



Nuns commemorate Benedict XVI's anniversary

German nuns take part in an April 19 candlelight ceremony for Pope Benedict XVI in Altötting, about 70 miles east of Munich. On the first anniversary of his pontificate, the pope said he is still moved by the memory of his election and that he wants to be a "gentle and firm" leader of the universal church. See story, Page 6. (CNS photo/Reuters)

Catholic Charities plans to allocate 'Compassion' funds

Eighty percent of the money raised by Catholic Charities' "Cooking Up Compassion" fundraiser will be used for the emergency assistance program, and the board of directors plans to establish a new Catholic Charities center in a rural location in the Diocese.

The \$544,000 in new funding will significantly boost the three ministries that will receive the proceeds. The existing budget for emergency assistance is \$565,000, but it will receive \$414,000 in new funding.

Emergency assistance provides needy clients with food, medications and help with rent, utilities and transportation costs. The money will be used at the main office on North Denver Avenue, at the Hispanic Helping Center on Admiral Avenue and in the Catholic Charities office in Sallisaw, said Deacon Tim Sullivan, executive director.

For the first time, Catholic Charities will be able to supply its clients with meat, which previously it could not afford.

Bishop Edward J. Slattery and other board members for several years have wanted to extend Catholic Charities' reach into a new

region of rural Oklahoma, where some of the poorest people in the state live. The "Compassion" money will provide \$130,000 to establish the new facility.

"We will do extensive research to determine where the need is the greatest and the resources are the least," Deacon Sullivan said. "There are several communities we will consider, and support from the local parish will be a significant factor."

Two other ministries will be receiving funds: Xavier Medical Clinic is to receive \$110,000, and Madonna House will get \$20,000. Xavier's previous budget was \$132,000; Madonna House's was \$216,500.

Xavier Medical Clinic, operated in partnership with Saint Francis Hospital, has seen a rapid growth in its pregnancy program and now sees about 50 new clients each month. At the request of Saint Francis Hospital staffers, \$75,000

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Deacon Vernon Butler dies

Deacon Lewis Vernon Butler, the only member of the Osage Nation to be raised to Holy Orders in the Catholic Church, died April 14 in the Jane Phillips Medical Center in Bartlesville. He was 63.

A funeral Mass was celebrated by Bishop Edward J. Slattery April 18 at Immaculate Conception Church in Pawhuska. Father Chris Daigle gave the homily; also concelebrating were Msgr. Patrick Gaalaas, Father James White – a longtime friend of the Osage Nation – Father Richard Bradley, and Father Bruce Brosnahan, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Fairfax.

The Fairfax parish was Deacon Butler's first assignment following his ordination at Holy Family

See DEACON page 20

Since last summer, more than 100 gowns, blankets and caps have been made by members of the St. Gianna Internment Gown Sewing Guild.



Comfort in tragedy's wake

By JEANNE KRAWCZYK

On April 19, about 30 members of the St. Gianna Internment Gown Sewing Guild gathered at the home of Susie Spanier for a thank-you luncheon.

The guild formed about a year ago, after Cathy Larschan, a volunteer nurse at the St. Francis Xavier Clinic, mentioned the need for tiny internment gowns to Mrs. Spanier. Mrs. Larschan works in

labor and delivery at Saint Francis Hospital.

About that same time, Father Tim Davison's sister-in-law, Janice Davison, was visiting from Ohio, and she told the women at a Confraternity of Christian Mothers meeting about a group from her home parish that sewed the tiny gowns. She mailed the

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Calendar

APRIL

Religious awards Mass

30 The Catholic committee on Scouting and Camp Fire will host its annual religious awards Mass at 2 p.m. April 30 at St. Pius X Church. Bishop Slattery will celebrate Mass with the awards recipients and their families, followed by the awards presentation.

Discovery Sunday

30 Subiaco Academy, a Catholic all-boys college preparatory residential school in northwest Arkansas, will host a Discovery Sunday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 30. Visitors can tour the campus and meet members of the faculty and staff. The entrance exam will be administered from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For information, call 800-364-7824 or email admissions@subi.org.

MAY

May and Mary course

1 Monica Skrzypczak will lead a class on Catholic Marian traditions from 7-8:30 p.m. May 1 in Benedictine Hall at Church of the Madalene. This class will study the many titles given to the Blessed Mother and Marian devotions practiced in the Church. Contact PSI, 294-1904.

Healing Mass

5 A Charismatic Mass for healing will be celebrated by Father Tim Davison at 7:30 p.m. May 5 at Sts. Peter and Paul Church, 1436 N. 67th East Ave. Prayer team ministry for individual needs will be available following Mass. All ages and denominations are welcome to receive these healing prayers. Call Carole Scott, 243-5418.

Cinco de Mayo bingo

5 All Saints Catholic School in Broken Arrow will host a Cinco de Mayo bingo beginning at 6 p.m. May 5 in the school's Children and Family Center. Mexican food and a fajita bar will be provided by Perfect Touch catering. There also will be a small silent auction. Contact Debbie Sicka, 527-9975.

Natural family planning

7 A natural family planning workshop will be held from 1:30-6 p.m. May 7 at Saint Francis Hospital. Call David and Anna Niles,

449-8765, or Dan and Julianne O'Brien, 455-4529, to register.

Birth Mother's Day Mass

11 Catholic Charities Adoption Services will honor all women who have placed their children for adoption at a special pro-life Mass at 6:30 p.m. May 11 at St. Pius X Church. Birth mothers, adoptive parents and adoptees are encouraged to attend. For information, contact Mary Lee Ingram, 585-8167, ext. 116.

'Da Vinci Code' course

16 Father Jack Gleason will teach a class titled "Debunking the Da Vinci Code" from 7-8:30 p.m. May 16 at Church of the Madalene. Father Gleason will try to prepare Catholics for what they will likely see in the film version of this work of fiction. Contact PSI, 294-1904.

Pre-Cana class

20 The next Pre-Cana marriage preparation class will be from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. May 20 at Church of the Madalene. Cost is \$35 per couple, paid at the door. A box lunch will be served. Register with the Family Life Office, 585-8167, or online at www.familylifetulsa.org.

Holy Family alumni gathering

26 The fourth annual Holy Family High all-school alumni get-together will be from 7-10 p.m. May 26 in the parish hall. For information, contact Mary Lou Leboeuf at 628-0793.

Anger and forgiveness seminar

27 Sister Marie Ballmann, OSB, will present a seminar on "Anger, Conflict and Forgiveness" from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 27 at Red Plains Monastery, 728 Richland Road in Piedmont. Learn a spiritual approach to help identify unresolved anger and conflicts that affect relationships. Understand the difference between forgiveness and reconciliation, and let go of the pain. Cost is \$35. Call 918-373-4739 to register.

VOLUNTEERS

Emergency assistance needed

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 47th Street and South Harvard Avenue.

St. John Auxiliary gift 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, elavators 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.

Hospice seeks helpers

Freedom Hospice is in search of caring individuals to become a part of its "Star Volunteer Program." If you or someone you know would like to participate in the spirit of caring, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Karen Flanagan, a parishioner of St. Bernard Church in Tulsa, at 493-4930. Comprehensive training is provided

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.

Hospice volunteers sought

Preferred Hospice of Tulsa is in need of volunteers, both in direct and non-direct patient care. Complete training provided. For information on how you can help, please call Caroline Hendricks, volunteer coordinator, at 665-1213 or

email volunteersshine@yahoo.com.

Volunteer caseworkers

Catholic Charities has openings for volunteer caseworkers in the Emergency Assistance Department. Caseworkers assist with interviewing clients, updating clients' computer files and issuing clothing vouchers for the adult and children's clothing centers. Emergency Assistance is open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and from 9 a.m. to noon on Wednesday. Former social workers or teachers are preferred. For more information, call Matt DeWeese, 585-8167.

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, 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.

Clinic volunteers sought

The Xavier Medical Clinic needs volunteers for nursing, interpreting Spanish, clerical assistance and computer data input. The clinic is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesdays. Volunteers are also welcome on other days of the week. Please call Dr. Phyllis Lauinger, 583-7233, to volunteer

Emergency assistance

Catholic Charities is seeking volunteers Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays to work in the Emergency Assistance Department. For more information, call Matt DeWeese, 585-8167 or e-mail charitiestul@aol.com.

Bishop Slattery's public schedule

Saturday, April 29 - 5 p.m.

Knights of Columbus Mass, St. Thomas More Church
Archbishop Eusebius J. Beltran, principal celebrant;
Bishop Slattery, homilist

Saturday, April 29 - 7 p.m.

Banquet for Knights, Raddison Hotel, 41st and Garnett

Sunday, April 30 - 2 p.m.

Scout Awards Mass, St. Pius X Church

Monday, May 1 - 7 p.m.

With Father Jose Maria Briones and Father David Medina, will lead prayers from 8-9 p.m. during a three-hour adoration and prayer for just immigration legislation, St. Francis Xavier Church, Tulsa

Friday, May 5 - 1:30 p.m.

St. Mary School golf tournament, Stone Creek at Page Belcher

Sunday, May 14 - 5 p.m.

Vespers, homily, Bishop Kelley Chapel
Brother Norman McCarthy's 50th anniversary

Sunday, May 15 - 9:50 a.m.

Mass, Kelley gymnasium

Thursday, May 18 - 10 a.m.

Mass and homily, Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, St. Frances of Rome Parish, Langley, program on human trafficking

Saturday, May 20 - 10 a.m.

Bishop Kelley graduation, Reynolds Center

CORRECTION

John Johnson, chancellor of the Diocese of Tulsa, obtained a master's degree in international relations from the University of Oklahoma's program that is based at the Oklahoma State University-Tulsa campus.

Edward J. Slattery Bishop of Tulsa

Immigration system should be humane, secure and reflect values

If ever there were a time for calm reasoned conversation on the immigration question, it is now.

This issue has been with us for a very long time and in one way or another the question of who should (or should not) be allowed to cross our borders has occupied the American imagination since the early 1800s.

It is true that in the past, as well as today, concerns were raised concerning the effect unlimited immigration would have on the American social service network, including schools, hospitals and asylums. A second concern was the threat which immigration posed to the nation's economy by lowering the wages of native-born workers, and a third concern focused on national security, although in the 19th century, this was more a religious issue, since Catholic immigrants were perceived as having surrendered their first allegiance to a foreign government (the Vatican) and might thus provide support for foreign troops in support of the Pope.

First the Irish, then the Germans

In the 1840s and 50s, it was Irish and German immigrants whose arrival provoked such nationalist alarm, and the anti-Catholic, anti-immigration platform of the "Know-Nothing" party capitalized on the fear that unrestricted Irish and German immigration threatened the nation's internal and external security.

By the 1860s and 70s, it was Chinese labor on the west coast which provoked concern among native-born Americans. Large pools of willing Chinese laborers would drive down the wages of America's workers, they argued, making it impossible for families to survive and changing the social landscape forever. These fears prompted America's first anti-immigration legislation, barring Chinese laborers from entering the country.

A generation later, and the focus of concern had shifted again, this time to immigrants who were flooding America from southern and eastern Europe. Every day saw thousands upon thousands of eager immigrants arrive from Italy, the Balkan countries, from Poland, the Ukraine and the Baltic nations. They arrived in Ellis Island with their frightened families and a box or two of their meager possessions, dreaming of a better life and willing to do whatever it took to make that dream come true, whether that meant working long hours in unsafe factories and then going to night school to learn English, or sacrificing the language and the ways of the "old country" to better fit in the new.

