert of sacred music, neither to build community nor to foster parish identity. All these things are good, but all of them are either in support of the Mass or are derived from the Mass, and to use the Mass to foster something less is a serious abuse.

For this reason, I want to discourage in the strongest

possible way, those Masses which are sometimes called "teaching Masses" during which the celebrant stops the sacred action in order to make an historic or theological point of explanation.

In that same vein, I want to discourage any extraneous comments or commentaries on the readings or the parts of the Mass which might interrupt the sacred action. The proclamation of the readings, for example, ought not to begin with an introductory comment provided by the lector, "In this morning's first reading, the Prophet Isaiah consoles the Israelites" - First of all, such explanations are properly given by the celebrant or the deacon in the homily when he brings together the day's readings and places their proclamation in the context of that parish's lived experience; and secondly, an explanation offered as part of the liturgical proclamation could easily lead to a confusion between the inspired Word of God and the possibly helpful insight of the liturgy committee or the lector himself or herself.

### The birthright which is our salvation

All of these ideas and corrections which I have offered these past weeks regarding silence, music and prayer may seem superficial given the great problems confronting the universal Church today and even considering what we must do as the local Church in Eastern Oklahoma if we want to bring the message of Christ to everyone here.

Not only may these issues seem superficial, but I am also aware that some may perceive me as being overly concerned with rubrics and the details of the liturgy, even to the point of missing the larger picture, judging my pastoral concerns as the preoccupation of a liturgical curmudgeon.

But if I must defend myself, let me say that I insist on these points for the simple but profound reason that I am concerned lest our people be denied what is their proper inheritance, their birthright as Catholics, that is, the complete and correct understanding of the Mass as a real sacrifice by which they are given access to share in the unique, unrepeatable and all sufficient historic sacrifice of Christ on Calvary.

Distractions, the loss of silence and the various liturgical imbalances of which I have spoken are all partly to blame for a whole generation of Catholics who have gradually lost their understanding that the Mass is the true Sacrifice of Christ. But these problems are not the only reason why Catholics no longer see that there is an intrinsic and necessary link between the Mass and their salvation. As critical as these problems are, even more critical to us as a diocese as we respond to the Synod's call for a restoration of the Lord's Day is recovering our sense of personal sin which many of us seem to have lost.

### Recovering a sense of sin

Whenever the People of God lose their sense of personal sin, their understanding of the nature of the Mass and its great importance is also largely lost. It may happen then that having lost their sense of sin, they also lose their understanding that at Mass we offer to the Father - as members of Christ's Body and in union with Jesus Who makes this same offering - Our Lord's own death and rising in order that our sins be forgiven and our lives be reconciled to God.

In place of this sacrificial and redemptive understanding of the Mass, those who have lost their sense of sin may begin to see the Eucharist as principally a communal meal and a time of fellowship (1), which recalls the presence of Christ among

us (2). Both aspects - that is, the fellowship meal and the recalling of Christ's presence - are understood as flowing from the witness and life of that worshipping community as it is already assembled in prayer and established in fellowship.

### It is incomplete to see the Mass only as a meal

While it is true that the Mass is a sacred banquet, it must be clearly stated that this aspect of the Eucharistic sacrifice is available to us only because the Mass is primarily a sacrifice at which Christ Himself is the host, who invites us to feast on His Body and drink His Blood. At this banquet, the Host hands Himself over, giving His own Self as food for eternal life, and it is paramount that we understand that this "handing over," this sacrificial element, is the true foundation which makes it possible for us to participate in that meal which establishes fellowship even as it reveals Christ's resurrected presence among us.

But we cannot honestly approach the Eucharist as a sacrifice without confronting the reason for this sacrifice: our sinful human nature which reveals our alienation from God through our repeated and unforgiven sins. Christ, the Lamb of God, was made the sacrifice of expiation to redeem us from our sins and reconcile us to the Father. At the sacrificial banquet of the Mass, we are united with Christ as He makes this self-offering to the Father on our behalf and thus reconciles us to God by his Paschal Mystery.

If we lose our sense of personal sin, then gradually we lose our perception that the sacrifice of the cross - made present and real to us in the here and now of our daily struggles - is necessary for my redemption, and from these first two losses proceeds the more telling loss, our loss of gratitude for God's gift of His Son. This is the more telling loss, because gratitude is what impels us to holiness.

Hence it is critical for us as Catholics who are in the midst of a great struggle to recover our celebration of the Lord's Day to recover first our traditional and accurate understanding that individual holiness, our coming closer to God, depends directly on our appreciation of the sacrifice of the cross and the enormous gap between God's faithful redeeming love for me personally and my indifferent and inconsistent love for Him. The crucifix reveals this stark contrast.

### Ugly sin but Holy People

When we look at the holy men and women whose lives have strengthened the Church here in Eastern Oklahoma - from missionaries like Katharine Drexel and Isidore Robot, to the martyr Stanley Rother, and from His Holiness, John Paul II to the hidden saints who take their pews Sunday after Sunday in our Cathedral, churches and missions - we see that they had this one thing in common. All of them - by God's grace - were conscious of the ugliness of their sins and thus had grown in their appreciation of their indebtedness to God.

Convicted of their sins, nevertheless they grow in holiness. Conversely, the greatest sinners are those who wound the Body of Christ and offend the Father, but are unconscious of the gravity of their sin or unconcerned with how great a distance there is between God's love for them and their half-hearted and insipid response.

Saints are redeemed sinners because they accept God's offer of forgiveness, and moved by gratitude, become intimate with Him. Sinners remain unredeemed when they remain unaware or unconcerned by their sins, and dismissing their

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Marilyn Duck EOC Editor

## Andrew Molenda did not live long, but he did live strong

Parts of the funeral Mass for Andrew Molenda held March 4 were heartbreaking, which wasn't surprising since he was only 30 years old, a husband and the father of three.

But the Mass truly was the celebration of a life, a remarkable life that made up in heart, courage and legacy what it lacked in longevity.

Andrew Molenda, successful telecommunications supervisor and contented family man, learned in 2003 that he had testicular cancer. He beat it, enduring painful treatments and surgery. In the fall of 2004, he learned cancer had again invaded his body, and he returned to battle, crisscrossing the country exploring treatment options and throwing himself into the testicular cancer awareness campaign initiated by world-champion cyclist Lance Armstrong.

As recently as Feb. 21, on his Web log, or blog, Andrew briefed his Internet support network on the prospects of yet another surgery and announced his intent to ride in this fall's Ride for the Roses, Mr. Armstrong's fundraising race, in Austin.

Andrew died Feb. 28. But on his journey he accomplished some pretty monumental goals.

He was present for the birth of his youngest child, Evan, in 2004. He was at son Liam's seventh birthday party last month, having spent a terrifying time last year at Liam's side when the boy was hospitalized with a life-threatening illness. He was able to wish his daughter Alena good luck when she headed out for her first ballet lesson.



A year before his death, Andrew was at Holy Family Cathedral when his wife, Amy, was received at the Rite of Election to the Catholic Church, and he was there for the 2005 Easter Vigil when she was baptized, confirmed and received the Eucharist.

During Andrew's funeral, it was important to try to recall the things he and Amy were able to do, rather than think of the things they won't.

Amy and Andrew were married in the Catholic Church by Father Mike Knipe, who also baptized their children. But it wasn't until 2004 that Amy decided she was ready to explore the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. Had that decision come a year later – when Andrew's condition was more advanced – Amy might not have been able to continue her conversion.

She would not have sat as a Catholic in the Catholic Church where her husband's life and his resurrection to eternal life were celebrated this month.

She would not have forged the relationships in the parish that have helped to sustain her over the past months and stand by her still.



The five Molendas on Christmas Day 2005: Andrew, with Liam, Amy, holding Evan, and "Princess" Alena.

Father Knipe, pastor of St. Pius X Church, returned to Resurrection to give the homily at Andrew's funeral Mass. He talked of the faith and patience Andrew exhibited even in his last days. He reminded Amy that during the Rite of Election Mass last year, parishioners had pledged, "We do," when asked if they would support the catechumens and candidates as a Biblical family.

"Amy, this parish will continue to support you, your sons and your daughter," Father Knipe promised.

Father Steve Austin reiterated that support at Mass the following day, directing parishioners to envelopes they can use to make donations to a college tuition fund, which the family requested in lieu of flowers. Checks can be made out to either Amy Molenda or to one of the children and sent to Arvest Bank, 4548 E. 51st St., Tulsa, 74135.

Andrew said that in fighting cancer, "My goal is to make my disease not just a thing that happened to me, but something where I was able to make a change to affect other people's lives." In that, he succeeded, spectacularly.

Less than a week after burying her husband, Amy already was able to embrace gratitude. "We were given the gift of knowing Andrew's life would probably be cut short, and we were able to stop and enjoy the moments that are often taken for granted. I will always treasure these last months with him. Father Steve and Father Mike were so wonderful to our family during the last couple of weeks. I'm so privileged to have my first close priest relationships to have been with the two of them."

To learn more about this extraordinary man, his family and their mission, check out <http://5molendas.blogspot.com>.

George Weigel

## Catholic Democrats and abortion: same old same old

A thought exercise:

It's 1964, and Congress is debating the Civil Rights Act. For years, the Catholic bishops of the United States have taught that segregation is an offense against the moral law. For years, Americans of various religious and philosophical persuasions have argued that segregation violates the Constitution's promise of equal justice for all.

A sizable number of Catholic members of Congress, squirming under the bishops' pressure, have tried to counter the integrationists' arguments by appeals to the "primacy of conscience" in relating moral principle to public policy.

Now, prior to a vote on the Civil Rights Act, a group of Catholic members of Congress issues a public statement. They "agree with the Catholic Church about the value of human life" and the "undesirability" of segregation. They pledge themselves to advance policies that encourage justice, including racial comity. "As legislators in the U.S. House of Representatives," they aver, "we work every day to advance respect for life and the dignity of every human being." They believe, as the bishops believe and the Church teaches, that "government has moral purpose," and they claim to "seek the Church's guidance and assistance."

Then 80 percent of the signatories of this statement go out on the House floor and vote against the Civil Rights Act.

What we would say about that? That these were politicians trying to have it both ways? That, whatever their assertions,



those who voted against recognizing the full legal and political rights of African-Americans clearly did not believe that segregation constituted a fundamental injustice? That, their protestations notwithstanding, these legislators took neither the teaching of the Church nor the logic of justice seriously?

I think that's what reasonable people would say. And I think that's what ought to be said about the latest attempt to finess the abortion issue, which came in the form of a statement signed by 55 House Democrats, all Catholics, which was released Feb. 28 by Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn.

The citations above are all taken from the DeLauro statement – which also pledges the members to some good things, like "promoting alternatives to abortion, such as adoption, and improving access to children's health care and child care, as well as policies that encourage paternal and maternal responsibility."

But here's the rub, or, better, the rubs.

Thirty-three of the 55 signatories of the DeLauro statement (including Rep. DeLauro) voted to support the legality of partial-birth abortion. Forty-one of the signatories (again including Rep. DeLauro) voted to make abortion legal in Defense Department clinics and hospitals abroad.

Thirty-seven of the signatories (including – you guessed it – Rep. DeLauro) voted against efforts to constrain the courts from compelling hospitals and doctors to perform abortions.

How do any of these votes square with the signatories' statement that they "agree with the Catholic Church about the value of human life and the undesirability of abortion –

we do not celebrate its practice"?

This is the same old same old – "I'm personally opposed, but..." – tarted up in new vesture. One cannot speak credibly about the "undesirability of abortion" and then vote to protect and expand the abortion license. One cannot credibly claim to believe what the Catholic Church believes "about the value of human life" and then ignore the central question posed by *Roe v. Wade*: Is the willful taking of innocent human life compatible with a free and virtuous society?

One cannot appeal to the "primacy of conscience" to defend the unconscionable – any more than one could make that appeal in denying full legal and political rights to Americans of African descent.

It's the bishops' prerogative responsibility to decide what is to be done, within the Church's discipline, about Catholic legislators whose votes support the willful taking of innocent human lives. That's a matter internal to the Church's life, to be addressed by the Church's pastoral authorities.

What everyone, irrespective of creed, ought to find disturbing is the obtuseness of the DeLauro statement. Legislators who, having vowed their respect for African Americans and their distaste for segregation, then voted against the 1964 Civil Rights Act would be thought duplicitous – at least.

The same conclusion applies here.

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

# Forum

## 'Disrespectful' column about young people appalls reader

Editor, EOC:

I am a 22-year-old parishioner of the Diocese and have been since I was a small child. I received most my sacraments here, including Confirmation only five years ago and was married in my home parish a year ago. I have a younger brother who is currently a candidate for confirmation.

I was quite frankly appalled when I read your column in the Feb. 19th EOC. I have worked with the youth of our Diocese for many years and disagree with how you stated many of your points.

I do agree that many of the older generation's comments seem to have no effect on the youth. May I point out that we, the young adults, wish to receive the same respect you expect us to treat you with and therefore are turned off when disrespectful remarks are made to us.

Your underlying message is correct that some youth need to be more respectful and dress more appropriately. However, this column was supposed to be about disrespectful youth and ended up being very disrespectful to our youth. Your delivery is all wrong.

Just as I'm sure you would react if attacked, we are probably not going to listen and/or respond to you when we feel attacked and disrespected. Trying to intimidate a youth is absolutely no way for you to try to get your message across to them, and it is really not your place to attempt to do so with someone else's child.

Some parents don't have the luxury of patrolling their kids, as they may have to work to put food on the table and were not home to see what their child wore that day. These young adults are just that, young adults, and many parents expect they are capable of dressing

themselves appropriately.

We should be impressed with our youth! You speak of only about 1 percent of the candidates who attended were misbehaving; I say that if only 1 percent of adults who regularly attend Masses talked or acted out during Mass we would not have seen much improvement.

I'm with Bishop Slattery: We should be impressed with our youth! Over the years I have been moved by how deeply rooted in their faith they have become, and I look forward to what our current culture of death will become in the future. Thanks to their actions, I am very optimistic for a change back to Christ. Next time you wish to brood and make snap judgments you should consider that you don't know the whole story and that they represent the majority. Remember that Jesus said as you judge others so I will judge you.

**Christina Tinervia-Ziegenbein**  
Tulsa

### Picnic clothes not appropriate

Thank you so much for your opinion in your column of Feb. 19th. It was so honest, and it is the same at my Church, St. Bernard's. I wonder if the parents ever look at their kids. They couldn't, or surely they wouldn't, let them go to church like that.

There was an article in our church bulletin several months ago that suggested not to wear something to church that you would wear to clean out your garage or wear on a picnic. Such good advice.

**Su'z Beaman**  
Tulsa

### The after-effects of poor catechesis

A response is warranted to the recent statement released by Catholic members of Congress who feel they are being chastised unfairly because of their support of abortion. They are using whiny political rhetoric to sidestep the issue and to deceive us into thinking that they have sincere concerns other than job security.

We all have concerns about poverty, health care, terrorism and war, but the issues flow from the living, not the dead. As long as our culture sanctions the murder of babies in the womb, encourages pleasure but not procreation, it risks self-destruction. If life at its most innocent is not sacred, then nothing matters, and problems will not be solved however much care and money is pledged.

It is a heavy cross that the Church must bear for the poor catechesis that has insidiously taken over classrooms and has caused so much lack of knowledge and understanding among Catholics about the treasure of the faith. Contemporary

catechesis has emphasized service hours over sound doctrine and gave dissent a respectable name. But we must now recognize what has been happening and resist the after-effects.

We must form our consciences on the person of Jesus Christ and the truths He revealed rather than on utilitarian philosophies that make God the enemy. If these members of Congress are concerned about their Catholicism, then they must learn why the Church holds to certain teachings without compromise. If they cannot understand, or if they don't care to make the personal effort required, then why call themselves Catholic? If they deceive themselves about their faith, then surely they are deceiving their constituents about other issues.

"Father forgive them, for they know not what they do." We have all prayed this, so it is not for us to condemn those who oppose the Church from within but certainly to be wary of their motives. Their statement was issued just as Lent was beginning, so their very words betray them.

The Ash Wednesday reading from Joel begins, "Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart," and St. Paul writes to the Corinthians to "be reconciled with God – behold now is a very acceptable time." And the reading from Deuteronomy on the Thursday after Ash Wednesday says it all: "I set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse, choose life."

**Mrs. M.A. Good**  
Tulsa

### Generous gift

Dear Bishop Slattery

On behalf of Cardinal Justin Rigali, chairman of the ad hoc Committee to Aid the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe, I wish to thank you and the people of the Diocese of Tulsa for your most generous gift of \$14,328.73 to support the work of the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe.

Your 2005 gift is a sign of solidarity and hope for a people who have endured so much and who have held steadfast in the faith. Our office assists Catholics in 27 countries. The Church there is growing and vibrant, but still in great need.

We chose the theme of hope as a highlight of our collection in 2006. From my vantage point I see the deep faith, hope and love of the Catholics of Eastern Europe as a tremendous inspiration for the Church around the world. Hope does indeed inspire hope. Gifts such as that of your diocese provide a tremendous boost.

You will see in the enclosed brochure that some of the Catholics of the region actually took up a collection for the victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. I find this remarkable!

Thank you once again for your kind and thoughtful concern. I wish you all God's blessings.

**Father James M. McCann, S.J.**  
Executive director

### EOC publication dates and deadlines

Eastern Oklahoma Catholic publication dates and deadlines for 2006:

Publication	Deadline
April 2	March 24
April 16	April 7
April 30	April 21
May 14	May 5
May 28	May 19
June 11	June 2
June 25	June 16
July 23	July 14
Aug. 6	July 28
Aug. 20	Aug. 11
Sept. 3	Aug. 25
Sept. 17	Sept. 8
Oct. 1	Sept. 22
Oct. 15	Oct. 6
Oct. 29	Oct. 20
Nov. 12	Nov. 3
Nov. 26	Nov. 17
Dec. 10	Dec. 1

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or you may fax it to:  
**918-294-0920**



Pope Benedict XVI is broadcast live March 3 from the studio at Vatican Radio headquarters.

## Pope receives customized iPod

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - A group of Vatican Radio employees gave Pope Benedict XVI a brand new iPod nano loaded with special Vatican Radio programming and classical music. To honor the pope's first visit to the radio's broadcasting headquarters, the radio's technical staff decided the pencil-thin, state-of-the-art audio player would make the perfect gift.

Now that Vatican Radio offers podcasts in eight different languages, the pope has the technological capability to plug in and import the radio's audio files.

Pope Benedict visited the programming and broadcasting hub of "the pope's radio" March 3 to mark the station's 75th anniversary.

Hundreds of radio journalists, sound engineers and support staff lined the radio's hallways to greet the pope and present him with gifts, mostly special in-house productions such as CDs and books on the Church, religion and the pope.

"We don't have a huge gift to give to the pope, but we do have small signs of our work" to give him, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican Radio's general director, told Catholic News Service.

Though the white iPod nano is tiny, it still made an impression on the pope. When the head of the radio's technical and computer support department, Mauro Milita, identified himself and handed the pope the boxed iPod, the pope was said to have replied, "Computer technology is the future."

The pope's new 2-gigabyte digital audio player already was loaded with a sampling of the radio's programming in English, Italian and German and musical compositions by Ludwig van Beethoven, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Frederic Chopin, Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky and Igor Stravinsky. The stainless steel back was engraved with the words "To His Holiness, Benedict XVI" in Italian.

Once the pope, who also is a pianist, gets the hang of the device's trademark click wheel, he will be able to listen to a special 20-minute feature produced by the radio's English program that highlights Mozart's life and music to commemorate the 250th anniversary of his birth.

The iPod also contains an English-language radio drama on the life of St. Thomas a Becket and a 10-minute feature on the creation of Vatican Radio, with original sound clips of the inventor of the radio, Guglielmo Marconi, and Vatican Radio's founder, Pope Pius XI.

The pope also can relive the historical papal transition of April 2005. On the player, the radio's German program included a mix of news and interviews done during the death of Pope John Paul II, the conclave and the election of Pope Benedict.

With his new iPod, the pope can access the radio's daily podcasts, as well as download music and audio books from the Internet.

# Stage is set for court's biggest abortion case in years

By ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (CNS) - With the U.S. Supreme Court agreeing in February to consider the constitutionality of a federal law banning partial-birth abortion, the stage is now set for "the most important abortion case the Supreme Court has seen in years."

That's the assessment of O. Carter Snead, an associate professor of law at the University of Notre Dame Law School who specializes in the intersection of law, science and medicine.

He joined the Notre Dame faculty this academic year after having served as general counsel for the President's Council on Bioethics. He remains a consultant to that body.

The U.S. Supreme Court said Feb. 21 it will consider the constitutionality of the federal Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act. The court agreed to hear a Bush administration appeal of a U.S. appeals court ruling that the 2003 law is unconstitutional because it does not include an exception for the health of a pregnant woman.

In an interview with Today's Catholic, newspaper of the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese, Professor Snead explained that in its 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, which legalized abortion virtually on demand, the high court said any limitation on abortion has to include an exception for the health of the mother in addition to an exception for the life of the mother.

Roe's companion decision, Doe v. Bolton, defined the health rationale for an abortion to include any factor related to a woman's well-being.

In Doe, "health is an enormously expansive concept that includes factors like economics and familial or psychological well-being," Professor Snead said. "We're not just talking about grievous physical injuries - indeed, this understanding of 'health' is not limited to physical injuries at all. It could include a multiplicity of other harms, including economic injuries."

He said the court "vested in the abortion provider himself the discretion to determine whether or not a health interest is implicated."

Because of this health exception, the professor explained, it is possible to get an abortion for

## AN ANALYSIS

The court has a new opportunity to define what 'the health of the mother' means when it considers the challenge to the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act.

virtually any reason at all through nine months of pregnancy.

He said the court has a new opportunity to define what "the health of the mother" means when it considers the challenge to the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act.

"It's hard to imagine the court could pass on deciding that very important issue, given that a central issue presented in this case is what constitutes 'substantial medical authority' to invoke the health exception," he said.

Professor Snead was optimistic that with Justice Samuel Alito Jr. replacing Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, often considered a swing vote, a majority of the justices will vote to uphold the federal Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act.

In 2000, in Stenberg v. Carhart, the court ruled 5-4 that a Nebraska partial-birth abortion ban was unconstitutional. Justice O'Connor voted with the majority, who said the problem with the law was it had no exception for the health of the mother.

Professor Snead said Nebraska lawmakers did not put in the health exception because it would have rendered the law meaningless.

"They had it on very good authority from the American Medical Association and other

venerable bodies that this brutal procedure was never necessary to preserve a woman's health," he said.

The best outcome for the pro-life community would be if the Supreme Court, in considering the constitutionality of the federal ban, were to restrict to its common-sense meaning the definition of health as it relates to any decision about abortion, Professor Snead said.

He said the court should also let a decision about the mother's health be made by the most reasonable person possible, rather than by the abortionist who, he said, has a financial interest in the outcome.

Those actions by the court would make the federal ban permissible, Professor Snead said. The 30-plus states whose bans were similar to the Nebraska ban and were struck down by the Stenberg v. Carhart decision could enact laws identical to the federal ban, he said.

If the federal ban is upheld, states and the federal government also could enact "vastly more meaningful restrictions on abortion," according to Professor Snead.

He said public opinion about partial-birth abortion has shifted the debate on abortion dramatically because opposition to banning the procedure, he feels, has highlighted the extremism of the movement to keep abortion legal.

He also said he finds it "simply astonishing" the movement opposes any laws that would give more information about abortion to a pregnant woman who is considering having one.

"For a movement that frames itself as devoted to autonomy and choice, these efforts to restrict the information available to women, thus making their choices less meaningful, are unexplainable and inexcusable."

He said informed consent laws, especially those allowing women to see high resolution ultrasound pictures of their unborn babies, would greatly reduce the number of abortions.

"The biological truth will speak for itself. When people see what an unborn child is, they come to understand who she is: namely, a vulnerable human being deserving love and protection."

# Cardinal says use Lent to oppose hostility toward immigrants

LOS ANGELES (CNS) - Los Angeles Cardinal Roger M. Mahony, in a Lenten message and in pre-Lenten newspaper interviews, has lashed out at anti-immigrant feelings in the United States and asked Catholics to dedicate their Lenten prayers and practices to helping immigrants.

He also said that archdiocesan priests and pastoral workers are going to continue offering services to people in the country illegally even if such efforts are outlawed.

In interviews with the Los Angeles Times and The Tidings, the archdiocesan newspaper, the cardinal harshly criticized a recent bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives that emphasizes enforcement measures against people who are in the country illegally.

Cardinal Mahony called the House legislation, which would penalize people who aid illegal immigrants, a "blameful, vicious" bill.