But this unremitting human wave of Europe's tired poor, her "huddled masses yearning to breathe free," the "wretched refuse of (Europe's) teeming shore" (as Emma Lazarus described the immigrants in her poem, "The New Colossus," written as a fundraiser for the construction of the Statue of Liberty) provoked a great backlash which raised the question "how many are too many?"

Historic problems

Wherever enlightened native-born Americans looked, they saw enormous difficulties running unchecked among the many thousands of immigrants who were living in the urban slums of America's industrial heartland: child labor, alcoholism, untold prostitution, tuberculosis and poverty.

Schools were stretched beyond the capacity of the classroom, and still thousands of children received no education. Hospitals, asylums and orphanages were overwhelmed with those same huddled masses, and train loads of orphaned children were sent



out west to start their young lives all over again.

Wages were driven down, and job security vanished. For every worker who struggled to survive, there were four or five newcomers willing to take his place, at lower wages and with less security, in the sweat shops and the factories or America's teeming cities. Such conditions became the grist of writers whose social conscience, honed by a Calvinist sensibility, regularly exposed such inhuman conditions.

But while novels like Upton Sinclair's 1906 classic, "The Jungle," showed a certain sympathy for the plight of immigrant workers who had to sacrifice themselves to survive, underlying the compassionate portrait was the certainty that America could no longer absorb thousands upon thousands of newcomers and still remain a viable, free republic.

These worries prompted a further series of anti-immigration laws in the 1920s, which contributed in large part to America's refusal to accept Jewish refugees from Eastern Europe in the 1930s. After the Second World War it was "America for Americans," and national security became the prism which focused the immigration problem. An eager Congress was all too ready to pass restrictive laws barring former Nazis or present Communists from entering the country legally.

For nearly 200 years, in various ways and against successive waves of different immigrants, America's national concerns over immigration have been raised, but always with the same underlying fear: America can no longer provide a refuge to the world's poor. Unrestricted immigration would fundamentally alter the national landscape and make it impossible for our country to grow, to lead the free world, or even to survive.

Still, America survived

But America did, and it was often the Church which provided the solution with her system of parochial education, her fraternal and charitable organizations (which offered immigrants ways of learning new social skills) and her networks of hospitals and orphanages run by religious sisters. These means, and the Church's tireless preaching against vice and addiction, helped integrate tens of millions of foreign-born Catholics into America's middle-class mainstream.

Sadly enough, it is often the children and grandchildren of these immigrants who voice the loudest concerns today about America's crisis of undocumented and illegal immigrants from Mexico and Latin America!

I am not so much concerned here with American history (though I love it and would study it as much as I could) as I am with showing you the historic complexities of the problem. If nothing else, I am hopeful that the Catholics of this Diocese would recognize that the present immigration crisis is not a simple issue which can be easily or immediately resolved.

First of all, the present immigration crisis involves 12 million illegal immigrants with their spouses and children. A good number of people, including some of our elected officials and political commentators, seem to suggest that this problem has suddenly come upon us. But in fact, the reason that this problem has now become a national crisis is precisely because our government looked the other way for many years and did nothing to prevent migrants from Mexico from illegally crossing the border. Now those 12 million immigrants are situated here with their families. They work among us, live among us, pray with us as our neighbors and all of us benefit from their presence.

Of benefit to the nation

And that benefit to the nation as a whole and to each one of our families is undeniable. Our gas prices may be spiraling out

of control, but wholesale food costs remain relatively unchanged and in comparison with much of what we buy, remarkably inexpensive. This is largely due to immigrant workers who harvest our fresh produce and endure difficult and often dangerous conditions in poultry processing plants. We benefit from the labor of illegal immigrants every time we eat the apples they have picked, prepare a salad with the lettuce they've boxed or grill the chicken which illegal hands have packed and shipped.

And while the political commentators whom we listen to on our car radios decry the situation, we listen and nod our heads while driving over roads which illegals have graded, paved and landscaped. We shop in luxurious malls built by the industry of iron workers and concrete finishers who entered this country illegally and go home to subdivisions where their brothers and cousins put up the sheet rock, taped it, mudded it and smoothed it for paint, or where they troweled on the stucco and roofed the roofs.

We know this labor has been done by illegals, and while we argue against unrestricted, open borders and the chaos and danger they represent, still we have grown accustomed to the financial benefits and can only imagine what the increased costs would be to us if the industry and labor supplied by illegal workers were to be supplied instead by workers earning two or three times the wages paid undocumented migrants.

Perhaps we bemoan the unpaid taxes that undocumented workers are supposed to owe, but here again, the truth is that most immigrants pay taxes - income tax, sales tax and even local property taxes. Undocumented workers even pay into Social Security through false numbers and faked taxpayer IDs. Time Magazine reported April 10 that illegal immigrants paid \$463 billion into Social Security through 1992, while receiving nearly nothing in return. That same article quoted a figure of \$9.2 billion which illegals contributed to South Carolina's economy in 2004.

Support for the Senate bill

That's why I support Titles IV, V and VI of the U.S. Senate's Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act. It reflects a wiser and more benign America, with real concern for family values by providing for the creation of a temporary worker program, reducing family-based immigration backlogs and establishing an earned legalization program which would enhance our nation's security, restore the rule of law on the border and stabilize the work force.

Contrary to those who claim that an earned residency program is tantamount to amnesty for illegals, Title VI of the U.S. Senate's Comprehensive Immigration Reform would provide an opportunity for hard-working immigrants to earn their legal status over time. They would be required to pay thousands of dollars in fines, pay any back taxes, learn English, clear security investigations and work six more years in the United States.

Together with the other bishops in the country, I think that provisions in Titles IV and V should also be supported. These provisions, if enacted into law, would establish a temporary worker program which would permit a continued flow of workers into this country legally (Title IV) and would reorder the family- and employment-based immigration preference systems. Together these provisions would adjust our immigration policies to better meet America's demand for immigrant labor and by reuniting families, reduce the incentive for people to cross the border illegally.

On the other hand, certain provisions of Comprehensive

See BISHOP, page 12

Marilyn Duck EOC Editor

Pro-life Catholics practice the virtue of consistency

Many who favor abortion rights make a point that too often is valid: Some pro-lifers champion rights of the unborn from conception to birth. Once children are born, these abortion opponents feel society has little or no obligation to tend to their welfare – especially if doing so requires tax dollars.



If babies' mothers and fathers are poor; if babies have a mother but the father is absent; if babies have health problems – well, “good luck, kids” is the attitude in some quarters.

Not among Catholics. In many ways, for many years, Catholics in the Diocese of Tulsa have ministered to thousands of children before and after they are born. And also to their families.

Over the past year, this concern for the sanctity of human life has been reflected in a new and touching way. As Jeanne Krawczyk reports on Page 1, Catholics are reaching out to comfort the parents of children who are stillborn or die shortly after birth by making internment gowns.

It's a sad story; nobody likes to think about what it must be like to come home from the hospital without your baby. But the seamstresses of the St. Gianna Internment Gown Guild surely must be gratified that they provide such loving care to bereaved parents at such a horrible time. Organizers

say the parents – who, if they have baby clothes, usually have sizes suitable for a six- to eight-pound infant – are overwhelmed to realize someone has anticipated their need for a picture of their child in the dress in which that child will be buried.

There's another outreach to families that's also touching. At 6:30 p.m. May 11 at St. Pius X Church, Catholic Charities' adoption program will observe Birth Mother's Day. This Mass is open to mothers who have shown the courage to realize their babies would be better cared for by adoptive parents. The adoptive parents and adoptees of all ages also are invited. Part of the purpose is to promote healing, resolve and a sense of peace about difficult decisions made on behalf of a child, said Mary Lee Ingram, adoption director.

When an article about adoption appeared in the Urban Tulsa Weekly newspaper, Mrs. Ingram said a woman called her and said, “No one has ever honored me for my decision. I placed my child for adoption over 30 years ago.” The woman was not Catholic, and she did not attend the Mass, but she was moved by the Catholics' show of concern.

On another front: Cathy Hill, director of Madonna House, made a simple request last month of those who would like to help the residents of the Catholic Charities home for unwed moms and their newborns. She emailed the following:

“If you would like to help some moms who have chosen to bring life into this world even though they are scared and

have tremendous odds/challenges to face, here is how you can help: Please pray for them and then either send me an email or a card through the mail labeled to me at Madonna House, 749 N. Denver Ave., Tulsa, 74106 with ‘prayer angel’ on the seal. Please do not sign your last name (it is an anonymous program),” her email read.

“We have Kristin and Jamey, Jennifer, Amy and Jasmine, Tina and Ricky, Heather and Joshua, Lisa (due any day), Maegun and a young woman whose name is too unique to be kept confidential (just put ‘Dear A_____’), and I will fill in her name.

“Keep them in your prayers, and just let them know they are being upheld in prayer for hope, courage, healing, wisdom, safe delivery, etc. Please feel free to call me at 585-5186 or 809-5623 (cell) for more info.”

These Catholics' consciences are clear; no one can accuse them of caring about children and families only before children come into the world.

To members of St. Gianna Internment Gown Guild, to the folks at Madonna House and its many volunteers, to the people who put together the Birth Mother's celebration, to the people who work to preserve the sanctity of all human life, consider something a wise and kind man recently said. He was speaking in a different context, but his words are applicable here:

“Your Lord would be pleased with what you're doing.”

George Weigel

The ‘Da Vinci Code’ offers Catholic Church a great opportunity

I was on the road a lot during Lent. And from sea to shining sea, nary an airport bookstore was without a “Da Vinci Code” display, in anticipation of the May release of Ron Howard's film. One tries to ignore the hype – “the greatest cover-up in history!” – but there's something depressing going on here.



Why do intelligent people think that “The Da Vinci Code” has some basis in historical fact? Why do Catholics imagine that a novel which suggests (and not so subtly) that the entire structure of faith is a lie is, well, no big deal?

The good news, though, is that the film's release is a great opportunity for bishops, priests, and deacons to dedicate Eastertide 2006 to preaching the truth of Christian history.

One of the reasons why so many Catholics have been vulnerable to the novel's preposterous claims is that most Catholics are woefully ignorant of the Church's history. How, for example, did the original Christian confession about Jesus of Nazareth – “Jesus is Lord” – come to doctrinal articulation in the Nicene Creed: “God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God; begotten not made, one in Being with the Father”?

If you don't know, at least in broad strokes, how the Creed of the Council of Nicaea came to express the New Testament faith of the Church, you're going to be vulnerable to Dan Brown's risible suggestion that it was all imperial politics in the age of Constantine. So I can well imagine a month's worth of sermons on the development of Christology, the Church's theology of Jesus as Son of God.

Then there's the question of the integrity of the New

Testament itself. The historical-critical method of Biblical analysis has immeasurably increased our knowledge of the Bible. Yet, filtered through inadequate homiletics and catechetics, historical-critical readings of the New Testament have also created suspicion about the historical reliability of the Gospels in many minds.

“That's just a story,” is a phrase too often encountered in casual discussions about the Gospel accounts of the life of Christ. Yet I think it's safe to assume that the Second Vatican Council didn't reclaim the Bible for the people of the Church so that the people of the Church could learn to be suspicious about the Bible.