"Anyone who does anything for someone here who doesn't have documents would be a felon under this bill," the cardinal told The Tidings. "And it targets everybody, churches included. So on its face value, it means that anyone coming for Communion or baptism or to be married, I should stop and ask to see their legal papers," he said in an interview that appeared in the Feb. 17 issue of The Tidings.



Protesters holding an American flag join thousands during an immigration rally on the west lawn of the Capitol in Washington March 7. The crowd was protesting a House-passed immigration bill that they contend would allow law enforcement authorities to prosecute social service workers and others who help illegal immigrants. (CNS photo)

"That's absurd, and we're not going to do it - even if Congress says we have to. We're not going to be immigration officers. Our role is spiritual and pastoral, and that's going to prevail. But the foolishness of this whole out-of-control thought process is just astounding," he said.

The Senate Judiciary Committee scheduled discussion of a similar bill in March.

The cardinal's Lenten message released Feb. 28 noted that anti-immigrant feelings are growing in various parts of the world. "These sentiments appear to be mounting in our own country as well," said the message.

Catholics should reflect on how Lenten fasting, prayers and almsgiving help them "relate to the complex reality of immigration, especially in the face

of increasing hostility toward immigrants," it said.

The message asked Catholics to pray "for the courage and strength to offer our spiritual and pastoral ministry to all who come to us."

In a Feb. 28 interview with the Los Angeles Times, Cardinal Mahony said there is a "hysterical" anti-immigrant attitude sweeping the country spurred by security fears in the

wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the U.S. The cardinal criticized the Minuteman Project, a private group that tries to police portions of the U.S.-Mexican border, as undertaking a misguided approach to security concerns.

"The war on terror isn't going to be won through immigration restrictions," he told the Times, because terrorists are not going to walk through long stretches of desert to sneak into the U.S.

Cardinal Mahony told The Tidings that security concerns have caused people to look for a scapegoat in illegal immigrants because they often cannot fight back.

California's limping economy is also fueling anti-immigrant sentiment locally, he added.

Anti-immigrant feelings would not have risen to such a fever pitch on radio talk shows and in legislative halls if families were not struggling to make ends meet, he said.

Hostility also greeted other waves of immigrants to the U.S., such as the influx of Italians and Irish at the turn of the 20th century, said the cardinal.

"Sometimes we romanticize early immigration in this country as if it were all very peaceful, and everybody was very happy to see the Italians and Irish come," he said. "But it was the same reaction as now."

## Police seek witness to murder of Mexican seminarian

MEXICO CITY (CNS) - Mexico City's chief prosecutor said the success of an investigation into the murder of a Catholic seminarian, who was soon to be ordained, hinges on a witness to the shooting coming forward and testifying.

"He is the one who could have seen something. He was walking down the other side of the street," Mexico City Attorney General Bernardo Batiz told reporters Feb. 27.

"We need him to present himself and give information - something about the killer, (like) if he was driving a car or if he was on foot," General Batiz said.

Deacon Francisco Castrejon Aguado, 34, was driving through an upscale neighborhood in Mexico City during the early hours of Feb. 26 when

one or more unidentified gunmen shot and killed him in his car.

General Batiz said two witnesses and two police officers who have testified so far in the case have been of no use, and police do not know if Deacon Castrejon was trying to resist a robbery or if the killer confused him with someone else.

Violent crime is rampant in Mexico City, and the city's archdiocese immediately called on police to catch the killers.

The Church "isn't asking the city government for declarations of good will, but rather it demands justice in this case and in all other cases of citizens that are murdered, kidnapped or robbed daily" in Mexico City, the archdiocese said in a Feb. 26 statement.



## Boy reaches for hug from pope

Pope Benedict XVI hugs a boy during an audience with Italian entrepreneurs and business leaders at the Vatican March 4. (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano)

**Nation/World news briefs**

By Catholic News Service

**Bush urges faith-based charities to bid**

WASHINGTON - President George W. Bush urged faith-based charities to bid competitively for federal funding March 9. In a luncheon speech at a daylong National Conference on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, Bush said progress has been made but much more needs to be done to give faith-based social service programs equal footing with secular nonprofits in federal, state and corporate grant-making.

"It used to be that groups were prohibited from receiving any federal funding whatsoever because they had a cross or a star or a crescent on the wall," President Bush said. "And that's changed for the better." He called faith-based service organizations America's "armies of compassion."

Figures released by the White House in conjunction with the conference indicated that last fiscal year 10.9 percent of the federal funding for social services from seven government departments went to faith-based organizations. The grants to such organizations amounted to more than \$2.1 billion out of nearly \$20 billion in total grants.

**Bishops' president denies abuse allegation**

SPOKANE, Wash. - Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, has denied a woman's claim that he sexually abused her more than 40 years ago when she was a minor. Diocesan attorney Greg Arpin said in a March 8 statement, "Bishop Skylstad categorically denies the accusation."

"I have kept the promise of celibacy that I made when I was ordained a deacon 47 years ago," Bishop Skylstad said in the statement. "I hope that the Spokane community will join me in praying for all those who have come forward to report sexual abuse. Please pray for me as well."

The statement said that the diocesan sexual abuse review board and Archbishop Pietro Sambi, papal nuncio to the United States, have been advised of the accusation and it was still under investigation.

On March 9 Arpin and the diocese's vicar general, Father Steve Dublinski reiterated Bishop Skylstad's denial. They said the bishop will remain in ministry. Should a credible accusation emerge, it would be up to the Vatican to order the bishop to step down, said Father Dublinski.

"There is no credibility to the accusation. None," he said.

**Pope on women's role in church decision-making**

VATICAN CITY - While insisting women cannot be ordained priests, Pope Benedict XVI said it is right to discuss how women can be more involved in Church decision-making.

Meeting March 2 with the priests of the Diocese of Rome, Pope Benedict spent two hours listening to their concerns and responding to the questions posed by 15 of them. The following day, the Vatican released a summary of the priests' questions and a transcript of the pope's remarks covering women in the church, youth, family life and a variety of other topics.

Father Marco Valentini asked the pope why the Church does not recognize that women's experience, wisdom and points of view would complement those of the men in decision-making positions. Pope Benedict said, "Everyone certainly has had this experience" that Father Valentini described of being assisted by women in growing in the faith. "The church owes a great debt of thanks to women," the pope said.



A re-enactment of the Lord's supper, filmed in Israel, is part of new website, "Jesus Decoded."

**Website counters claims in movie 'Da Vinci Code' prior to release**

WASHINGTON (CNS) - A new Web site sponsored by the U.S. bishops' Catholic Communication Campaign has been established to provide accurate information about the life of Jesus, the origins of Christianity and Catholic teaching to counter claims made in the best-selling novel "The Da Vinci Code" by Dan Brown.

The Web site, www.jesusdecoded.com, was launched March 9. A film version of the book is slated for nationwide release May 19.

The site contains information that refutes claims made in the book about the nature of Jesus; his relationship with Mary Magdalene; the first four ecumenical councils of the early Church and how they shaped today's teaching about Jesus; contemporaneous accounts of Jesus' life that were not selected for the New Testament; the role of women in the Church throughout history, and the "Last Supper" paintings by Leonardo da Vinci and other artists of his era.

Also found on the site are a Catholic News Service "Vatican Letter" column by John Thavis, the CNS Rome Bureau chief, on the level of Vatican reaction to the book and forthcoming movie.

There is an essay by Harry Forbes, director of the U.S. bishops' Office for Film & Broadcasting, on the marketing hype behind the movie, and a commentary, "What's Wrong With 'The Da Vinci Code'?", written by Father John Wauck, a U.S. priest of Opus Dei, the personal prelature which figures prominently in the novel.

The site has production information on the CCC's "Jesus Decoded" TV special, including information on air dates and times in cities around the United States. The program, shot on location in Israel, Turkey and Italy, includes interviews with international scholars versed in art, history and Scripture who "help separate Catholic truth from popular fiction." It has been offered to NBC affiliates, but each affiliate's management makes the decision whether to air it.

"Many of my students and myself included enjoy a good, fast-paced novel and enjoyed 'The Da Vinci Code' on that level, as a tall tale of adventure," said Alan Schreck, chairman of the theology department at the Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio, who contributed an essay to the Web site on

early Church ecumenical councils. "There's a level where this book is appealing to people," Mr. Schreck told CNS. "That is what makes it dangerous to someone, if they believe it's a historical representation or an accurate theological presentation."

Rather than cover up the truth about Jesus, as the novel suggests, the early Church councils tried to uncover the truth, according to Mr. Schreck.

In those councils, the participants "asked critical questions and had entertained different views of who Jesus was, His mission, and in this process saw the need to clarify the truth about Jesus that sprung from the most authentic and reliable sources about Him," Mr. Schreck said. "And there were many sources about him that were being promulgated."

**Bishop** *Continued from page 1*

prayers and material resources.

"Our conference also is meant to be an act of homage to our heroic missionaries who spend their lives - often in difficult and dangerous conditions - to ensure that Christ is proclaimed and all men and women receive salvation," the cardinal said.

Bishop Slattery said the conference underlined the fact that "we are far more aware now" than people were even 40 years ago "that the name of Jesus has not been spread throughout the world."

"We are failing, even after 2,000

years," he said. "We are still really just beginning evangelization. Only 17 percent of the world's population is Catholic."

Bishop Slattery said there is a general "weakening of the missionary spirit" due to secularization and to a misguided form of individualism that has made "a virtue of minding your own business" even when the good of another is at stake.

"People who have been given the gift of faith must pray that it will be given to the rest of the world," he said.

## Catholic Charities to dedicate future site

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Tulsa will dedicate the land for a new campus on the Feast of the Annunciation, from 10-11 a.m. March 25. Bishop Edward J. Slattery will preside over the dedication, which will be at the southwest corner of north Harvard and east Apache, the future location of Catholic Charities.

"The new location will serve the poor in our Diocese for the next 50 years and will no doubt have a profound impact on the lives of both the people we serve and our donors," said Deacon Tim Sullivan, executive director.

"We ask the people of the Diocese to join us in dedicating what will become a very sacred space," Bishop Slattery is chairman of the Catholic Charities board of directors.

Details will be released after the dedication, but Catholic Charities is planning to consolidate most of its ministries in a central location, which will be more convenient for clients.

Catholic Charities provides emergency assistance, medical care, professional counseling and also assists the Hispanic community, immigrants, couples seeking to adopt, pregnant women and families and people who have HIV-AIDS.

## ITV *Continued from page 1*

fees paid to Tulsa Connect, which operates as the server. The cost for each remote location is approximately \$4,000, in addition to the cost of Internet or cable.

The system set up last fall in Vinita has encountered many problems along the way "which has been frustrating," said Father Alex Kennedy, pastor of Holy Ghost Church. "The potential is high for the system in the future," he said, "to share with people in Grove, Pryor and Miami, which would be a 30-minute drive as opposed to driving in to Tulsa."

He said the interest has been strong enough in the parish that a parishioner donated the money for the cost of the system.

Miss Skrzypczak has been working with Biff Stephens from VSS Technologies of Tulsa to resolve the problems that have dogged the ITV connection in Vinita. Mr. Stephens said some of them stem from running over the public Internet system. ITV was originally designed to run on dedicated connections, but installing a dedicated connection also would increase the cost. Running the system at a higher bandwidth, which is offered with high-speed Internet or cable, also would reduce the difficulties.

The problem with increasing the bandwidth lies in the technical infrastructure of the rural areas. High-speed Internet or cable is not as readily available in areas such as Vinita or McAlester without additional expense.

After installing a dedicated line and increasing the bandwidth, Holy Ghost Church was able to view a two-hour program in its

entirety without disconnecting as of March 8. Previously, while viewing a PSI class or workshop, the system would disconnect up to 20 times, said Ken Leiker, site coordinator in Vinita. That makes it difficult to keep interest going because people get frustrated and don't want to return.

St. John Church in McAlester has encountered many of the same problems: frequent disconnections, unclear picture and sound. Diane Willis, site coordinator, said "it has been frustrating at first, but now it is working." St. John's had to increase the bandwidth and install a dedicated line, and Mrs. Willis said, "prayers have helped"

The motivation behind ITV is to make adult education programs offered by PSI available to the rural areas in the Diocese. The interest in the adult education is strong in these communities, but their locations have allowed them to receive only a sprinkling of classes. Through ITV most classes are available to transmit in real time to these sites.