I've often recommended the work of Anglican exegete N.T. Wright as an antidote to this suspiciousness, and let me do so again: If there is one book to give a friend troubled by “The Da Vinci Code” and its portrait of the life of Jesus, it's Dr. Wright's “The Challenge of Jesus: Rediscovering Who Jesus Was and Is” (InterVarsity Press), in which impeccable, contemporary scholarship is deployed to defend the historicity of the Gospels, including the historicity of the resurrection.

Based on a set of lectures Dr. Wright gave for evangelical leaders in the late 1990s, “The Challenge of Jesus” is accessible to any intelligent reader, and provides a far more fascinating account of the complexities of Jewish life and messianic expectation at the time of Jesus than anything to be found in Dan Brown's fevered imagination.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has a website, www.Jesusdecoded.com, that's full of resources for those who want to turn the “Da Vinci Code” fuss into an

Ms. Welborn is always interesting and always feisty: for example, “There is enough truth in ‘The Da Vinci Code’ to be seriously misleading.”

evangelical and catechetical opportunity.

In addition to a devastating critique of Mr. Brown's understanding of Leonardo da Vinci by Elizabeth Lev, the website includes a very useful “When they say...you say...” essay by Catholic author and blogger Amy Welborn, “What Do You Say to a ‘Da Vinci Code’ Believer?”

Ms. Welborn is always interesting and always feisty: for example, “There is enough truth in ‘The Da Vinci Code’ to be seriously misleading. Yes, the sources, like “Holy Blood, Holy Grail,” and “The Templar Revelation,” exist. But they don't reflect serious historical scholarship. You're not going to find a university history department on the planet that uses the works that provide the meat of “The Da Vinci Code” theories as part of the syllabus.” Indeed.

Got lemons? Make lemonade. “The Da Vinci Code” is an opportunity waiting to be seized.

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

Forum

Stop 'disinformation campaign' on immigration penalties

Editor, EOC:

In your April 19 edition's Page 1 news story, you state that the recently passed House bill would criminalize humane or pastoral assistance to illegal immigrants. This is not true and has been refuted publicly by the legislation's authors. You (and the Bishop) must know this. You (and the Bishop) sound like the Democrat party's talking points.

Nowhere in the bill will you find the words "humane" or "pastoral" (look for yourself: http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=109_cong_bills&docid=f:h4437rfs.txt.pdf).

The only place where one could twist the meaning of the bill is in Section II (Combating Alien Smuggling and Illegal Entry and Presence), but nowhere does it state that one would be punished for providing humanitarian assistance. Several representatives have stated publicly, and emphatically, that the provisions in the bill are meant only to combat illegal trafficking, not the efforts of churches and other sources of assistance to the impoverished.

Stop the disinformation campaign.

Steve Griffin
Tulsa

Editor's note: The editor and publisher based their comments on Section 274, paragraph A, subsection C of the bill passed by the U.S. House, which defines criminal offenses and prohibited activities for whoever "assists, encourages, directs or induces a person to reside in or remain in the United States knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that such person is an alien who lacks lawful authority to reside in or remain in the United States."

Father Yew weighs in on music and liturgy

Editor, EOC: I would like to thank the Bishop for his recent articles in the EOC on Sacred Liturgy. Unfortunately, the dichotomy of the pre- and post-Vatican II liturgy is based on caricatures rather than on facts or authentic Catholic theology.

The Bishop rightly calls for a rereading (for many this may be the first reading) of the documents of Vatican II. A cursory glance at Pope John XXIII's opening address for the council in 1962, *Gaudet Mater Ecclesia*, will show that the pope had no intention to break from the past. Instead, the pope said to the council fathers that "we should like to look to the past," and stated that chief concern of the council is "that the sacred deposit of Christian doctrine should be guarded and taught more efficaciously."

The opening of the "window to the Holy Spirit," an obvious allusion to Bernini's "Window of the Holy Spirit" in the Vatican Basilica, refers to the reliance on the Holy Spirit's inspiration on the council and does not suggest that the Church has been void of the spirit in centuries past.

Sadly, many who have not taken the documents of Vatican II in its proper text and contexts have used the Sacred Council as an opportunity for liturgical experimentation and innovation. Consequently, illegitimate adaptations to the Sacred Liturgy have crept in everywhere.

In 1980, John Paul the Great issued *Inaestimabile Donum*, instructing priests to cease liturgical abuses. For the most part, that instruction fell on deaf ears. In 2000 and 2002, the revised General Instruction of the Roman Missal was issued, yet most of what the Church requires of the Mass is ignored.

Finally, "in order that especially in the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy the Church might duly safeguard so great a mystery" (RS 2), and since "It is not possible to be silent about the abuses, even quite grave ones, against the nature of the Liturgy and the Sacraments as well as the tradition and the authority of the Church, which in our day not infrequently plague liturgical celebrations in one ecclesial environment or another" (RS 4), the late pope mandated the instruction *Redemptionis Sacramentum* (2004). Individualistic adaptations of the liturgy disregard Christ as the true subject of the liturgy and suffer sacred actions to the whims of ideologically shifting communities.

Our obedience inserts us humbly into the work that is Christ's. But obedience is not possible without love. Until, out of true love for Christ and His Bride, we can be faithful and obedient to the Church, we will remain ineffective sub-cultures desperately trying to

imitate the changing world and not the formidable counter-culture of our vocation.

Father Edward Y. Yew
Pastor, St. John the Evangelist Church
and Newman Center
Stillwater

Why leap back?

Editor, EOC: As a choir member for near 50 years, I share April 19 letter writer Rose Wilkinson's unease concerning recent comments in the EOC regarding music and liturgy. I am old enough to remember when you HEARD Mass. We have worked so hard to be inclusive and in getting the congregation to participate, why take a leap back 50 years?

Do not the Psalms tell us to "Sing A New Song Unto The Lord"? I don't speak Latin, it is a dead language left over from a depraved, corrupt, fallen nation. Gregorian Chant was written to be sung by monks and nuns in the great abbeys and churches of Europe, it was not for the common person except as spectator.

I have no interest in going back to either chant or Latin. I need music to fill my heart and soul, to sing of my joy at God's love for us.

Theresa L. Ferron-King
Claremore

Hartshorne children sing Mass

Editor, EOC: I wish to thank Bishop Edward J. Slattery for his wonderful articles in the EOC. Bishop Slattery's understanding of music in the Liturgy and the need for basic Catechesis touched me deeply.

Do children take to Latin and the sense of Awe in our worship? You bet they do. Our children at Holy Rosary Church in Hartshorne sang the entire Mass last month and the Kyrie (Greek) and the Agnus Dei (Latin) were sung. The Communion song we are learning for this month plainly states, "We know, Lord Jesus, that this is no mere symbol." Look at the Communion songs in most of our books. Do they reinforce the dogma of transubstantiation? A few, however, are good.

Yes, in our classes on Wednesday we sing fun songs. The teachers and I choose melodies which the children know and put words that teach the Holy Trinity, Divinity of Christ, the role of the Mother of God, Purgatory, the Pope, Bishops, the Sacraments, the Mass as the Sacrifice of the Cross made present on our altars, etc.

The awesome beauty and solemnity in our liturgy has been made visible with our priest, Father Leo Ahanotu. If we follow our Bishop, the new rite can have similar beauty as the old rite. Observe Mass on EWTN and the hymnal *Adoremus*. Again, thank you, Bishop Slattery.

Charles E. Lee
Hartshorne

EOC publication dates and deadlines

Eastern Oklahoma Catholic publication dates and deadlines for 2006:

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

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National news briefs

By Catholic News Service

Catholics aware of Church's abuse response trust Church more

WASHINGTON (CNS) - Those Catholics who say they are aware of the Church's policies and actions in response to clergy sexual abuse are more likely to give bishops high marks in leadership, according to a new study released April 19 by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate.

The study found, however, that the number of Catholics who said they gave to diocesan appeals "declined from 38 percent in April 2002 to 28-29 percent in 2004 and 2005." In a 2003 poll, 55 percent of Catholics who had stopped giving to diocesan appeals the previous year said they did so in reaction to the sex abuse cases.

But the study found little to no change from 2001 to 2005 in the percentage of Catholics who give to their parish, in their church attendance patterns or in the proportion of U.S. adults who identify themselves as Catholic. CARA is an independent Catholic research agency based at Georgetown University in Washington.

St. Peter's Basilica: 500 years represent masterpiece of art, faith

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - With Pope Julius II reigning, 1506 was a big year for the Vatican: The Swiss Guard was formed, the Vatican Museums were founded, and the first stone was laid for the new Basilica of St. Peter.

While the basilica will have to wait until this October for its chance to host an exhibit at the Vatican, Pope Benedict XVI marked the April 18 anniversary of the stone-laying ceremony. Calling the basilica a "masterpiece of art and faith," the pope said the whole world has admired "the powerful harmony of its form."

He offered thanks to the popes who guided its almost 130-year construction and commissioned embellishments over the centuries, the great artists who worked on it and the personnel of the Fabbrica di San Pietro who continue to welcome visitors and clean up after them.

Mexican police allege priest murdered mistress

MEXICO CITY (CNS) - Police in a Mexico City suburb arrested a Catholic priest for allegedly murdering his pregnant mistress on Easter. Authorities said Father Cesar Torres Martinez, 42, confessed to strangling 22-year-old Veronica Andrade Salinas after she confronted him over the pregnancy and demanded money.

Father Torres had just presided over a pre-dawn Easter Mass at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Netzahualcoyotl, just east of Mexico City, when Miss Andrade confronted him in the rectory, the state prosecutor's office said in an April 19 statement.

After a deadly struggle, the priest dismembered Andrade's body in the rectory bathroom and dumped the remains in a plastic bag outside a local cemetery, the prosecutor's office said. Father Torres said he was having an affair with Andrade, who was survived by an 18-month-old daughter, according to the prosecutor's office.

'How time flies,' Benedict says on first anniversary of his papacy

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - On the first anniversary of his election, Pope Benedict XVI asked people for their continued prayers so that he might carry on his mission to do Christ's work and be a "gentle and firm shepherd" in leading the universal Church.

"How time flies," the pope exclaimed to the 50,000 faithful who packed St. Peter's Square for his April 19 general audience as he recalled that exactly one year earlier the College of Cardinals elected him to succeed the much-loved and "the great pope, John Paul II."

He said he was still moved by the memory of appearing at the central window of St. Peter's Basilica right after his election to the cheers of nearly 100,000 people jammed into the square.

The pope said the huge outpouring of support displayed in that and other gatherings "has stuck in my mind and heart."

The grace of God and the prayers and help of all people, near and far, have given him the strength to accomplish a mission that "alone I could never carry out."

The pope said seeing the large presence of pilgrims at his public appearances gives him the feeling that the faithful are there with him, helping him. Their presence shows "I am in great communion (with you), and together we can carry forward the Lord's mission," he said.

In the first year of his pontificate, Pope Benedict attracted more than 4 million people to his public events.

According to statistics released April 18 by the Vatican, more than 1 million people attended his 47 weekly general audiences, 1.8 million gathered for his Sunday Angelus addresses, almost 700,000 people took part in his liturgical celebrations, and more than 380,000 people attended special audiences since he was elected

pope.

In his April 19 audience, the pope called on people to keep living the joy of the Easter season and to proclaim the good news to all corners of the earth.

It is through personal encounter with the risen Lord that life is renewed and becomes joyful, he said.

The pope said that with baptism old life dies on the cross and a new life is born.

The faithful must aim for higher, celestial things, not for earthly gains, the pope said.

This does not mean a person should ignore daily tasks or avoid reality, he said, it means people can "perk up" human activity with the "breath" of the divine.

At the end of the audience, the pope took a helicopter back to the papal villa in Castel Gandolfo, where he stayed until April 21.

Brothers Ratzinger stay close after all

ROME (CNS) - Msgr. Georg Ratzinger said having Pope Benedict XVI as a brother has not unraveled their strong fraternal ties or dimmed the deep affection the two feel for each other.

Soon after Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was elected pope April 19, 2005, Msgr. Ratzinger immediately told his younger brother that he was afraid his new mission as leader of the universal Church would keep them apart and cool their friendship.

Instead, the changes to the brothers' relationship have not been so drastic, the 82-year-old musician and retired director of the famed Regensburg boys choir told the Italian newspaper, La Repubblica, April 16.

"We still call each other up regularly and frequently, and we see each other every time it's possible," said the monsignor, who lives in the southern German city of Regensburg.

Though getting together is not as easy as it was before his brother became pope, Msgr. Ratzinger said the things they chat about and the affection they share have not changed.

The two Bavarian brothers were born three years apart and shared many similar experiences. Early in life, each felt a calling to serve the church as a priest, and they spent the first part of their seminary studies together in the city of Freising.

As young boys, they both were forced into military service under the Nazi



Msgr. Georg Ratzinger and his brother, Pope Benedict XVI, pose with the Regensburg boys choir in the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican Oct. 22, 2005. The two brothers share an intense love of culture and music. (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano)

regime, and both ended up in prisoner-of-war camps.

"When we were made prisoners by the Allies, our capture and imprisonment were like a liberation for us" because it brought the "un-Christian" military service to an end, Msgr. Ratzinger said.

Though Joseph Ratzinger spent six

weeks in an Allied POW camp in Germany and Georg Ratzinger four months in a POW camp in Italy, both in 1945, each befriended other imprisoned Catholics, and get-togethers with theology students turned into "passionate discussions about faith," Msgr. Ratzinger told La Repubblica.

The two brothers also share an intense love of culture and music.

"From the time we were young, music and playing music together was a dimension of the divine message for us," Msgr. Ratzinger said.

But, like most siblings, the two brothers have disagreed, even over religious matters, he said.

"It's happened that, in the beginning, I would not understand some of his bold" decisions right away, he said. But, after some thought, he said he always realized his younger brother had been right.

His brother is able to "look at faith and the world from a different perspective," while the monsignor said his own views were perhaps more affected by everyday opinions.

Msgr. Ratzinger said the qualities he most admires in his brother are his unpretentious nature, his humble spirit and the seriousness with which he tackles every task.

CHA president sees great promise in new Massachusetts health care law

WASHINGTON (CNS) - Although it is too early to tell whether a new Massachusetts law will succeed in its goal of health insurance coverage for nearly everyone in the commonwealth by July 2007, the president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association said she is "immensely impressed" that the Legislature took on the difficult issue of universal health care.

Sister Carol Keehan, a Daughter of Charity who heads the association, said the move to find creative solutions to the health care crisis is "long overdue" and must be imitated around the country and in Washington.

"Every person in this country will be better off if more people are insured," she said in an April 17 telephone interview with Catholic News Service. Those with good

health insurance and those who contribute to their employees' insurance will see the rise in health care costs slowed, while those without insurance will get coverage and will no longer delay treatment because of worries over costs.

Being without insurance is "a huge source of pain for many people," Sister Carol said, and although finding a solution to that situation is "fraught with mine fields," Massachusetts legislators have done a service to the country by coming up with a model for insuring everyone, she said.

"It's too new to know if it's the right model," she added, "but we need to make this a priority. We all have to do something."

Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney signed the health insurance reform bill into law April 12.

"Today, Massachusetts is leading the way with health insurance for everyone, without a government takeover and without raising taxes," he said.

Gov. Romney used his line-item veto to remove a \$295 per employee fee that would have been assessed on businesses with more than 10 full-time workers who do not offer health insurance. He also eliminated dental benefits for adult recipients of Medicaid and six other provisions of the legislation, worked out in conference committee in the Massachusetts Legislature.

Leaders in the House and Senate have vowed to override the vetoes.

An estimated 550,000 Massachusetts residents currently are uninsured, but the new law will require everyone who can afford health insurance to obtain it by July 1,

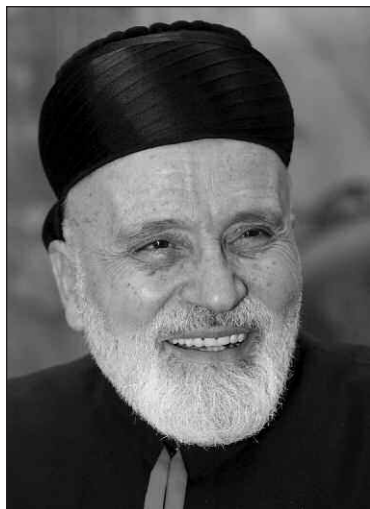
2007.

Those with incomes above 300 percent of the federal poverty level will be able to purchase lower-cost policies in the private market, while children in families making less than that would be eligible for MassHealth, the state's Medicaid program.

In 2006, the federal poverty level set by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services was \$9,800 for an individual; \$13,200 for a two-person family; \$16,600 for three; \$20,000 for four; and \$23,400 for a five-member family.

Those earning less than 300 percent of the federal poverty level but not eligible for MassHealth will receive government subsidies on an income-based sliding scale to help them pay for policies with no deductibles.

After 20 years as patriarch, cardinal says Lebanese inspire him



Cardinal Nasrallah P. Sfeir

BEIRUT, Lebanon (CNS) - Cardinal Nasrallah P. Sfeir, often cited for his humility, told approximately 700 people who gathered to mark his 20th anniversary as patriarch of the Maronite Catholic Church that the Lebanese people were his source of inspiration.

The people give him the courage to persevere, the patriarch said April 19, because they carry on regardless of their political and religious affiliations.

"It is the chiefs that receive medals, but it is the unknown soldiers that win the battle," he said.

Recalling Lebanon's tribulations since he was appointed patriarch in 1986, Cardinal Sfeir said: "During these 20 years, we experienced exile and poverty. We were lost between hopes and disillusionment. The nightmare is over, but the Lebanese still suffer from division of opinions and an unclear vision."

The host of dignitaries attending the ceremony at Bkerke, the patriarchal seat and headquarters of the Maronite Catholic Church, represented a full spectrum of Lebanon's religious and political persuasions. Many of them publicly praised the prelate for his

exceptional integrity and for his unwavering ability to influence the conscience of the nation.

Among Cardinal Sfeir's political achievements cited by dignitaries during the ceremony: the 1989 Taif Agreement, which ended the civil war and gave Muslims a greater role in the country's political system; his outspoken opposition to the Syrian occupation of Lebanon; his continuous efforts to restore the balance of power in Lebanon, and his success in fostering reconciliation among the divided Lebanese.

One prominent Muslim, Sheik

Mohammad Dali Balta, described Cardinal Sfeir as "the security valve for the survival of unity, coexistence and a sovereign, free and independent Lebanon." The Muslim cleric also predicted that future generations would remember what the prelate had achieved.

Cardinal Sfeir also was recognized for helping to organize the 1995 Synod of Bishops for Lebanon; Pope John Paul II's visit to Lebanon in 1997; the Assembly of Catholic Patriarchs and Bishops of Lebanon, and the recent Maronite synod, which will present its final documents in June.

British bishops favor laws regulating Sunday shopping

LONDON (CNS) - The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales told the British government it would be a "grave mistake" to change laws that regulate doing business on Sundays.

The 1994 Sunday Trading Act allows stores smaller than 3,000 square feet (280 square meters) to open all day, although larger stores can be open up to six hours on Sundays.

But under pressure from larger retailers, the government has ordered a review of the law and provisions that ban large stores from opening on Christmas and Easter and give workers the right to refuse to work on Sunday.

In a written statement, published April 13, the bishops' conference urged the

government's Department for Trade and Industry not to change the law. Most people do not want further deregulation, said the statement by the bishops' Department for Christian Responsibility and Citizenship.

It said the "special atmosphere" of Sundays supports a "healthier work-life balance and gives space for families and communities."

"It provides one small but significant bulwark against the all-encompassing tide of materialism and commercialism by claiming time for something other than paid work - as a day of rest and in particular family life," they said in the statement. "We would all be the poorer if it (Sunday) became just like any other day of the week."



A woman walks past the display of a crucifix in a window of Selfridges in London April 15. The British government has ordered a review of its law concerning business on Sundays, including a provision that bans large stores from opening on Christmas and Easter. (CNS photo)

Buffalo nun who worked with ex-convicts found murdered

BUFFALO, N.Y. (CNS) - Sister Karen Klimczak, a Sister of St. Joseph who was murdered April 14 at the Buffalo home where she ministered to ex-convicts, "gave her life in service to her God, her church and the community she loved," said Bishop Edward U. Kmiec of Buffalo.

Police have charged Craig M. Lynch with the murder. Mr. Lynch, who was released from Wyoming Correctional Facility in January, lived at Bissonette House, a residence for former prison inmates founded and directed by Sister Karen.

Police said Mr. Lynch, 36, attacked Sister Karen, 62, as she interrupted a burglary. He reportedly led police to the nun's body, which was not recovered until the evening of April 17.

Sister Karen began Hope House prison ministry in 1985 to provide a home for men recently released from prison. In 1989 she moved the ministry to the former rectory of St. Bartholomew Church.

She also was the pastoral associate at SS. Columba and Brigid Church in Buffalo.

"We will be forever grateful for the many gifts that Sister Karen shared with others, and we must make sure that her work continues, for it is people like Sister Karen who devote their lives, often at great peril, to assist those in society who so desperately need help, compassion and understanding," Bishop Kmiec said in a statement.

Immigration tangle: Family members have different legal status

Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - As the House and Senate try to meld different visions of immigration legislation, debate has focused on the employment needs of U.S. industries, the costs of controlling borders, fears about terrorists sneaking into the country and public perceptions about problems attributed to an immigrant influx.

What Congress has spent little time discussing is how current immigration laws affect people already living in the United States and how new laws could change their lives.

Among the legislative proposals on the table are those that would make it a felony to be in the United States illegally. It currently is a violation of civil statutes.