Bixby, Bartlesville and Stillwater have not experienced all of the technical difficulties because of they are close to a large city or university or businesses that provide a better technical infrastructure to serve these communities.

"I think it is a tremendous program," said Mr. Leiker, who recognizes that other parishes are experiencing the same difficulties with the system. He said he hopes that people will not give up, as it is "a resource that will grow over the years."

## Bishop blesses remodeled apartment

Nearly two years of work by volunteers from two Tulsa parishes culminated with a blessing of a remodeled apartment at St. Elizabeth Lodge by Bishop Edward J. Slattery and the promise of a new home for a family in transition.

"St. Elizabeth Lodge would not exist without the efforts of people in the community," said Donna Mancini, the residential apartment's director. "Our volunteers are not only gifted but feel called to do the work they do."

Richard Young, a St. Mary parishioner who has contributed his labors, said the volunteers tore down several walls in the one-bedroom apartment, repaired termite damage, put in a new shower and vanity and ceramic tile in the bathroom, also put tile in the kitchen, re-did a fireplace in the living room, re-routed electrical walls and installed new electrical outlets.

Thirteen apartments are made available through the Catholic Charities-sponsored program. St. Elizabeth Lodge is housed in a "solid and sturdy" building at 601 S. Elgin Ave. that was built in the 1920s, Mrs. Mancini said.

When she first came to her job six years ago, she said she "felt like reaching for the door knob" to escape and was skittish about touching anything.

But through the diligence and persistence of volunteers, the building is being remodeled with



From left are Richard Kenney, Bishop Slattery, Richard Young, Donna Mancini, Marion McKinley and Henry O'Brien. Not present that day was MaryAnne Medawar, who also helped refurbish the apartment at St. Elizabeth Lodge. (Photo by Linda Young)

delightful results such as the original hardwood floors being restored.

Families with children – sometimes a husband and wife, sometimes women and their children – feel a sense of ownership when they are handed the key to their own apartment, Mrs. Mancini said. At least one adult holding down a job is a requirement to be a St. Elizabeth resident, most of whom are trying to get back on their feet after struggling with problems ranging from homelessness to unemployment to domestic violence.

"My vision was to make (the apartments) as homey as possible so people's dignity will be restored to them," Mrs. Mancini said.

"When we put 'Catholic' above the door, that means Christian, and residents should come here

expecting the best."

Others involved in the apartment remodeling are MaryAnne Medawar, a St. Mary parishioner, and Richard and Ann Kenney and Henry and Marian O'Brien, of Church of the Madalene.

"It's been unbelievable here as far as what people have done," Mrs. Mancini said. "There's a miracle here that has come into fruition."

Bishop Slattery blessed the apartment on Feb. 28; the following week, Mrs. Mancini was sorting through applications to decide who its new occupants will be.

For more information about St. Elizabeth Lodge, which observed its 20th anniversary last fall, call 585-5068. Marion McKinley, resident program assistant, also was deeply involved with the remodeling project, and other volunteers always are welcome, she said.

## Father John Steichen, Sapulpa native, dies

Father John A. Steichen, a Sapulpa native who was ordained in Rome in 1954 and served in several parishes in Oklahoma, died March 4 at St. Ann Retirement Center in Oklahoma City after a short illness. He was 80.

From 1980 until his retirement in 2004, Father Steichen served as Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, having been appointed by Archbishop Charles A. Salatka. From 1984-1996, he also served the Archdiocese as vicar general and as a Consultant.



Father John Steichen

He was a regional vicar and served on the Council of Priests, Pastoral Board and Personnel Board in.

"All who knew Father Steichen were blessed with his quiet wisdom and enriched by his wit and sense of humor," said Archbishop Eusebius J. Beltran.

A wake service was held at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help on March 7. The Mass of Christian Burial also was held at the Cathedral on March 8. Interment was in the family crypt at Resurrection Memorial Cemetery.

Father Steichen was preceded in death by his parents, Susan and Alfred Steichen, three sisters and two brothers. He is survived by his sister Karen McGovern and her husband William as well as many

nieces and nephews.

John Alfred Steichen was born Feb. 8, 1926, in Sapulpa. He attended Sapulpa High School, the St. Louis Preparatory Seminary and the Gregorian University in Rome, where he was ordained on July 18, 1954. During World War II, he also served in the U.S. Navy Reserve from 1943 through 1946.

Following his ordination, Father Steichen was assigned as associate pastor at Holy Family Cathedral, Tulsa, until 1959, when he became an instructor at St. Francis Seminary. He was pastor of St. Brigid Church in Tahlequah from 1967-1969, of the Church of St. Mary in Ponca City from 1969-1978, at Sacred Heart Church, Oklahoma City, 1978-1982 and St. Joseph Church, Union City, from 1982-2004.

## Hiroshima exhibit goes to Chancery

The Hiroshima exhibit sponsored by Eastern Oklahoma Pax Christi that drew sharp criticism when it debuted last August has resumed its traveling schedule and Feb. 22 was put on display at the Chancery offices.

Two new posters have been added to the exhibit, which consists of large panels featuring photos and other data documenting the effects of the dropping of the atomic bombs on two Japanese cities in August 1945, said John Kennington, who has organized the exhibit.



John and Sharon Kennington set up the large posters that make up the Hiroshima exhibit in a conference room at the Chancery.

One is titled "Urakami Cathedral" and discusses the Catholic community in Nagasaki, Japan, which was decimated by the bomb. It also shows Nagasaki, the rebuilt Cathedral today and a current map of Japan.

The second poster is entitled "Why Are We Presenting This Exhibit" and is mostly text with two statements from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops concerning the atomic bombing of the Japanese cities and the bishops' positions on war and peace.

The exhibit opened at St. Benedict Church in Broken Arrow in August and also was displayed at St. Bernard Church, Church of the Resurrection, Church of the Madalene, Northeastern State University in Broken Arrow and at St. John Church in Bartlesville.

## Three hundred-plus prepare to join Church

On Feb. 26 and March 5, more than 300 soon-to-be Catholics came to Holy Family Cathedral to be presented to Bishop Edward J. Slattery in the Rite of Election that precedes their joining the Church at the Easter Vigil April 15.

"My dear people, you're going to be different ... elevated to a new life. It takes prayer, time, retreats and silence to become aware of yourself as a servant of God," Bishop Slattery told those who gathered Feb. 26.

He also told them he prays for them every day, adding that the catechumens and candidates should thank their priests who pray for them and also should thank those Catholics who help them through the months-long R.C.I.A. journey.

Parishes came forward as groups, and sponsors presented each individual to the Bishop. After he concluded his greeting with each parish's catechumens and candidates, Bishop Slattery signed a book the participants earlier had signed at their home parishes.

The books then were returned to the pastors to become permanent records of each parish.

The Feb. 26 rite had 15 catechumens and 52 candidates present along with their sponsors, family members and friends.



Bishop Slattery signs a book listing the names of those who will come into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil April 15.

The following weekend, 100 catechumens and 188 candidates were on hand. Catechumens are persons who will be baptized into the Church; candidates are those who already have been baptized in another faith and will become confirmed Catholics at the Easter Vigil and receive their first Eucharist.

Most parishes had a special liturgy dispatching the catechumens and candidates before they went to the Cathedral.

Bishop Slattery hosted a reception

after both Rites in the basement of the Cathedral where he visited with the those who in a month will become members of his flock.

On Feb. 26, Bishop Slattery recommended a prayer, often offered during retreats, of St. Ignatius of Loyola that asks, "Lord Jesus, may I see You, know You, as You know me."

He added, "Jesus Himself is our model. You become divine when baptized. You don't lose your humanity, but you become an instrument of God."

## Bishop Slattery *Continued from page 3*

need for forgiveness, approach God as is they were His equal.

### Intimacy with the Father comes through the Cross

If you ask me how we come to a greater intimacy with God, I would have to tell you that by our own efforts we cannot even come to an awareness of our own sins, much less an appreciation of how their ugliness disfigures the soul. Should you ask me, I would warn you that you cannot start with yourself. If you do, you will end with yourself still in the center of your awareness, only more confused and more frustrated.

Start instead with Christ on the Cross. Come in silence before the image of the Crucified One and wait patiently there focused on the dying Christ, until your heart and mind have both grown silent and when you have finally found that peace, listen for the still, quiet voice of the Lord who will speak to you and try to convince you of His love. If you are patient, you will hear His voice.

Wait for God with patient, prayerful silence, and eventually you will come to know in your heart the distance between His love for you and your love for Him. In that silence

your sins will loom large. Your hidden sins will flaunt themselves; your forgotten sins will cry out their names; your repeated failures will mock your courage and shame your pride. Even the sins which you have confessed and for which you have found forgiveness will return to your recollection.

### A sorrow that can liberate, a shame that can bring freedom

And all this will bring you deep sorrow and shame, but this is a sorrow which liberates and a shame which brings us freedom, because once we see the truth about ourselves and accept our guilt, we are freed from the burden of self-justification and no longer have to excuse our sinful behavior. Indeed, our past will shame us, but only until we realize with untold gratitude that He loves us as we are, in all our brokenness and all our torpidity, with an infinite and unconditional love. All He asks of us is that we surrender ourselves, our sinful self, to Him in faith and in trust. And when we do, our shame turns to joy.

At this point, filled with gratitude, the repentant sinner becomes creative in the same way that every lover becomes creative in his or her search for ways to respond to the beloved.

But it is also true that the sinner who is humbled and grateful for having received God's love seeks to return that love by loving others creatively. This desire to respond to God's love by loving others creatively demands from us an ever-increasing self-forgetfulness. This self-abandonment is difficult initially, but absolutely necessary since it is only in sacrificial love that a husband can discover the depth of his love for his wife and children, a wife can discover the power inherent in forgiveness, children can learn to imitate Christ in his love, and employers and employees can help extend the Kingdom of God.

### Gratitude for God's love for us

One theologian called our gratitude for God's love for us "the engine which drives the Church's apostolic life." And so it is. Like an engine, this gratitude to God furnishes energy and enables priests, deacons and religious to find joy in their celibacy, freedom in the poverty and self-discovery in their obedience.

Those who attempt to live an apostolic life of activity and mission without having learned to wait patiently until God reveals the depths of His love and the paucity of our own

are incapable of funding their ministry from the inexhaustible well-spring of gratitude. Instead they work from their own strengths, quickly exhausting themselves in the struggle. Their enthusiasm for service is quickly challenged and fails under pressure.

Like Martha in the Gospel story their apostolic endeavor ends tinged with resentment and bitterness. Are you unconcerned, Martha asks Jesus, that my sister has abandoned me to do all the work? Tell her to help me. (Luke 10:41)

How different this desire to respond to God's love by loving others creatively is from the kind of creative and enterprising programs which occupy so much of our time and energy! The first is the result of prayer and seeks ways for the soul to express its gratitude through service and charity; the second is born of my anxiety and seeks to invent new ways by which I can feel good about myself and my brokenness.

The first begins with God and ends in love, for oneself and for the poor who are served; the second begins with myself in my poverty and ends up with me despising myself and those whom I attempt to serve. The first is the way of the Gospel, the second is the way of the world!

**Tim Sullivan** Family Life Director

## The envelope please: Family Life presents alternative Oscars

For a different slant on the quality of recent movies, here are the annual Family Life Office Oscar Awards. We hope these tips will help you, particularly when it comes to renting a movie to bring home for the family.



"Crash," the official winner of the Oscar for best picture, is an exaggerated but effective portrayal of modern ethnic prejudices and anger mismanagement. It contains scenes which are unnecessary and definitely not for the family. We'd pass on this one.

My wife and daughters saw and liked "Pride and Prejudice" and "Memoirs of a Geisha." Both movies were well done and focused on the importance of social rank. They are likely to be appreciated primarily, if not exclusively, by female audiences.

I walked a line out of the theater during "Walk the Line," the movie based on the life of Johnny Cash. The first three-fourths of the movie was like a soap opera featuring way too many depressing details on Johnny Cash's descent into drugs, alcohol and infidelity. Johnny eventually got some of his life together, but by that part of the movie I was in the parking lot.

My youngest daughter appreciated "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire." We all saw "Narnia," which was good, but at the same time it seemed a bit lacking. I think that's because we're all still reeling from "The Passion." Every other portrayal of the life of Christ pales by comparison.

"Good Night and Good Luck," which focused on the rise of Edward R. Murrow as the first prominent television news anchorman, was interesting and well-done. My family appreciated how well Murrow expressed himself. Today's correspondents seem colorless by comparison.