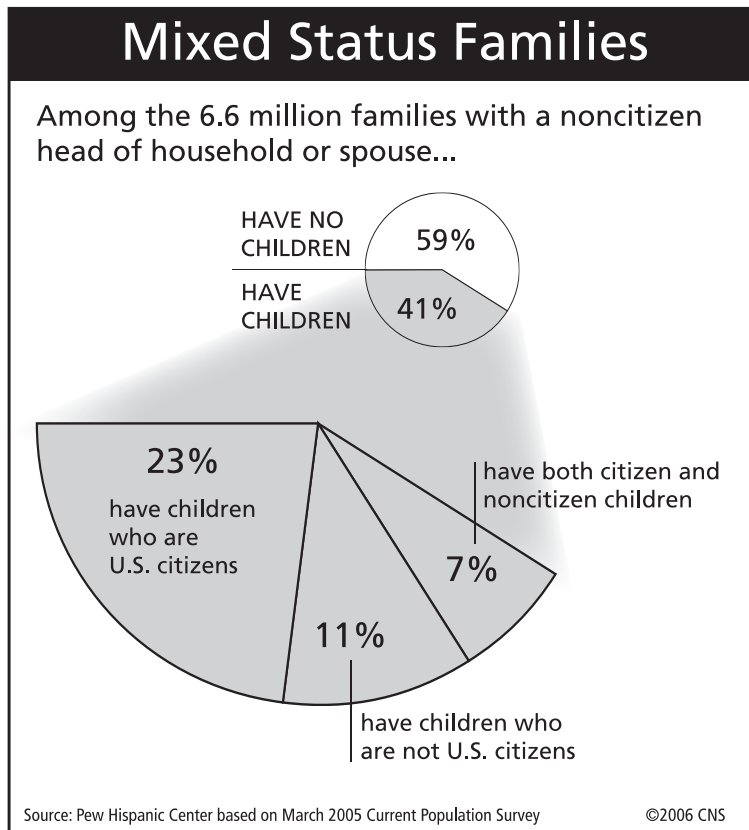
Current law requires anyone who wants to legalize his or her status to leave the United States and apply to enter the U.S. from their home countries, currently a yearslong process. People who have been in the United States illegally are barred from re-entering for up to 10 years, depending upon how long they have been here.

Some versions of proposed legislation would enable people who have been in the country for specified periods of time to register to legalize their status without first having to go to their homelands.

Here is one story of a family who is receiving assistance from a Catholic legal services agency that illustrates the complexities of current immigration law when family members have different legal status.

...

Isabel hit bottom in 1998 after her husband, Ibrahim, was arrested by immigration officers who came



to the door of their home in Washington looking for someone else. Though their circumstances have improved somewhat since then, the couple lives in fear that at any time someone from the government will come and take Ibrahim away so he can be deported.

A shy, quiet woman, Isabel asked that even though she is now a legal U.S. resident her family's real names not be used in this article to help protect her husband and their children, who are U.S. citizens.

At Isabel's low point, when immigration agents took her husband away, she and Ibrahim had two children, ages 2 years old and 4 days old. The agents came looking for an acquaintance of the couple who had used their address

on a government form. When they asked Ibrahim to provide proof of his own immigration status, he couldn't. He was arrested on a charge of allowing false use of his address.

Ibrahim was detained for 40 days, leaving Isabel alone to care for the children, without an income, uncertain of when, or if, Ibrahim would return, she told Catholic News Service in an interview in the office of her Catholic Charities attorney.

Eight years later, the couple is still trying to sort out Ibrahim's immigration status so that he can work legitimately and they can stop looking over their shoulders, they said. Their main concern is that he not be deported to Burkina Faso, his homeland. What is left of his

own family there has little to offer him in the way of support and the country is unknown to Isabel and their children, who now number four. They are 9, 7, and 5 years old and 4 months old.

Isabel came to the United States from Ivory Coast at the age of 17. She entered legally, under her uncle's diplomatic status, to help take care of his children and home. A few years later in 1991, after a dispute with her uncle, she left his household, only to learn that her passport had expired and that he hadn't kept her visa up to date. She had no means of support, no identification, no visa and spoke no English.

Her family in Ivory Coast was unable to help her financially. Returning there was not a viable option, she said, because of the ongoing civil war and little chance of finding employment.

With help from friends, Isabel was able to pull together a life under the radar of immigration authorities. She took classes to learn sewing and crocheting, did volunteer work and, after she and Ibrahim married in 1996, focused on caring for their children, two of whom had serious illnesses as infants.

Ibrahim arrived in the United States in the mid-1990s and for a while had legal status to work because he was applying for political asylum, she explained. After his asylum application was rejected, he was no longer eligible for the license necessary to work legally as a vendor on Washington's streets, the main job he had held.

Since then, Ibrahim has made a living in various ways that don't require proof of legal residency, she said. But he earns less than he did

when he ran his own business as a vendor, Isabel said.

Ibrahim and Isabel have been getting help from Immigration Legal Services of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington for several years. Their attorney, Caitlin Brazill, in 2000 tried to persuade the immigration service to defer Ibrahim's deportation order because their then-infant son was in precarious health.

The request was rejected, and Ibrahim was told to go to a government office on a certain date with his bags packed to go back to Africa. He didn't go. And ever since the family has been fearful that federal agents will show up any day with a deportation order and put him on a plane to Burkina Faso.

After years of worry about her own status, Isabel finally received her permanent legal residency visa, known as a green card, a few months ago. While that allows her to stay in the United States, if her husband is deported Isabel isn't prepared to either stay here without him or to pack up the family and go to Burkina Faso.

"I don't know that country," she said. "There's nobody there for us."

She worries that if they had to go to her home country, Ivory Coast, her 5-year-old son - who loves to read and wants to be a policeman - might be the target of armed gangs known to kidnap young Muslim boys and kill them or turn them into servants.

In fact, the risk of that happening helped persuade the immigration judge who granted her legal residency.

"The judge said, 'I can't send a young Muslim boy to where they kill Muslim boys,'" she said.

Pope asks Jesuits to focus on teaching, research, dialogue

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Invoking the Jesuits' special vow to fulfill missions assigned by the pope, Pope Benedict XVI asked the Society of Jesus to concentrate on teaching and research in theology and philosophy, dialogue with modern culture and the Christian education of future generations.

Pope Benedict met with hundreds of Jesuits and their collaborators April 22 in St. Peter's Basilica after a Mass honoring three of the first members of the order.

The Mass commemorated the 450th anniversary of the death of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the order's founder, and the 500th anniversary of the births of two of his first companions: St. Francis Xavier and Blessed Peter Faber.

Pope Benedict called the three "men of extraordinary holiness and exceptional apostolic zeal."

"Precisely because he was a man of God, St. Ignatius was a faithful servant of the church," the pope said. "From his desire to serve the church in the most useful and

efficient way, the vow of special obedience to the pope was born."

Pope Benedict asked the Jesuits to continue to be faithful to that vow so that "the urgent, current needs" of the church could be met.

Father Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, superior general of the more than 19,500-member order, thanked the pope for his affection and trust in the Society of Jesus.

He told the pope that it was right for the order to honor the three early Jesuits and "see them as enlightened and secure guides for

our spiritual journey and our apostolic activity even though the times and circumstances in which we live and work have changed radically."

Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, presided over the April 22 anniversary Mass.

Calling the three early Jesuits "great giants of holiness," he said they continue to be examples of how to follow Christ and bring others to him.

In his homily, Cardinal Sodano not only offered thanks for the

gifts and works of the Society of Jesus, but he also called on those present to seek forgiveness for the times they have failed to live up to their calling.

"Today we want to ask forgiveness for our infidelities," he said.

Human beings are inclined to sin, Cardinal Sodano said, and so each day they must pray for strength to be faithful, obedient and holy.

Diocesan website has new look, interactive features

For the first time since the Diocese of Tulsa established its Internet website in late 2001, www.dioceseoftulsa.org has undergone a major redesign that “gives the website a cleaner, better-enhanced look that makes it easier for our users to find what they need.”

Philip Creider also said the redesign will allow diocesan employees to make direct changes to all web pages associated with the main site. Mr. Creider, assets manager for the Diocese, helps maintain and manage the computers at the Chancery.

The departments present on the website are the Bishop's Office, Education Office (catechetical services and the Pastoral Studies Institute), Stewardship (Diocesan Development Fund and estate planning), Family Life Office, Catholic Charities, Catholic Schools, News (the Eastern Oklahoma Catholic, breaking news and web exclusives), the Vocations Office, Youth and Young Adult Office and Safe Environment Office (sexual abuse awareness and prevention program)

There also is a page on the Diocese itself, which includes general information, offices and services.

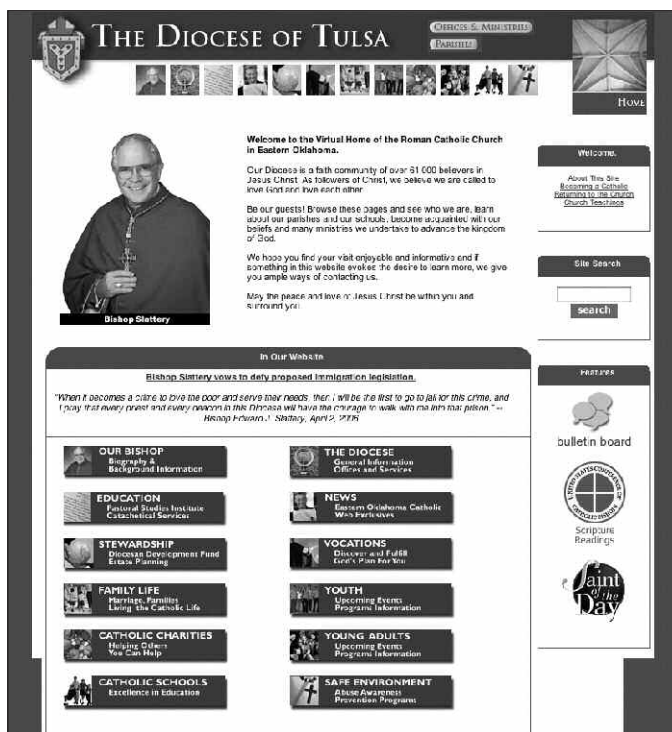
The Eastern Oklahoma Catholic publishes PDFs, or Portable Document Format files, of each newspaper on the website and recently began posting breaking news prior to the next publication date and will add extra features that are available only online.

“The site features a brighter, updated look and enhanced navigation layout,” said Charles Crolley, the computer consultant who worked on the redesign for several months with retired Chancellor Dr. Henry Harder.

“The website now features a bulletin board system where members may discuss topics of interest ranging from the Catholic faith to current and upcoming events,” Mr. Crolley said. “A simple – and free – online registration is required, and members may actively participate in the discussions or simply ‘lurk’ and read along.”

Mr. Crolley said the website, which went online April 17, will feature a search engine that will allow browsers to search for particular topics of interest using keywords.

“The website will always be a ‘work in progress,’ with Chancery



employees and volunteers actively contributing to each section,” he said. Some features still are under construction.

Mr. Crolley noted that the EOC usually is available the Friday before the official date of publication, which is “particularly useful for those who may be living or traveling out of town.”

Chancellor John Johnson said the website “has been an evolution.”

“We live in a culture that demands information, spurred by 24-hour news and talk radio, and have become what marketers call a ‘pull society.’” Whereas consumers once were told what to buy – “Use this soap, it will make your clothes whiter” – consumers now go to the Internet and research nearly everything for themselves.

“Our goal is to provide information to the people of the Diocese and to get the information to them in a timely manner,” Mr. Johnson said.

Gowns *Continued from page 1*

patterns to Mrs. Spanier, and the sewing guild was ready to begin.

Mrs. Spanier sent out one e-mail asking parishes to put a notice in their bulletin seeking volunteer seamstresses. “The Holy Spirit took over from there, and the response was overwhelming,” she said.

Women from at least six parishes in the Diocese have made several hundred gowns, caps, bonnets, blankets and burial pouches, for the tiniest infants, since last summer.

Mrs. Spanier coordinates the program with Toni Wersal, but she does not sew. “My job is to ‘ooh’ and ‘aah’ over them and put them in the gift boxes.”

Maggie Smith, perinatal bereavement coordinator at Saint Francis Hospital, attended the luncheon and told the group how much their ministry is needed and appreciated.

Between 70 and 100 babies are stillborn or die shortly after birth each year at Saint Francis. This number does not include babies lost through miscarriage before 14 weeks.

“No one is ever prepared for the death of a baby,” Mrs. Smith said. The families may have some clothing, but it is usually for a six- to eight-pound baby. Many of these babies are between one and three pounds.

Finding appropriate clothing for babies this small always was a challenge. “We want to be able to take a picture of the baby, and it is so important that we can dress them rather than just wrap them in a blanket,” Mrs. Smith said. The pictures mean so much to the families because they are all they have to remember their baby.

Families receive a box with two identical gowns; the baby is usually buried in one gown, and the family keeps the other. Mrs. Smith said the gowns become a part of that baby’s story. “The memories you are making for them are beautiful.”

“Families are always ‘blown away’ by the boxes they receive. In the midst of their grief, they cannot believe someone has taken the time to do this for them,” she said. “They always ask who made the

gowns and are so grateful to them.”

Knowing what to say to someone who has lost a baby can be difficult. Mrs. Smith encourages friends and family to offer a simple “I’m sorry.” This gives the mothers or fathers an opportunity to tell their story if they wish.

The women discussed patterns and fabrics and exchanged ideas following Mrs. Smith’s presentation.

The sewing guild is named in honor of St. Gianna Beretta Molla, who was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2004. St. Gianna was pregnant when she was diagnosed with a large uterine tumor. To protect the life of her unborn child, St. Gianna delayed treatment and died a week after her daughter was born in 1962.

The ministry is expanding, and soon St. John Hospital will receive the gown gift boxes as well. The group would like to include Hillcrest Hospital, but more seamstresses are needed. Anyone interested in participating should contact Mrs. Spanier at 749-4249.

Diocesan briefs

Neighbor for Neighbor fundraiser will be June 11

Chef Michael Fusco will prepare and donate the food for the third annual Dinner & Diagnosis fundraiser for Neighbor for Neighbor, a privately funded organization with Catholic roots.

The benefit, to be held at 5 p.m. June 11 at the Allen Chapman Activity Center at the University of Tulsa, will raise money for NFN’s medical and dental clinics that serve the needy of Tulsa. Mr. Fusco, of Flavors Restaurant, is a parishioner at Church of the Resurrection. Dinner tickets are \$30 each and are available by contacting Ruth Jaffe at 492-0442 or email bubberuth@aol.com.

Organizers also are seeking items for a silent auction that will be held in conjunction with the dinner. NFN is asking local corporations and community members to provide funding or to donate goods and services for the auction.

Potential donors are asked to call Mary Lou Harned at 494-6876 or email harnedml@att.net. Joanne Ardner, 252-1974, rjlandco@cox.net also is handling donations.

Philbrook exhibits pre-Raphaelites

“Waking Dreams: The Pre-Raphaelites from the Delaware Art Museum” is on exhibit at Philbrook Museum of Art through July 2. The artworks, consisting of 130 oil paintings, watercolors, drawings, ceramics, jewelry and furniture, depict biblical, literary and mythological characters.

The exhibit will present the largest collection of Pre-Raphaelites outside the United Kingdom, and the Tulsa appearance is the first time the works have traveled outside Wilmington, Del., in 100 years. They were acquired in the early 1900s. Artists include Dante Gabriel Rossetti, William Holman Hunt and John Everett Millais. The works are described as featuring “tantalizing women and princely men in vibrant, intense colors.”

Philbrook is located at 2727 S. Rockford Ave.

Stewardship Day cancelled

The Diocesan Stewardship Day scheduled for May 6 was cancelled because of a lack of registrations. Organizers hope the keynote speaker, Father Daniel J. Mahan, an Indiana parish priest who has become a specialist in stewardship and spirituality, still will come to the Diocese that day.

“We’ve already bought the ticket” for Father Mahan’s airplane trip, Bob Gisler, director of development and stewardship, said April 24. Diocesan staff members were trying to put together a less formal program that would allow people interested in stewardship to tap Father Mahan’s expertise.

For updated information, call 294-1904 ext. 129.



Divine Mercy Sunday

Randy Smith, left, Mike Hopper and Roy Callison, a candidate for the permanent diaconate, view an image of Divine Mercy at Holy Family Cathedral, where Mass was celebrated by Bishop Edward J. Slattery on April 23. The Mass marked the first time the commemoration featured many diaconate aspirants and candidates playing a major role. The two ordinary lectors were deacon candidates Mr. Callison and Tom Gorman; two aspirants, Peter Byrne and Gregory Stice, were altar servers. Diaconate aspirant Don Gies was an extraordinary Eucharistic minister, and Joseph Zdanowski helped Father Matt Gerlach coordinate the volunteers. On April 30, 2000, Pope John Paul II declared the second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday. (Photo by Joseph Zdanowski.)

Twelve attend vigil at prison

McALESTER - Twelve persons gathered outside the state penitentiary in McAlester April 18 as Richard Alford Thornburg, Jr., 40, was executed for the 1996 Grady County triple murders of James Donald Poteet, 51, Terry Lynn Shephard, 39, and Keith Alan Smith, 24.

He was the first person executed in Oklahoma in 2006 and the 80th to be killed since the state resumed executions in 1990, said Father Bryan Brooks, pastor of St. Joseph Church in Muskogee who has been active in prison ministry for several

years.

Mr. Thornburg and two accomplices committed the killings in the course of collecting a drug debt. After the last of his appeals was denied, he waived his right to a clemency hearing, Father Brooks said.

According to published reports, Mr. Thornburg used his final statement to apologize to the families of his victims. Five members of his family were witnesses to the execution, as were several members of the Poteet, Shephard and Smith families.



Waiting for the bell

Construction of St. Therese of the Child Jesus Catholic Mission is speeding along, and the steeple is on site, awaiting the arrival of a bell that will be shipped from Lebanon, Father Elias Abi-Sarkis said April 21. Workers also have erected the walls of the rectory for the pastor of the Maronite Catholics in Tulsa. The property is located at 8315 S. 107th East Ave.

Charities *Continued from page 1*

will pay for translators who will be on hand when the women go into labor and deliver their babies. The translators will be available around the clock.

The clinic also will spend \$25,000 to build an annex to the waiting room, which is so small that people routinely stand in line outside while waiting to be examined.

Madonna House, which provides housing and services to pregnant women and women with small children, will use its new money for financial help, medications, transportation, computer equipment (several residents are attending college) and medical and dental care.

Much to the astonishment of its organizers, the "Cooking Up Compassion" event Feb. 4 cleared \$544,000. The \$100-per-plate dinner and auction was the first such fundraiser Catholic Charities ever sponsored, and it is planned to be an annual event. Each year,

different ministries will be recipients of the money raised.

"Cooking Up Compassion" was a resounding success in every way," Deacon Sullivan said. "Now Catholic Charities can provide assistance that never would have been possible without the proceeds from the benefit dinner. We are so grateful to the generous people who sponsored tables and attended the event and to our incredible volunteers who put the event together from scratch."

One of those sponsors, Alan Staab, said the reason for the generous response was in honor of the people who work and volunteer to the various ministries.

"Catholic Charities is a wonderful model of Christian stewardship," said Mr. Staab, a parishioner of Christ the King Church. "Cooking Up Compassion" was a fantastic evening. It shows what can happen when our community focuses its time and talents."

Cooking up Compassion Allocation of Proceeds

Emergency Assistance	
(Main Location, Hispanic Center, Sallisaw)	
Food	135,000
Financial Assistance	80,000
Medication	31,000
Transportation	10,000
Client Education	6,000
Collection Bins	8,500
Women's Support Group	3,500
Equipment	10,000
New Rural EA Center	130,000
TOTAL	414,000

Xavier Clinic	
Translators for labor & delivery	75,000
Diabetes program	10,000
New Waiting Room	25,000
TOTAL	110,000

Madonna House	
Financial Assistance, Medications, Transportation	11,200
Computer Equipment	5,800
Resident Medical and Dental	3,000
TOTAL	20,000

GRAND TOTAL	\$544,000
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Bishop *Continued from page 3*

Immigration Reform's Title II concern me. Even though amendments were passed by the Judiciary Committee which would exempt Church workers and humanitarian aid workers from the criminal penalties contained in Title II when they provide basic assistance to undocumented workers, I am still troubled by the expansion of what "aggravated felony" means and question the use of indiscriminate, mandatory and indefinite detentions.

Ultimately, I am in agreement with the U.S. Catholic Bishops who support a comprehensive approach to immigration reform that would return sovereignty over our borders to the United States while allowing for controlled immigration. Like most Americans, I expect that we can manage a system which is humane, secure and reflective of the values upon which this nation was built.

Tim Sullivan Family Life Director

Masons' long, intriguing history shrouded in secrecy, mystery

If you are interested in pursuing conspiracy theories that involve the Catholic Church and want something even more interesting and more historically accurate than "The Da Vinci Code," I encourage you to check out the Masons.



A few years ago, I was returning to Tulsa with a friend named Chad from the diocesan summer camp at Robbers Cave State Park near Wilburton. As we approached McAlester late at night, Chad pointed out a huge, illuminated building at the highest point in downtown McAlester. We decided to check it out.

The building was on the west end of a row of churches on the north edge of the downtown area. We were struck by the size of the building, which took up an entire city block, with giant pillars on both the east and west ends of the building. It was the Masonic temple. At the very top of the temple, there was a glowing, multi-colored ball. The whole scene created a spooky, sinister sensation.

The Masons were part of the plot in the recent movie, "National Treasure," although the details about the Masons presented in the movie were almost entirely fictional. The truth about the Masons is even more fascinating than the movie.

While the origin of the Masons is not clear, they are an international secret society that began in the late 17th or early 18th century. They have their own rites, with altars, prayers and special funeral ceremonies. Their highest loyalty, even above their loyalty to a supreme being and to their own families, is to their fellow Masons.

The Masons are extremely powerful and influential. In our

own country, for example, Ronald Reagan was the 16th Mason to be elected president of the United States. At the time, 60 members of the House of Representatives were Masons, as were 18 senators and 41 federal judges. Washington, Jefferson, Sam Adams: all Masons. I'm not sure if Bill Clinton was a Mason, but he was a member of the Order of DeMolay, their youth division.

In a recent trip to Washington, D. C., I discovered that the mural on the inside of the dome of the Capitol is called "The Apotheosis of George Washington." Apotheosis means divinization.

The United States was founded largely by Masons. They instigated the Boston Tea Party. The Declaration of Independence was written on a white lambskin, a Mason's apron, as they call it in their rituals. The Statue of Liberty: a gift from the Masons.

Our nation's capital was designed by a Mason. If you look at a street map of Washington, D.C., you will notice that the two streets leading northwest and southwest from the Capitol building make a compass, which is a Masonic symbol. One leads to the White House, the other to the Jefferson Memorial. The streets around the Capitol form the image of a goat head, which is both a Masonic and a satanic symbol.