"March of the Penguins" was a huge hit with all the members of our family. The presentation of the life cycles of penguins both entertained and inspired us. The contrast between the adult penguins, which went to incredible lengths to create and sustain new life, and the incidence of abortion and neglect of children in our modern human culture was inescapable.

Now for our top three movie hits from the past year. First, we were very surprised by how well the Catholic Church was presented in "The Exorcism of Emily Rose." The story involves a Catholic priest who is tried for manslaughter in connection with the death of a young woman. The priest, who attempted an exorcism of the girl, was accused of influencing her to discontinue medical treatment, the lack of which is alleged to have led to her death.

Jennifer Carpenter does an incredible job in her portrayal of Emily Rose. Some of the scenes in which Emily manifests possession by the devil are very vivid and intense. Accordingly, I wouldn't recommend this movie for children under the age of 12.

The movie forces its audience to think more seriously about the reality of spiritual forces. It will make you think twice the next time you are awakened at 3 in the morning.

"Cinderella Man," starring Russell Crowe and Renee Zellweger, is one of the best family movies ever, and it, too, presents the Catholic Church in a favorable light. The movie is based on the struggles of James Braddock, who lost a good job because of the Great Depression and was forced into boxing to support his nearly-starving family.

Their financial problems put severe stress on the Braddock family, but they stick together. The father has to go begging to keep his boxing career alive. He ultimately overcomes his

hardships, but his final test is facing Max Baer, a giant whose thundering punches killed two men in the ring, for the heavyweight championship of the world.

Our final favorite is "Glory Road," another movie with a sports background. This movie tells the story of Don Haskins, who started his college basketball coaching career at Texas Western in the mid-1960s. Up until that time, no black athletes had been recruited to play major college sports in the south and southwest United States.

On his first recruiting trip, Haskins, played by Josh Lucas, spots Bobby Joe Hill, a great athlete and superb ballhandler who just happens to be African-American. After succeeding in convincing Hill to come to El Paso, the home of Texas Western, Haskins aggressively pursues other black players from places like St. Louis, Gary, Indiana, and New York City. He ends up with seven black players on his first team.

Haskins and his players have to endure tremendous abuse, both in El Paso and on the road. Despite the racist taunts and violence, the team loses only one regular season game and enters the NCAA tournament.

In the NCAA championship game, Texas Western takes on Kentucky, a perennial powerhouse which has no black players on its squad. In a move designed to directly confront the racism aimed at his team, Haskins starts five of his black players against the Wildcats. The movie is a powerful commentary on the role that leadership and perseverance play in changing peoples' attitudes.

While Hollywood continues to put out a high volume of sex, violence, immorality and mindlessness, I think you'd have to say that the last year produced several excellent movies which the whole family can enjoy. Let's hope the trend continues.

## 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](mailto:easternokcatholic@dioceseoftulsa.org)

**RESIDENCE WORKERS** - St. Joseph Residence, an HIV/AIDS facility operated by Catholic Charities, is looking for compassionate, caring individuals. Would prefer nursing assistant, medication aide or home health experience, but will train the right person. We offer competitive wages. Call Joan for interview, 587-6456.

**CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL** - St. John Catholic School in Bartlesville, serving approximately 125 students in kindergarten through eighth grade, is seeking a principal for the 2006-2007 school year. We are interested in a highly motivated, well-qualified administrator with excellent people skills and experience in Catholic education. Requirements: practicing Catholic, master's degree (prefer education administration) and classroom teaching experience. Must demonstrate a working knowledge of and practice strong educational, administrative and communications ability and a commitment to partnership with pastoral staff, parents and faculty. Salary and benefits are commensurate with experience and qualifications. Interested applicants should contact: Principal Search Committee, Catholic Schools Office, 820 S. Boulder Ave., Tulsa, 74119-1624; (918) 582-9177; [catholicsschools.office@dioceseoftulsa.org](mailto:catholicsschools.office@dioceseoftulsa.org).

**CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL** - Rosary Catholic School in Oklahoma City,

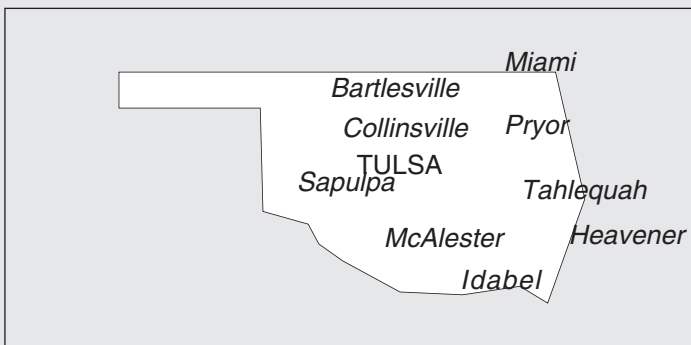
serving approximately 218 students in kindergarten through eighth grade, is seeking a principal to start in July. Rosary School is interested in candidates with a strong vision of Catholic identity and academic excellence, as well as experience in developing long-range goals. This leadership role works in close cooperation with the parish pastor and the school advisory and parish councils. The successful applicant must be a practicing Catholic with a master's degree in educational administration or related field and a minimum of five years teaching and/or administrative experience. Excellent communication skills and enthusiasm for developing and maintaining a top academic and religious-oriented school are essential. For an application, contact: Office of the Superintendent, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, 73123; (405) 721-4202.

**TEACHER ASSISTANT** - Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic School is seeking a part- or full-time teacher assistant for the primary grades. Please call Principal Pat Martin at 836-2165.

**ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK** - Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Tulsa seeks a self-motivated individual for the full-time position of administrative services clerk. Applicant must have proficient computer experience, A/P & A/R accounting skills; 10-key experience; advanced working knowledge of Word & Excel. Proficiency in Peachtree & Paradigm/Sage software a plus. Must be a self-starter with professional phone and organizational skills. Submit resumes to Saunya Moore at Catholic Charities, P.O. Box 6429, Tulsa, 74148 or email [smoore@catholiccharitiestulsa.org](mailto:smoore@catholiccharitiestulsa.org).

**RECEPTIONIST SOUGHT** - Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Tulsa seeks a self-motivated individual for the position of receptionist. Proficient computer experience a must, experience with Word & Excel a plus, bi-lingual preferred, must have professional phone and organization skills and previous experience answering phones in a busy work environment. Submit resumes to Saunya Moore at Catholic Charities, P.O. Box 6429, Tulsa, 74148 or email [smoore@catholiccharitiestulsa.org](mailto:smoore@catholiccharitiestulsa.org).

## MISAS EN LA DIÓCESIS EN ESPAÑOL



### TULSA

**Iglesia de Pedro y Pablo**  
1436 N. 67th East Ave.  
P. Tim Davison, Párroco  
Misa los Dom. 11:30 a.m. y 6:00 p.m.

**Iglesia de la Resurrección**  
4804 S. Fulton  
P. Steve Austin, Párroco  
Misa los Dom. 1:00 p.m.

**Xavier/ N.S. De Guadalupe**  
2434 E. Admiral Blvd.  
P. Jose Maria Briones, Párroco  
Misas Dominicales a las 7 a.m., 10:30 am, 12:00 p.m., 1:30, 5:00, 7:00 y 8:30 pm.

**Iglesia de San Pio X**  
1727 S. 75th E. Ave.  
P. Michael J. Knipe, Párroco  
Misa los Domingos a las 5:00 p.m.

**Iglesia de Santo Tomás Moro**  
2720 S. 129 E. Ave.  
P. Carl Kerkemeyer, Párroco  
Misa los Domingos a las 12:30 p.m.

**BARTLESVILLE**  
**Iglesia de San Juan Evangelista**  
715 S. Johnstone Av.  
P. Festus Maliwa, Párroco  
Confesiones a las 4:00 p.m.  
Misa Domingos a las 4:30 p.m.

**BOSWELL**  
**Iglesia de San Judas**  
Rt. 70 E. 11 St.  
Misa Bilingue los Domingos a las 11:30 a.m.

**COLLINSVILLE**  
**Parroquia de Santa Teresita del Niño Jesús.**  
1009 N. 19th. St.  
P. Patricio Bránquin, Párroco  
Misa los Dom. a la 1:00 p.m.

**DURANT**  
**San Guillermo**  
802 University Boulevard  
P. Valerian Gonsalves  
Oficia P. Juan Manuel Guerrero  
Misa los Sábados 1ro y 3ro del mes a las 7 p.m.

**IDABEL**  
**San Francisco de Sales**  
13 S. E. Jefferson  
P. Don Tramel, Párroco  
Misa los Dom. 12:00 p.m.

### McALESTER

**Iglesia de San Juan**  
300 E. Washington  
P. Leonard Higgins, Párroco  
Misa los Domingos a las 12:00

**MIAMI**  
**Iglesia del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús**  
2515 N. Main  
P. W. Gregg Elliott, Párroco  
Misa los Domingos a la 1 p.m.

**MUSKOGEE**  
**Iglesia de San José**  
321 N. Virginia St.  
P. Bryan Brooks, Párroco  
Misa los Sábados a las 7:00

**OWASSO**  
**Iglesia de San Enrico**  
8500 N. Owasso Expressway  
P. Richard Bradley, Parroco  
Misas Domingos del mes a las 1:00 p.m.

**PRYOR**  
**Iglesia de San Marcos**  
1507 S. Vann St.  
Misa todos los Sábados las 7:30 p.m.

**SAPULPA**  
**Iglesia del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús**  
1777 E. Grayson Ave.  
P. Stuart Crevcoure, Párroco  
Misa los Domingos a la 8 a.m.

**STILLWATER**  
**Iglesia de San Francis Xavier**  
623 S. West St.  
P. Ken Harder, Párroco  
Misa los Domingos a la 1:00 p.m.

**TAHLEQUAH**  
**Iglesia de Santa Brigida**  
807 Crafton St.  
Misa los Domingos; 1ro., 2do. y 3ro del mes a las 5:00 p.m.

**HEAVENER MISIÓN DE POTEAU**  
515 Main St.  
P. Neil Pezzulo  
Misas los Domingos 2do. y 4o. del mesa las 7:00 p.m.

## A economía del pueblo Mexicano depende del servicio que se ofrece en la frontera norte

Por PATRICIA ZAPOR  
Catholic News Service

ALTAR, México (CNS) – Una cosa curiosa que sucede en Altar en el Estado mexicano de Sonora, 60 millas al sur de la frontera de Arizona, es la mercancía bendida por vendedores ambulantes y los puestos de la plaza.

A diferencia de la típica plaza mexicana surtida de gran variedad de coloridos artículos para el hogar, bocadillos, comida y arte local, la mercancía que el pueblo de Altar ofrece es más que mochilas de colores oscuros; gorras, chamarras, camisetas y calcetines negros o camuflajeados; zapatos resistentes y guantes—todo en medidas para hombres—y botellas y galones de agua. Esas son las cosas necesarias para cruzar en desierto de Sonora en el invierno, teóricamente sin atraer la atención de los agentes de la Patrulla Fronteriza de los Estados Unidos.

Una tarde de una viernes de Febrero, la plaza estaba casi llena por grupos de hombres de edad trabajadora, cada uno de ellos con mochilas llenas de cosas. La llegada de dos docenas de visitantes de la diócesis de Tucson, Arizona, los hizo reunirse todos juntos para mirar cautelosamente como las personas de los Estados Unidos recorían la plaza con el sacerdote de Altar, Padre Prisciliano Peraza, y el anterior presidente municipal, Francisco García Aten.

De todo México y de países del sur de este, cada mes decenas de miles de migrantes llegan hasta esta comunidad para buscar conexiones para poder entrar a Arizona. El objetivo es buscar trabajos en Estados Unidos que requieran un mínimo de aptitudes y que paguen más en un día de lo que ellos ganan en una semana en sus países.

En lo general, Altar fue una tierra para ganaderos y agricultores quienes se ganaban la vida a duras penas en la región más seca de México. Después de que el Tratado de Libre Comercio fue declarado en 1994, el precio bajo de la mercancía en el mercado hizo que los agricultores y ganaderos buscaran otros tipos de trabajo, lejos de Altar, explicó García.

Entonces llegó la aplicación de la ley del refuerzo en los puntos más populares de los pasos de ilegales

### Centro Migratorio Camino al Norte

- Cuando hay mucho tráfico, unos 1,000 a 1,500 emigrantes pasan por Altar diariamente.
- Un promedio diario de 800 inmigrantes está detenido por averiguación de antecedentes después de cruzar la frontera con los EEUU. Si no tienen problemas legales en los EEUU, son devuelto a Nogales en México.

Altar en México tiene "suerte geográfica," según su ex alcalde. Su ubicación ayuda a desarrollar una economía basado en la prestación de servicios al emigrante.

Fuente: Centro Comunitario de Atención al Migrante y Necesitado U.S. Border Patrol ©2006 CNS

en los Estados Unidos—cerca de San Diego; el Paso, Texas; y Nogales, Arizona. Como nuevas vallas y esfuerzos de detección para frenar el flujo de emigrantes, gente tratando de entrar sin permiso a los Estados Unidos ha ido más lejos del desierto.

Con temperaturas extremas, falta de agua, reptiles e insectos venenosos y el riesgo de ser asaltados a mano armada, el área es físicamente más peligrosa que otras de las ciudades. Pero con cientos de millas abiertas en el desierto, muchos creen que es más fácil escapar de la Patrulla Fronteriza. La valla fronteriza en ese tramo consiste solamente de pocas hebras de alambres de púas.

Así que Altar desarrolló una nueva economía basa en proveer servicios de apoo a la gente que llega por ese camino hacia la frontera.

"Otras seis ciudades alrededor de nosotros están en decadencia," el Sr. García explicó. "Ellos no tienen una economía activa." Dijo que Altar "tiene suerte geográficamente." En una principal carretera mexicana, es una corta distancia del principal camino que une la capital Sonorense de Hermosillo con Nogales, una entrada principal a los Estados Unidos.

En los días con más gente de 2,000 a 2,500 emigrantes diarios parson por la ciudad, García dijo. Ahora, el promedio es de 1,00 a 1,500 diarios en los días más

ocupados de los meses.

Muchos se quedan un par de días. Ellos hacen tratos en la plaza del pueblo con uno de los muchos coyotes quienes guían a la gente a cruzar por el desierto de Arizona por el precio que actualmete es entre \$1,000 y \$2,000, dijo Holly Hilburn, un intérprete para el grupo diocesano.

Los precios dependen de algunos cosas tales como qué tan lejos el emigrante tendrá que caminar y si el coyote cubre varias veces el tratar de cruzar en caso de que el emigrante sea capturado, ella dijo.

Los emigrantes también proveen un mercado para más de 100 "casas de huéspedes" creadas en cuartos de sobra y cocheras en todo el pueblo.

La parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en Altar empezó un programa simple de ayuda al emigrante en el 2000—feligreses les llevaban comida a la plaza una vez a la semana. El programa es ahora un ministerio principal en la arquidiócesis de Hermosillo.

Con al ayuda financiera de la aruquiócesis, la base de Ayuda de Servicios Católicos en los Estados Unidos y otros bienhechores, el Centro Comunitario de Atención al Migrante y Necesitado (Community Center to Aid Migrants and the Needy) incluye una casa de huéspedes en el pueblo con camas para 20, regaderas, lavandería, un centro de salud y otros servicios.

## Today's adolescents live in a different world, group told

By JEANNE KRAWCZYK

Seventy-five youth ministers, religious education directors, catechists, Catholic school teachers and principals from across the state gathered March 9 to hear speaker Bob McCarty map out the new territory of adolescent catechesis.

Mr. McCarty, executive director of the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry in Washington D.C., used Scripture jokes to engage the participants in a dynamic discussion that centered on understanding the realities of adolescent catechesis and using that information to plan programs that meet the needs of today's young people.

In order to understand today's adolescents, Mr. McCarty told the group they must first understand that they were never their age. Their world is so different, that if youth ministers and religious education directors try to recreate programs they experienced as youth, the programs will not succeed.

"The kiss of death for any adolescent program is 'boring.' But is important to remember that the opposite of boring is not necessarily 'exciting.' Young people don't expect every activity to be



Representatives from the Diocese of Tulsa and the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City attended a Catechetical Leaders Day March 9 at St. Mary Church, Tulsa.

exciting, but they do want it to be meaningful," he advised.

"Young people want to be participants in their faith, not spectators," Mr. McCarty said. "They need spiritual experiences and a spiritual context. Retreats, service projects and youth conferences are all great, but it is important for them to process these experiences."

Most religious education programs emphasize the "vertical" aspects of faith – one's personal relationship with God. Yet most parish youth programs

focus on the "horizontal" aspects of faith – one's relationship with neighbor and community.

By bringing together parish religious education directors and youth ministers, a partnership can be forged that will address both aspects of faith.

"What Jesus did on Holy Thursday is a wonderful example of putting together the horizontal and vertical aspects of faith. Jesus breaks bread (vertical), and He washes feet (horizontal). If you put the vertical and the horizontal together, you get a cross," Mr.

McCarty said.

Mary Lynn Lufkin, coordinator of youth ministry at St. Francis Xavier in Sallisaw, said she is looking forward to incorporating some of Mr. McCarty's ideas into programs at her parish. "I want the young people to be more involved in planning group activities, hand in hand with the adults. In working with the confirmation students, we are teaching them that the way they treat their neighbors is just as important as attending Mass and giving God prayerful attention," she said.

Elizabeth Gagner, director of religious education at St. Henry in Owasso, said the presentation was an answer to prayer. "Here at St. Henry's we are in a discernment process about how to meet the needs of a growing parish. While on the surface Bob seemed to be talking about youth involvement, in the end it became clear he was indeed talking about whole community involvement."

"Gone are the days where CCD was for children who were dropped off at church for a class. Here now are the days of entire communities being involved with each other's faith formation," Mrs. Gagner said.

### Education news briefs

#### Claremore raises

#### \$853 for poor

CLAREMORE - Inspired by a visiting mission priest with Food for the Poor, the junior high students in the EDGE program at St. Cecilia Church in Claremore decided they wanted to help. The group raised \$853 from bake sales and washing car windows during Mass.

Through brainstorming ideas and with the help of their core team members, the group came up with fundraisers they have held throughout the school year. They turned their efforts into a competition among the three grades, but all of the money raised will go to Food for the Poor, said Jacob Jerchau, seventh-grade member.

The EDGE program is completing its second year at St. Cecilia, said Linda Jerchau, adult core member. The group is set up as a stepping-stone to the Life Teen program for high school students.

The group meets once a week. Three sessions a month are devoted to educational material and one week is social. Mrs. Jerchau said the group is excited about the program. "They didn't want to break for summer. They are having fun and still learning."

#### ERiS rally on April 22

All middle school students are invited to the eighth annual ERiS rally from noon to 10 p.m. April 22 at Christ the King Church. ERiS, which stands for "Exalt and Rejoice in the Spirit," has two goals: to provide a faith-filled experience for middle school students and to raise money for a specific charity. This year all proceeds will benefit the St. Francis of Assisi Tuition Assistance Program.

Students from area colleges including the University of Tulsa, St. Gregory's University, Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma will come together to provide an opportunity for middle school students to meet devoted Catholic college students who are active in their faith. This year's rally will include Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, dinner, talks, skits and a dance.

## Former student of pope to speak at Newman dinner

On the one-year anniversary of Pope Benedict XVI's election next month, the St. Philip Neri Newman Center at the University of Tulsa will host a speaker who has a long-standing personal relationship with the pontiff.

Father Joseph Fessio, S.J., will speak at the St. Philip Neri Society's annual dinner beginning at 7 p.m. April 19 in the Great Hall of the Allen Chapman Activity Center on the TU campus.

Father Fessio's relationship with Pope Benedict began in the 1970s, when then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was Father Fessio's doctoral director and mentor at the University of Regensburg in Germany. Their relationship continues to this day and gives Father Fessio a unique perspective to share on the pope's plans for his papacy.

"I will be in Tulsa on the one-year anniversary of the pope's election. He clearly laid out his plans for his papacy on April 20 (the day after his election), and I plan to review these plans and discuss what has been accomplished so far," Father Fessio said in a phone interview.

Father Fessio also is provost of Ave Maria University in Naples, Fla. Ave Maria University, established in 2003, is the first new Catholic



Father Joseph Fessio, pictured with Pope Benedict XVI in this undated photo, will be the speaker at the annual St. Philip Neri Society Dinner on April 19.

university in the U.S. in more than 40 years. It was launched with a \$250 million donation from Thomas Monaghan, a prominent Catholic who made his fortune when he sold his Domino's Pizza empire in order to focus his life on Catholic education.

The university has been operating in

temporary space while the new facility is completed. Father Fessio said construction is on track, depending on the upcoming hurricane season, and school officials hope to move in to their permanent space in fall 2007. "The keys to a successful university are the students and faculty. We have extraordinary people in both categories," the priest said.

In addition to his university duties, Father Fessio is founder and editor-in-chief of Ignatius Press, the largest Catholic publishing house in the country. Ignatius Press is the primary U.S. publisher of the works of Pope Benedict XVI, having issued more than 25 of his books over the last 20 years.

As publisher of several prominent Catholic magazines and journals and provost of a Catholic university, Father Fessio is regarded as one of the most influential priests in the United States.

Kay Keith and Judy Smith are co-chairs for the dinner, which benefits the students and programs of the Newman Center. Tickets are \$100 per person, and table sponsorship is available. For information, contact Susan Gaway at 599-0204.



The Augustinian community of Cascia Hall recently decided to name the tower that symbolizes the school the "Spielmann Tower" in honor of Father Henry V. Spielmann, O.S.A. The tower represents the tradition and community of Cascia Hall, and Father Spielmann has been at Cascia for 66 years.

## Cascia names tower for Father Spielmann

By FATHER BERNARD C. SCIANNA, O.S.A.  
Headmaster, Cascia Hall

As we prepare to celebrate the 80th anniversary of Cascia Hall as a Catholic, Augustinian school in Tulsa (which we will celebrate on the weekend of April 21-23), it is a good time to reflect on what it is that makes us who we are. I believe it is our Augustinian tradition.

The presence of the Augustinian priests and brothers, ever since the arrival of Father Francis Driscoll and Father Thomas Rowan in Tulsa, has been the building block upon which everything else has been established. Our mission, purpose, philosophy, goals and core values of truth, unity and love all stem from the teachings of St. Augustine and the Catholic, Augustinian identity transmitted to us through the Augustinians.

We are truly grateful for this influence on our Cascia community. We have attempted to nurture and enrich this sense of Augustinian community by inviting the laity, faculty, staff and board members to come to a deeper knowledge and appreciation of who we are and what

we profess by participating in such activities as the Augustinian Values Institute, the Augustinian Shootout, and Augustinian youth leadership gatherings.

We continue to inculcate the core values in every aspect of our school community, but especially in our prayer experiences, theology classes and service projects. Living the values of truth, unity and love is not an easy task. It takes a constant effort to put these virtues into action. I believe that we are doing a very good job at it.

We are not perfect, but we continue to strive for excellence. Excellence can be summed up in the following statement that I came across on a motivational poster, "Excellence is the result of caring more than others think is wise, risking more than others think is safe, dreaming more than others think is practical and expecting more than others think is possible." This is what we attempt to do at Cascia Hall: transforming minds and hearts in the Augustinian tradition.

One particular Augustinian whom I would like to honor at this time is Father Henry V. Spielmann. He has been present at Cascia Hall for more than 65 years. He

arrived in Tulsa in 1940, on a temporary assignment, and never left. He has served as teacher, coach, moderator, librarian, and prior, and he has been a constant to alums for decades, while other Augustinians have come and gone as they were asked to serve in other schools or parishes.

The Upper School gymnasium is already named in his honor, but it is my honor and privilege, along with my Augustinian brothers, to dedicate the main tower in honor of Father Spielmann. From this day forth, it will be known as the "Spielmann Tower," and a plaque will be there to so designate it.

The symbol of the tower and Cascia Hall are practically synonymous; our yearbook is named The Towers. So too, I believe, the name of Father Spielmann is synonymous with Cascia Hall. He has been a "towering" figure here and has been a sign of stability and strength like the tower. The Spielmann Tower is a tribute to Father Henry on behalf of the Augustinian community and all his former students.

*Editor's note: This article first appeared in the March issue of the Cascia Hall newsletter and is reprinted by permission.*

## St. Joseph School dedicates Rooney Family Library

The feast day of a saint with ties to Oklahoma was a fitting choice for a dedication ceremony of the new library at St. Joseph School in Muskogee. The school's new Rooney Family Library was dedicated March 3, the feast of St. Katharine Drexel.