If you draw a line due north from the Jefferson Memorial to the White House and continue 13 blocks in the same direction, you will intersect the Masonic Temple. On top of the White House is an inverted five-pointed star, or pentagram, which is one of the highest-level images of witchcraft and Satanism. In Oklahoma, some Masons have special license plates bearing a pentagram and the words "Order of the Eastern Star."

The original White House was dedicated by the Masons in

1792. When President Truman, himself a Mason, made structural changes to the White House, 102 stones were discovered in the White House which had the marks of Freemasonry. President Truman ordered that these stones be distributed and preserved in the Masonic lodges of the nation, and so they were.

While the beliefs and practices of the Masons are shrouded in secrecy and mystery, they have clearly played a significant role in the secularization of modern life. A current book by Cesar Vidal, a Spaniard, chronicles the influence of the Masons in framing the anti-religious European Constitution, now under consideration by the countries of Europe.

While the Masons pay lip-service to Christianity, at least in some countries, they accommodate all religions, including pagan ones. Their images and practices indicate that they exalt the human mind over the Judeo-Christian understanding of God. The Masons have been arch-enemies of the Catholic Church.

In two encyclicals, Pope Leo XIII warned Catholics not to be taken in by the Masonic movement, to which he attributed many of the influences that have harmed marriage and family life. The official teaching of the Catholic Church today on the Masons is that joining them remains prohibited by the Church. Catholics involved in Masonic associations, which include the Shriners, are involved in serious sin and may not approach Holy Communion.

Our closing verse is from Isaiah 29: "Woe to those who would hide their plans too deep for the Lord, who work in the dark, saying 'Who sees us, or who knows us?'"

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

CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL – Marquette Catholic School, serving approximately 400 students in pre-K through eighth grade, is seeking a principal for the 2006-07 school year. Marquette, the parish school of Christ the King Church in mid-town Tulsa, is seeking 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; catholic.schools.office@dioceseoftulsa.org.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER – Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic School is seeking a certified third-fifth grade teacher for the 2006-07 school year. Interested candidates should contact the school principal, Patrick Martin, at 836-2165.

YOUTH MINISTER/DRE – Church of the Madalene, a parish of 900-plus families in mid-town Tulsa, is seeking a full-time youth minister/director of religious education. The responsibilities of this newly established position will include directing catechetical/sacramental formation (pre-K through grade six), coordination of youth ministry (grades six-12), and implementation of community service, social and spiritual events for students. Applicants should submit resume to rcia2001@aol.com (attention Youth Formation Search Committee), or mail to Youth Formation Search Committee, 3188 E.

22nd St., Tulsa, OK 74114-1822. Deadline for applications is April 30.

DIRECTOR OF NURSING – St. Joseph Residence, a 15-bed residential facility for individuals living with HIV and AIDS, is seeking a compassionate licensed practical nurse or registered nurse to be director of nursing. Candidates must be able to handle the emotional, medical and spiritual issues of patients with a strong, caring heart. Experience in residential care a plus. Mail resume to St. Joseph Residence, attention Joan Hayes, P.O. Box 6429, Tulsa, OK, 74148. Resumes also can be sent to jhayes@stjosephresidence.org or faxed to 587-3650.

TEACHER ASSISTANT and AFTER-CARE DIRECTOR – Marquette School's Early Childhood Development Center is accepting applications for the following positions: part-time teacher assistant, after-care director and after-care teacher. Applicants must be energetic, positive and loving and have experience working with young children. Contact Debbi Fritz, 583-3334.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS – St. Joseph School in Muskogee is seeking an experienced early childhood certified teacher for a half-day, five days a week program for 3 year olds and a full-time elementary school teacher. This is a unique ground-floor opportunity to teach in a supportive Christian environment with an innovative new curriculum that

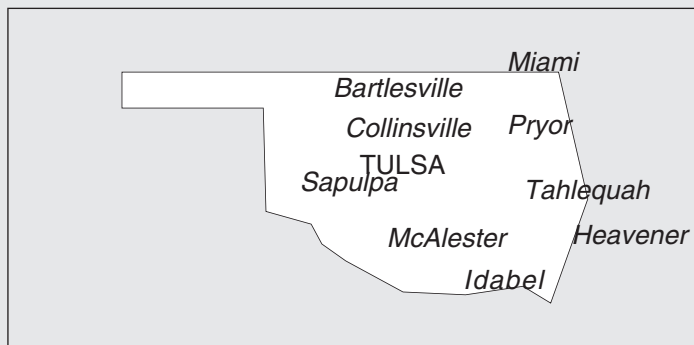
meets current state guidelines. Contact the school office, (918) 683-1291, or come by the office at 323 N. Virginia.

PHOTOGRAPHY ASSISTANTS – St. Benedict parishioner and owner of a photography company is seeking assistants for busy spring season. Will train. Must be able to work Saturdays and some weeknights. Shoots at various locations around Tulsa. Reliable transportation required. Good pay for part-time work. Background check will be done. Contact Michelle Hartman, 252-3394, or email, mindyhartman@aol.com

SALES REPRESENTATIVE – Christian-based company in the conferencing industry is expanding and seeking a sales representative. The ideal candidate will have great communication skills, a positive attitude and be results-oriented. Fax resume and cover letter to 866-219-3853 or email to joshpeak@cox.net.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY – Fun, supportive, entrepreneurial women looking for other women with the same mindset to become part of an exciting team in the health and wellness field. If you enjoy people, have a positive attitude, and like to work with women who will provide a world of support both personally and professionally, then this opportunity may be for you. Contact Christ the King parishioner Michelle Taubman, 260-1042.

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.

Problemas de inmigración: Miembros de la familia tienen diferente estatus legal

Servicio Católico de noticias

WASHINGTON (CNS) Mientras que la Casa y el Senado tratan de unificar diferentes visiones de la legislación de inmigración, el debate se ha centrado sobre las necesidades del empleo de las industrias de los Estados Unidos, de los costos del control de las fronteras, de los temores sobre los terroristas que se escabullen en el país y de las opiniones públicas sobre los problemas atribuidos a una afluencia inmigrante.

Lo que el Congreso ha estado discutiendo en este corto tiempo es en cómo las leyes actuales de la inmigración afectan a la gente que vive ya en los Estados Unidos y cómo las nuevas leyes podrían cambiar sus vidas.

Entre las legislaciones propuestas sobre la mesa están esas que harían un crimen el estar en los Estados Unidos ilegalmente. Ésto es actualmente una violación de los estatutos civiles.

La ley actual requiere a cualquier persona que desee legalizar su situación salir de los Estados Unidos y aplicar para entrar a los Estados Unidos desde su país de origen, actualmente un proceso que requiere algunos años. La gente que ha estado en los Estados Unidos ilegalmente se les prohíbe re-entrar al país por un período de hasta 10 años, dependiendo sobre cuánto tiempo han permanecido aquí.

Algunas versiones de la legislación propuesta permitirían a la gente que ha estado en el país por períodos específicos de tiempo aplicar para legalizar su situación actual sin tener que ir a sus países de origen.

A continuación está la historia de una familia que está recibiendo ayuda de una agencia católica de servicios jurídicos que ilustra las complejidades de la ley actual de la inmigración cuando los miembros de la familia tienen diversos estatus legales.

•••

Isabel tocó fondo en 1998 después de que su marido, Ibrahim, fue arrestado por los oficiales de la inmigración quienes llegaron a la puerta de su hogar en Washington buscando a alguien más. Aunque sus circunstancias han mejorado algo desde entonces, los esposos viven con el miedo de que en cualquier momento alguien del gobierno vendrá y se llevará a Ibrahim lejos de allí para que pueda ser deportado.

Cuando Isabel vivió esta pesadilla, el día en que los agentes de la inmigración se llevaron a su marido, ella e Ibrahim tenían dos niños, uno de 2 años y el Segundo 4 días de nacido.

Los agentes llegaron buscando a un conocido de la pareja quien había utilizado esa dirección en una forma del gobierno. Cuando los agentes le pidieron a Ibrahim proporcionar pruebas de su estado migratorio, él no pudo hacerlo. Lo arrestaron con un cargo delectivo por el permitir el uso falso de un domicilio.

Ibrahim fue detenido por 40 días, dejando a Isabel sola y sin ningún algún sostenimiento económico y con la incertidumbre de cuándo, o si, Ibrahim volvería.

Ocho años más tarde, la pareja todavía está intentando solucionar el estatus migratorio de Ibrahim para que él pueda trabajar legítimamente y así vivir tranquilos, comentaron. Su preocupación principal es el que él no sea deportado a Burkina Faso, su patria. La familia que se quedó en su país tiene poco que ofrecerle para sostener a la familia y país es desconocido para Isabel y sus niños, quienes ahora numeran cuatro. Ellos tiene 9, 7, y 5 años y 4 meses de edad.

Isabel vino a los Estados Unidos de Costa de Marfil a la edad de 17. Ella entró legalmente con la ayuda del estatus diplomático de su tío y ayudarlo en el cuidado de los niños y de la casa. Algunos años más tarde en 1991, después de un conflicto con su tío, ella se fue de la casa, sólo para dares cuenta de que había expirado su pasaporte y que él no había mantenido su visa actualizada. Ella no tenía ninguna ayuda financiera, ninguna identificación, no tenía visa y no hablaba inglés.

Su familia, en Costa de Marfil, no podía ayudarlo económicamente. El volver a su país no era una opción viable, ella dijo, debido a la guerra civil en curso y a la poca opción de encontrar un trabajo.

Con ayuda de sus amigos, Isabel pudo continuar su vida con el peligro de ser encontrada por las autoridades migratorias. Ella tomó clases de costura y tejido, hizo trabajo voluntario y, después de que ella se casó con Ibrahim en 1996, se dedicó al cuidado de sus hijos.

Ibrahim llegó a los Estados Unidos a mediados de los 90s y por un tiempo tuvo estatus legal y permiso para trabajar porque estaba solicitando asilo político, ella explicó. Después de que su aplicación por

asilo fue rechazado, él ya no fue elegible del permiso necesario para trabajar legalmente como vendedor en las calles de Washington.

Desde entonces, Ibrahim se ha ganado la vida de varias maneras que no requieran el comprobar la residencia legal, ella agregó. Pero él gana menos de lo que él ganaba cuando él tenía su propio negocio como vendedor, Isabel dijo.

Por varios años, Ibrahim e Isabel han estado recibiendo ayuda de los Servicios Jurídicos de Inmigración de Caridades Católicas de la arquidiócesis de Washington. Su abogado, Caitlin Brazill, en el año 2000 intentó persuadir al servicio de inmigración el retrasar la orden de deportación de Ibrahim porque su hijo, entonces un infante, se encontraba en salud precaria.

La petición fue rechazada, y le dijeron a Ibrahim que se presentara en cierta fecha en una oficina del gobierno con sus pertenencias empacadas para regresarse a África. Él no se presentó. Y desde entonces la familia ha estado temerosa de que los agentes federales se presenten cualquier día con una orden de deportación y pongan a Ibrahim en un avión de regreso a Burkina Faso.

Después de años de preocupación sobre su propio estado legal, Isabel finalmente recibió su residencia legal permanente, conocida como permiso de trabajo, hace algunos meses. Mientras que eso le permite permanecer en los Estados Unidos, si deportan a su marido Isabel no está preparada para estar aquí sin él o tomar a toda la familia e irse a Burkina Faso.