Father Bryan Brooks, school chaplain, spoke of St. Katharine's generosity. She used her large inheritance to help build schools for black and native American children, including several in the

Diocese of Tulsa, he told the guests. "On the other hand, some heiresses today spend lots of money on themselves and appear on the covers of lots of magazines," Father Brooks said.

St. Katharine founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People in 1891, and approximately 60 schools were opened by her congregation during her lifetime. The most famous, Xavier University, opened in New Orleans in 1915 and was the

first such institution for black people in the United States. St. Katharine was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2000.

Following in the footsteps of St. Katharine, the Rooney family of Tulsa paid for the new library, which cost nearly \$90,000, not including furnishings or books. Mrs. Lucy Rooney represented the family at the dedication ceremony.

St. Joseph Principal Donna Le told the guests, "We're just thrilled to have this new facility." Mrs. Le

also thanked the school families who helped provide the library's furnishings. A plaque will be inscribed with the names of all who helped make the new library a reality.

Librarian Paula Rogers was bubbling with excitement. "The generosity of the Rooney family and our own school families just warms my heart," Mrs. Rogers said. "The students and I are enjoying our new library - it is so wonderful."



Father Bryan Brooks prepares to bless the new library with the help of fifth-grader Wesley Dixon.



Cathy Luccock and her student, Chris Scott, are busy preparing for the national competition.

## Cascia student to compete in New York City

This is no midsummer night's dream for Chris Scott, a senior at Cascia Hall, who placed first in an area Shakespeare competition Feb. 25 at the Hardesty Library.

Chris will travel to New York City April 22-25 to compete along with 56 other students from around the country in the National Shakespeare Competition. The winner will attend a summer study course in the United Kingdom.

Chris' interest in acting began at a young age. "I loved to go to the movies, and my whole family would watch movies together. I started acting on stage in eighth grade and performed in some musicals and contemporary plays. I

wanted to make the transition to more conventional stage acting, so I started studying Shakespeare. As he is the father of playwriting, you have to get to know Shakespeare in order to understand modern theater," Chris said.

The National Shakespeare Competition is sponsored by the English-Speaking Union, a non-profit educational organization that promotes scholarship and knowledge through the effective use of the English language.

Each year, about 16,000 students participate in a program that includes the study, interpretation and performance of Shakespeare's monologues and sonnets. Students participate in three qualifying

stages at the school, branch and national levels.

In the first stage, teachers incorporate the competition program into their Shakespeare curricula. Classroom activities culminate in school-wide competitions, where students recite a monologue from memory.

Cathy Luccock, head of the English department at Cascia Hall, sponsored the contest. "Chris is an ideal student - he listens, immediately applies what he has learned through hard work, is well-informed, is attentive to details and has a passion for drama. Aside from all of this, he's quite a personable young man who has a great sense of humor."

# Students in Katrina-damaged Catholic school adapt to changes

By CAROL ZIMMERMANN  
Catholic News Service

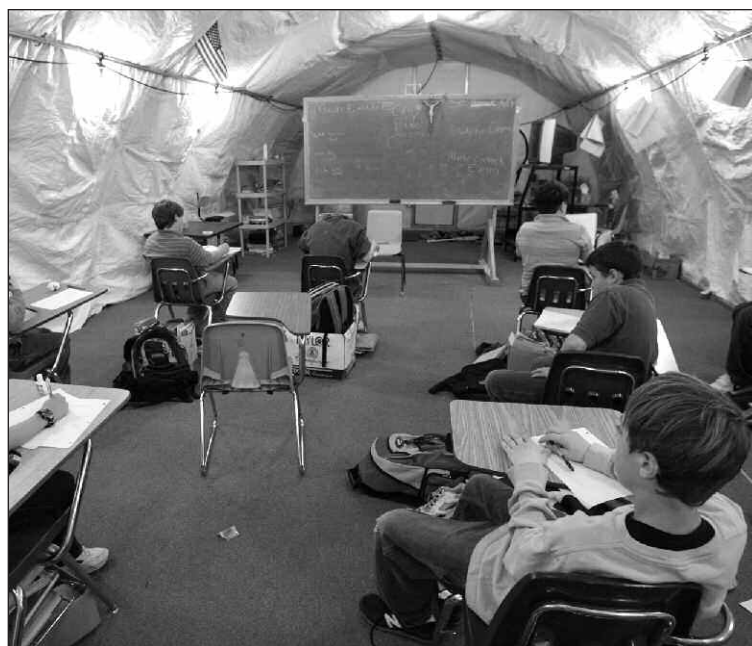
WAVELAND, Miss. - The students at St. Clare School in Waveland have seen more than their fair share of changes in the past six months.

Eighty percent of them lost their homes in Hurricane Katrina. Most of them lived with relatives during and immediately after the storm that ripped through - and essentially wiped away - their small coastal town. Currently, many of them live in trailers provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

But just nine weeks after the storm, the students were able to go back to their school, right along the edge of the Mississippi coast, even though their school building no longer exists, save for the cement foundation slabs and the playground blacktop.

More than a dozen donated tents, in the shape of Quonset huts, stand in place of the brick building that had been St. Clare School for 41 years. There is a tent for each of the classrooms for pre-kindergarten through sixth grade; one for the school office; another for the computer lab; and one for the cafeteria.

On their first day of school, according to school secretary Barbara Landry, the students were thrilled to see each other after more than a month of being apart,



Sixth-grade students work on a writing assignment in a temporary classroom set up in a tent at St. Clare School in Waveland, Miss. March 3. (CNS photo)

and they also were pretty excited about the tents.

But now, during the fifth month into their new school setup, the students have grown accustomed to the nylon walls of their classrooms, cafeteria and church. They have also adapted to living in trailers, even though some complain they are way too small.

These days, the students are coping with yet another change: the announcement made Feb. 1 that their school will not be rebuilt and will not reopen in September. Instead, it will be consolidating

with Bay Catholic School in neighboring Bay St. Louis - a school that sustained damage from the hurricane but reopened Oct. 13.

That news hit a group of fifth-graders harder than the hurricane.

"I just thank God every day that we've had the last five months together," said Anthony, one of the school's 18 fifth-graders. School policy does not allow last names to be used in interviews.

Of the fifth-graders who spoke to Catholic News Service during their March 3 lunch, most were



A wooden cross stands outside the heavy tent that is serving as temporary quarters for classrooms.

planning, begrudgingly, to attend the merged school next year, but some hadn't decided yet, and a few were not planning to go.

Half the class has been together since their pre-kindergarten days, and they are proud of their strong sense of camaraderie. They are quick to joke with one another, finish each other's sentences and point out each other's struggles since the storm that changed their lives.

Prior to Katrina, 174 students were registered at St. Clare for the 2005-06 school year. Currently,

there are 119 students. Virtually everything on the school grounds, from the classrooms to books and daily lunches, has been donated.

Community members who do not have children at the school pitch in with donations or by volunteering.

The school waived tuition for those who could not afford it since so many lost everything. It has relied on monetary donations that have come in from across the country to make up the difference. It also waived the uniform requirement since most students lost all their belongings.

Biloxi Bishop Thomas J. Rodi noted that most of the Sunday collections at St. Clare were being used to keep the school open. "When a school becomes such a demand on a parish, few resources remain for other ministries to CCD students, teen-agers (and) the elderly," he said March 3.

In the Biloxi Diocese, where four Catholic elementary schools were destroyed by Katrina, six schools will be consolidated into three.

During the Feb. 1 press conference announcing the consolidation, and where parents of St. Clare students first heard the news about the school changes, Bishop Rodi emphasized that enrollment trends, the location of students and financial resources weighed heavily in the decision to consolidate.



Claire Bryce Connelly performed for her home parish on March 5. (Photo by Aaron Inlow)

## Alum performs at Christ the King

Claire Bryce Connelly, a sophomore at the University of Oklahoma, performed a "petite concert" at her home parish of Christ the King March 5. Miss Connelly, daughter of Pat Connelly and Eileen Bryce, is a graduate of Marquette and Bishop Kelley. She started singing with the church choir when she was in eighth grade.

Miss Connelly had been preparing for a recital in Norman March 27 when she was asked to perform a "dress rehearsal" at Christ the King. She performed works from Mozart and Debussy along with Schubert's "Ave Maria." About 100 people attended the 20-minute concert.

Her vocal instructor arranged the March 27 recital as practice for required performances during her junior and senior years.

Miss Connelly is majoring in vocal performance and plans to pursue a graduate degree. "I know God wants me to study music. I just don't know where it's going to take me," she said. "Singing opera around the world would be really cool."

Miss Connelly was accompanied on the piano by Ernest Neal, choir director at Christ the King.



## Students get medieval

Sixth-graders Collin Ford and Gus Doyel pose in their knight costumes with middle-school teacher David Yeager at the Renaissance Fair at Sts. Peter and Paul School on Feb. 25. This special day marked the culmination of a school-wide social studies unit on medieval times. Students dressed in costume and created medieval crafts, while being entertained by sword fights and dancing.

# Author says McGivney bio could help restore respect for priests

By JOHN THAVIS  
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) – Supporters of the sainthood cause of Father Michael McGivney are hoping that he will become the first American-born parish priest to be canonized.

A new biography is introducing a wider audience to the 19th-century priest — and may also help restore respect for the many good priests in the United States, said one of the book's authors.

Julie M. Fenster, a historian who co-wrote "Parish Priest: Father Michael McGivney and American Catholicism," spoke about the book to U.S. priests and seminarians Feb. 27 at Rome's Pontifical North American College.

At a time when the image of the U.S. priest has been damaged by sexual abuse committed by a small minority of clergy, the book chronicles the good work of a priest who, after founding the Knights of Columbus, worked as a simple pastor until his death at age 38.

"I'm hoping this book might act as a gyroscope to reset some of the balance for people whose only exposure to parish priests is out of those headlines" on sexual abuse, Fenster said in an interview.

She said part of her motivation for writing the book was anger that so many good priests were being maligned because of the actions of a few.

Father McGivney, she said, provides a model for the kind of

selfless pastoral work done by countless priests in the United States. His faith and Catholicism entered into every activity, whether preaching a sermon or playing baseball, she said.

"He believed that when you're having fun you should feel Catholic, too, not just when you're sitting in church," she said.

The book, released in January, has been on the New York Times extended bestseller list for six weeks.

Fenster, who co-authored the book with fellow historian Douglas Brinkley, said she came away from her research particularly impressed with the fact that Father McGivney returned to parish work in his native Connecticut after making such an important mark on society through the Knights of Columbus.

"He chose to draw back into the life he really wanted, as parish priest. He gloried in these little details that other people can get distracted away from," she said.

Father McGivney's work is considered extremely influential in animating lay Catholics through the Knights of Columbus, and at the same time helping to remove the widespread anti-Catholic bias in U.S. society.

The Knights, a Catholic men's fraternal benefit society, has grown to include 1.7 million members. The organization sponsors educational, charitable and religious activities around the world.

Father McGivney's sainthood cause is now being reviewed by the Vatican, said Dominican Father Gabriel O'Donnell, postulator for the cause. He said a reported miracle of healing attributed to Father McGivney's intercession also has been submitted to the Vatican for study.

Father O'Donnell, who was in Rome for the book

"He believed that when you're having fun you should feel Catholic, too, not just when you're sitting in church."

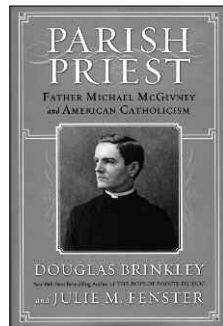
presentation, said he sees in Father McGivney's life an example of what Pope Benedict XVI described in his recent encyclical, "Deus Caritas Est" ("God Is Love").

"The obligation of the church to exercise charity is what Father McGivney was about," Father O'Donnell said.

One of Father McGivney's gifts, he said, was that he could speak to those at every level of society, relating well with the poor immigrant community of Catholics as well as those who were upwardly mobile, and forging connections between these groups.

Father O'Donnell said that, unlike saints of earlier centuries who were known for their extraordinary accomplishments, Father McGivney falls into the category of "the more modern saint, who is great because he did the ordinary things so well."

"That's why he's such a great model, because he was 'just a parish priest,' but of such an excellent character. He was humble, compassionate and charitable to a heroic degree, but only within the confines of an ordinary life," he said.



## Consider 'Aquamarine' as a 'Splash' for the middle school set

By DAVID DICERTO

NEW YORK (CNS) - Adolescent-oriented movies often present a view of love that is, at best, superficial. Not so with "Aquamarine" (20th Century Fox), a slight but sweet modern-day fable about friendship told with a delightful mix of fantasy, comedy and romance.

Based on Alice Hoffman's novel, the tale centers on two 13-year-old best friends - scaredy-cat Claire (Emma Roberts) and take-charge Hailey (Joanna "JoJo" Levesque) - both crestfallen over Hailey's impending move to Australia.

They spend their remaining time drooling over lifeguard Ray (Jake McDorman) at a Florida beach club, while hoping to derail Hailey's departure.

A possible solution washes ashore in the form of feisty mermaid Aquamarine (Sara Paxton), whom they discover in the club's swimming pool after a violent storm.

The maiden offers the girls one wish if they'll help her experience true love, which is nowhere to be found in the sea.

Its warmly sentimental message aside, "Aquamarine" tends toward the shallow end of the pool with a lightweight script and giggly humor geared to young teens.



Jake McDorman and Sara Paxton star in a scene from the movie "Aquamarine." The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II - adults and adolescents. (CNS photo/20th Century Fox)

Aquamarine explains how she has three days to evade an arranged marriage by proving to her dad that "real love" is not a myth. To do that, she must get someone to say the words "I love you." She casts her net for Ray, which runs her afoul of Cecilia (Arielle Kebbel), the beach's queen bee.

Hailey and Claire agree to help Aquamarine win Ray's heart, culling "advice" from magazines they've read. Their task is complicated by Aquamarine only sprouting legs in place of her fish tail during daylight hours.

Suffice it to say, the ending is not what you expect, but something far more rewarding and admirable.

Its warmly sentimental message aside, "Aquamarine" tends

toward the shallow end of the pool with a lightweight script and giggly humor geared to young teens. This is "Splash" for the middle-school set.

Ms. Hoffman's story has been given a breezier tone, but stays true to its source's outline and spirit. Apart from some skimpy bikinis and rude language (including the Atlantean cuss "Bullshark!"), the film is commendably wholesome fun. (Though sans the strategically placed seashells of "The Little Mermaid," Aquamarine's blue-streaked blonde tresses keep things PG-rated.)

The two leads shine. Miss Levesque resembles a younger Lindsay Lohan, and Miss Roberts displays the high-wattage glow of her celebrity aunt, Julia.

Beneath its 'tween fluff, however, "Aquamarine" scores points for showing that authentic love can express itself in varied ways and not just the gooey romantic or hormonal variety that generally gets play in these types of movies. Director Elizabeth Allen's film beautifully illustrates the distinction discussed by C.S. Lewis in his "Four Loves" between eros (romantic love) and philia (friendship). Having once remarked that "sometimes the best way to tell a truth is to tell a fairy tale," Lewis would have appreciated "Aquamarine" as a vehicle for conveying such concepts and would have heartily agreed with Hailey that "love is the closest thing we have to magic."

The film contains some mild sensuality, innuendo and a few crass expressions. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II - adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG - parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

David DiCerto is on the staff of the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

By NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN  
Catholic News Service

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (CNS) - It hasn't been an easy first year for Father Larry Snyder as president of Catholic Charities USA.

There have been battles over immigration reform and the federal budget, struggles to keep the needs of the poor and vulnerable in the public eye, and, looming over everything for the past six months, the tragic effects of hurricanes Katrina and Rita on the Gulf Coast region and the massive reconstruction effort now under way.

But through it all, the priest of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis has found signs of hope, gratitude for the world's generosity and a renewed appreciation for the tens of thousands of Catholic Charities staff members and volunteers around the country who have stepped up to the new challenges.

"They say that a tragedy tests the moral fiber, and Katrina and Rita tested the moral fiber of this country," Father Snyder said. "But it also tested the Church and the Catholic Charities network, and we came out of it looking pretty good."

The priest, who has headed Catholic Charities USA since Feb. 1, 2005, spoke to Catholic News Service at the organization's headquarters in Alexandria Feb. 23, the day the Bush administration released its report on "lessons

learned" from the federal response to Hurricane Katrina and the flooding that followed.

Father Snyder said he was pleased that the report included several recommendations made by Catholic Charities - that the government ensure better lines of communications after a disaster, for example, and that there be "bureaucratic accommodation" to allow for quick response to human needs in an emergency situation without too much government red tape.

"There are religious, moral grounds (for immigration reform), coupled with the economic realities."

He cited the case of New Orleans' Second Harvest agency, which operates under the Catholic Charities umbrella there and had "warehouses full of food" that had been given by the government for seniors. After Katrina hit, the agency petitioned the government to distribute the food to hurricane victims, but got no response.

Eventually the agency decided to distribute the food that was so desperately needed, Father Snyder said. "After the food was all gone, the permission from the government finally came through," he said.

Since the hurricanes hit last August and September, Catholic Charities has assisted more than 300,000 victims of Katrina and Rita - including 87,000 children and 10,000 seniors. More than \$69 million has been allocated to 76 local Catholic Charities agencies and other Catholic organizations helping families and individuals affected by the hurricanes.

In all, Catholic Charities raised a record \$154 million to assist in hurricane recovery efforts, including substantial



Father Larry Snyder

## What a year! But Catholic Charities chief sees signs of hope

donations from Catholic charitable organizations worldwide, including Korea, Canada and Germany.

The hurricanes taught the nation one lesson that Father Snyder and local Catholic Charities workers have always known - the poor are the hardest hit when disasters strike.

In New Orleans, 30 percent of the poor didn't have cars to leave the city, the priest noted. Although there was an emergency evacuation plan in place, "many pieces fell apart," he added. Even though buses were available to evacuate the poor, for example, many of the bus drivers had already left the city.

Father Snyder also works to bring the voice of the poor to the halls of Congress and the White House, often through letters issued jointly with leaders of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Catholic Health Association or other organizations.

But recently the "victories we've celebrated" in that arena have been things like "being able to reduce the (proposed) cuts by half," he said.

"Right now ... the government is not making balanced decisions," Father Snyder said. "To take money from health and human services, student loans and things like that and then the very next day to vote to continue tax relief for the very wealthy, that's not balanced."

"I'm not saying there shouldn't be tax relief, but not at a time when we're having to cut very necessary funding to the most vulnerable in our society," he added. "It's like, all things in the proper time, but we're not doing the right thing at this time."

Another "huge fight" on the horizon is immigration reform, Father Snyder said, adding that he has been happy to see the U.S. bishops taking a leadership role through their Justice for Immigrants campaign in calling for reforms that are "honest and just."

Unlike some other issues, such as an increase in the minimum wage, immigration reform has found Catholic leaders on the same side as business groups, such as the Chamber of Commerce, because "there are religious, moral grounds (for reform), coupled with the economic realities," he said.

"But all of that gets lost in unfounded concerns about security" since Sept. 11, 2001, Father Snyder said. "There are legitimate concerns about security, and then there are unfounded concerns."

Under an immigration reform proposal that the Senate was to take up this month, Catholic agencies that assist even one undocumented immigrant could lose all federal funding, and undocumented children would lose the right to go to public schools, he said.

During the past 12 months, Father Snyder has visited 32 local Catholic Charities agencies in all parts of the country, which he called "an incredible experience."

"Each is unique to its own community," he said, "but in each one there is a commitment and a quality of services that I always find remarkable."

**Editor's note:** Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Tulsa is not a member of Catholic Charities U.S.A. and receives less than 1 percent of its funding from government agencies.

# 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 [easternokcatholic@dioceseoftulsa.org](mailto:easternokcatholic@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.

## Young people strengthened by 24-hour fast

By **BARB HILGER**

PRYOR – “Face the Fast” was the theme of the second annual Food Fast held March 3 at St. Mark Church in Pryor. The event, held for young people in the Diocese, drew 31 students, triple last year's attendance.

The focus of this year's fast was world hunger, said Regina Martin, St. Mark's youth education director, challenging the students to look more closely at the things Americans take for granted, such as food and clean water.

After their “last supper” of grilled cheese sandwiches and baked potatoes Friday evening provided by the Cursillo group from the parish, the students fasted for 24 hours, with a short break each hour for water, gum or juice. To carry on the challenge of the fast, these items were not readily available. Participants were given situations such as, “you lost your legs in a land mine explosion,” and for each situation they had to work to get their water.

Everything was meant to be a challenge, Mrs. Martin said, to keep the young people thinking about why they were fasting.

Saturday morning proved to be the biggest challenge, because when the students first woke up they really noticed being hungry. But many activities were lined up for the day to keep them busy. In addition to Stations of the Cross, confession and the rosary there was time for reflection, crafts and some fun time when they went bowling. In preparation for the celebration of Mass the kids cleaned the church as a community service project.

“We are hungry now, but over in Third World countries people are starving. It is hard to imagine being like that all of the time,” said Jacob Pilmaier, a seventh-grader from Choteau.

Several non-Catholic students returned for this year's fast,



Hispanic dancers from St. Francis Xavier Church in Tulsa jazzed things up during the Food Fast in Pryor.

said Mrs. Martin, adding that they asked to return and told her they wanted to come back for the rosary. Savannah Carter, a freshman at Pryor Junior High and a member of the Free Will Baptist Church, came back because she learned a lot about Catholicism. “It is not what I thought it would be, it's a whole lot better,” she said.

As part of the celebration of Mass, the Knights of Columbus provided the fourth-degree honor guard, and Hispanic dancers from St. Francis Xavier Church, Tulsa, danced.

Father Celestine Obidiegwu began his homily by asking the students if they were hungry and then referred to the banner they had made, “Walking in the footsteps of Christ” and commended them for their fast. He reminded them it was not done on their own but by following Christ. Father Celestine challenged the young people to take this example home and to school to their friends. The fast, he said, would give them strength, “strength to say no to other temptations, just as Jesus was strengthened by his 40-day fast in the desert.”

Following Mass the students had a pizza party with



Father Celestine visits with Chris Duncan, a sophomore at Union High School and a parishioner of St. Benedict Church, Broken Arrow, where Father Celestine served as associate pastor before he was assigned to Pryor.

Father Celestine and much of the boisterousness from the night before had worn off. Chris Duncan, from St. Benedict Church in Broken Arrow, summed up the experience in what seemed to be the consensus: “It wasn't as hard as I thought it would be, it was a good experience.”

### Pastors ‘in solidum’

STILLWATER - Until last fall, Father Ken Harder was pastor of both St. Francis Xavier Church and St. John the Evangelist Church in Stillwater, with Father Edward Yew serving as associate pastor.

“It was very difficult to try to run two parishes,” said Father Harder. “The people didn't have a sense of identity with their priest.”

The two parishes less than a mile apart each have approximately 400 registered families. St. John the Evangelist also serves the student population from Oklahoma State University at the Newman Center for which it was initially begun. A Newman Center has a different focus and serves a different demographic.

But the center's nature changed many years ago when more families began to attend St. John's, and the student focus was de-emphasized. As a regular parish, there came a need for services not normally seen in a Newman Center such as nursery care, youth group and religious education.

This is where the resources and facility were stretched thin, said Father Yew, because it was functioning as something for which it was not designed.

While Father Harder was serving as pastor over both parishes and Father Yew was the associate, both were required to be at all necessary administrative meetings. Both parishes being so closely related stretched the two pastors thin in time and ability to manage the parishes.

“This was not feasible,” said Father Yew. “A parish can't develop with the priests both so occupied with the administrative tasks.”

Father Harder, a canon lawyer, found a solution. Canon Law 517 states that, “when circumstances require it, the pastoral care of a parish or of different parishes together can be entrusted to several priests in solidum, with the requirement, however, that in exercising pastoral care one of them must be the moderator, namely, the one who is to direct the joint action and to answer for it to the Bishop.”

So, granted by Bishop Edward J. Slattery, the two Stillwater priests received a notarized letter in fall 2005, and they became pastors “in solidum” or co-pastors, with Father Harder as moderator.

While challenges remain, the priests agreed the solution helps each pastor develop a vision for his own parish with concern for what is going on in the other parish as well.

“Neither priest is excluded from the other parish,” Father Harder said. “We both have a solicitude while each of us has a different focus.”

The parishes share many commonalities, and they work together in these areas. Religious education and youth group activities take place at St. Francis Xavier, mostly under the direction of Father Harder, while the Newman Center is primarily Father Yew's responsibility at St. John the Evangelist.

Father Yew said the arrangement has been good in the sense that it “has brought campus ministry to the forefront” at St. John's. He has seen an increase in the number of students attending daily Mass, and there is a focus on programs for the OSU students.