"No conozco ese país," comentó. "No hay nadie quien nos espere." Ella se preocupa de que si se tuvieran que ir a su país de origen, Costa de Marfil, su hijo de 5 años de edad—quien disfruta la lectura y le gustaría ser policía—puede ser blanco de grupos armados conocidos por secuestrar a jóvenes musulmanes y matarlos o esclavizarlos como sirvientes.

De hecho, el riesgo de que eso sucedería le ayudó para persuadir al juez de inmigración para que le concediera su residencia legal.

"El juez dijo, 'no puedo enviarle a un muchacho musulmán joven a donde matan a jóvenes musulmanes,'" finalizó.

Traducción por Padre David Medina, director del Apostolado Hispano

Parishes, schools to offer summer youth activities

Even after school's out for the summer, many parishes and schools in the Diocese are still busy with a variety of activities for young people. The following summer programs, ranging from Vacation Bible School to sports camps, will be offered. Details could change prior to the scheduled activity, so interested parties are encouraged to call to confirm information.

Vacation Bible School

Church of St. Benedict, Broken Arrow

Dates: June 12-16
Theme: "Gospel Express"
Ages: entering pre-K3 through fourth grade
Time: 9 a.m.-noon
Cost: \$10; discount for multiple students
Contact: Carol Bryan, 455-4451

Church of St. Mary

Dates: July 10-14
Theme: "Son Treasure Island," with a faith-in-action program for middle school
Ages: entering pre-school through eighth grade
Time: 9 a.m.-noon
Cost: \$25/student; \$40/family
Contact: Linda Schoonover, 749-2561, ext. 123

Holy Family Cathedral

Dates: June 12-16
Theme: "Bless my Soul"
Ages: entering K through fifth grade
Cost: \$30; discount for multiple students
Contact: Monika Davis, 582-6247

St. Anne, Broken Arrow

Dates: June 19-23
Theme: "Son Treasure Island"
Ages: entering pre-school through sixth grade
Time: 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; ends at 2 p.m. on Friday
Cost: Free to registered parishioners; \$25/child for non-parishioners
Contact: Joanne Beach, 251-5414

St. Bernard

Dates: June 19-23
Theme: "Fiesta"
Ages: entering pre-K4 through sixth grade
Time: 9:30 a.m.-noon
Cost: \$15/student; discount for multiple students
Contact: Sharon Lectenber, 299-9406



A Totus Tuus speaker receives the full attention of his charges during last summer's program at St. Benedict Church in Broken Arrow.

St. Henry, Owasso

Dates: July 10-14
Theme: "Son Treasure Island"
Ages: entering first through fifth grade
Time: 9-11:30 a.m.; preregistration required
Contact: Elizabeth Gagner, 272-6584

St. Thomas More

Dates: July 10-14
Theme: "Fiesta"
Ages: entering K through eighth grade
Time: 6:30-9 p.m.
Cost: \$5/student
Contact: Becky Bryant, 437-0168

Totus Tuus

Totus Tuus is a Catholic summer vacation Bible school. Totus Tuus, or "Totally Yours," is adopted from the late Pope John Paul II's papal motto. Teams of college students and seminarians visit host parishes where they spend a week teaching, evangelizing, mentoring and ministering to young people. Students entering grades 1-8 meet from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. Students entering grades 9-12 meet from 7:30-9:40 p.m., Sunday through Thursday. This year's curriculum is based on the Luminous Mysteries of the rosary and the Apostles Creed. Contact individual parishes for more information about fees, registration and volunteer opportunities.

* indicates host site

June 4-9

*Church of St. Benedict, Broken Arrow; St. Anne, Broken Arrow; St. Thomas More; St. Vincent de Paul, Coweta
Contact: Carol Bryan, 918-455-4451

June 11-16

Church of the Madalene
Contact: Becky Holder, 918-270-4147

St. Brigid, Tahlequah
Contact: Patsy Clifford, 918-458-9406

*St. Francis Xavier, Stillwater; St. John, Stillwater
Contact: Bob Wilson, 405-372-7987
Sacred Heart, Sapulpa
Contact: Raelyn McDonald, 918-224-0944

*St. Joseph, Krebs; St. Paul, Eufaula; Holy Rosary, Hartshorne
Contact: Millie Cortassa, 918-423-0050

June 18-23

*Holy Ghost Church, Vinita; St. Elizabeth, Grove
Contact: Sister Mary Grace Sieben, 918-256-2281
Sacred Heart, Skiatook
Contact: Evon Kaze, 918-288-6318

June 25-30

St. Clement, Bixby
Contact: Cheryl Bruner, 918-482-5912

July 9-14

*Sacred Heart, Miami; St. Ann, Welch
Contact: Karen Painter, 918-542-5898
St. John, McAlester

Contact: Laura Stizza, 918-423-2192

St. Mark, Pryor
Contact: Paula Kennedy, 918-825-4562

*St. Monica; St. Augustine
Contact: Anne Hurd, 918-425-3867
St. Therese, Collinsville
Contact: Kelly Cassidy, 918-371-2704

July 16-21

*St. Anthony and Uganda Martyrs, Okmulgee
Contact: Freida Biddle, 918-756-1792

*St. Patrick, Sand Springs; Our Lady of the Lake, Mannford
Contact: Sister Eugenia Brown, 918-746-4211

*Sts. Peter and Paul, Cushing; St. Mary, Drumwright
Contact: Alice Patterson, 918-225-0659

*St. Francis Xavier, Sallisaw; Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, Roland; St. Joseph, Webbers Falls; St. John the Evangelist, Cookson
Contact: Chris Capehart, 918-775-5942

July 23-28

*St. John, Bartlesville; St. James, Bartlesville; Our Lady of Guadalupe, Dewey; St. Catherine, Nowata
Contact: Dorlene Martin, 918-336-4353

Diocesan camps

Contact: Youth and Young Adult Ministry, 294-1904
"Equipping our Faith - Living Sacramental Life" at Robbers

Cave State Park in Willburton
Session I: June 19-24 (students entering grades 6-8)

Cost: \$175; applications due May 15
Session II: June 26-July 1 (students entering grades 9-11)

Cost: \$175; applications due May 15
Discipleship/Leadership Camp at Camp Loughridge in Tulsa

July 24-28 (ages 16-19)
Cost: \$175; applications due May 15

Day camp

Sts. Peter and Paul will offer "In the Sunshine of His Love" for graduated three-year-old preschoolers through graduated third grade (older siblings are permitted) beginning May 30 and continuing until August 11. Lunch and snacks are provided. Weekly tuition is \$85 for one child and \$155 for two children. Come as early as 7:30 a.m. and stay as late as 5:30 p.m. Contact Rhonda Yates, 836-3114.

Writing camp

St. Joseph School in Muskogee will offer the "Survivor Writing Camp" from 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 12-16. Students will enjoy a variety of mental and physical challenges each day, along with writing poetry, stories and plays. Campers should bring a sack lunch. Tuition is \$75, and all materials are included. Registration deadline is May 19. For information, contact instructor Sandra Brewer, Oklahoma Writing Project consultant, at 918-683-2173.

Sports camps

Bishop Kelley High School is offering baseball, basketball, cheerleading, dance, soccer, softball and volleyball camps this summer. For information and registration forms, visit www.bkelleyhs.org.

Cascia Hall is offering tennis, strength and conditioning, basketball, football, cheerleading, wrestling, soccer, volleyball and softball camps. For information and registration forms, visit www.casciahall.org.

Ropes challenge course

The ropes challenge course at Sts. Peter and Paul will be open all summer to provide a great adventure for large and small groups. Sessions last from four to six hours, depending on size of group. Cost is \$15 per participant. Contact Patrick Martin, 836-2165.

Speaker says Pope Benedict seeks liturgical renewal

By JEANNE KRAWCZYK

On the one-year anniversary of Pope Benedict XVI's election to the papacy, Father Joseph Fessio spoke of his feelings when he heard the news. "His election was a great joy for me because I already knew what a great man he was."

Father Fessio, guest speaker at the annual St. Philip Neri Society Dinner April 19, is the provost of Ave Maria University and founder and editor-in-chief of Ignatius Press. His 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 has continued through the years, and Father Fessio meets with the pope once a year.

"I was famous for about two weeks last year because of my relationship with Joseph Ratzinger," he said. "The secular media is always looking for a change – good or bad. So when they interviewed me, they wanted to know what changes we could expect from the new pope."

"But Pope Benedict understands that radical and dramatic change is unsettling. I think any changes he may have in mind would be implemented slowly."

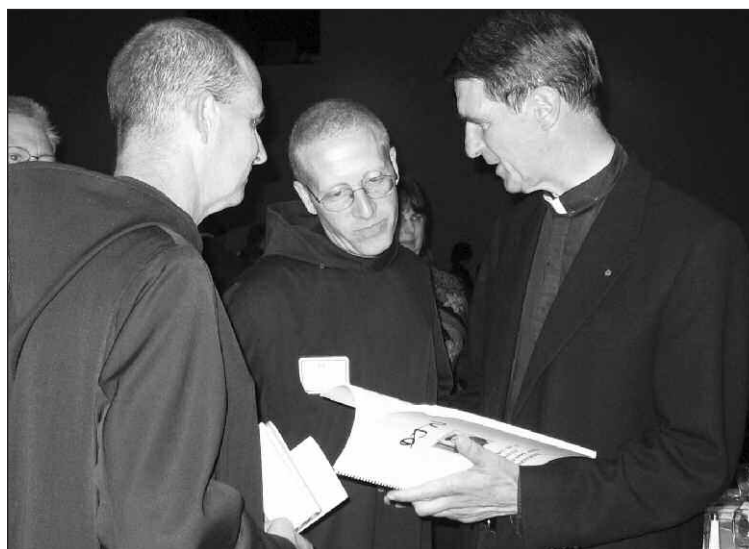
Before introducing Father Fessio, Father Stuart Crevcoure, chaplain of the Newman Center, told the audience his students have completed more than 1,700 hours of community service this past year.

Three TU students who are active at the Newman Center spoke briefly about their experiences. Their common message was that the Newman Center is their "home away from home," a place where they can develop and nurture their spiritual lives.

Father Fessio said he was impressed.

"The seeds of the future are growing in places like the Newman Center in Tulsa and at Ave Maria University in Naples," he said.

He began his remarks about Pope Benedict by pointing out a significant difference between this pope and his predecessor. "When John Paul II became pope, he was not well known. When Benedict



Father Philip Anderson, prior of Our Lady of Clear Creek Monastery, and Father Mark Bachmann talk with Father Joseph Fessio after his presentation.

became pope, his legacy preceded him. There were 23 titles in print by Cardinal Ratzinger prior to his election."

Father Fessio related a story about Pope Benedict's first Church experience. "Joseph Ratzinger was born about 4 a.m. on Holy Saturday morning. In those days, the Easter Vigil service was held in the morning. So four hours after his

birth, his Bavarian mother brought him to the Easter vigil to be baptized."

Over time, the future pope's love for the Church grew out of his love for the liturgy. And it is the liturgy that will be the focal point of Benedict's papacy, Father Fessio said.

On April 20, 2005, the day after his election, Pope Benedict outlined

his plans. In that address, the pope called for an "authoritative rereading of the Second Vatican Council."

"As the years have passed, the Conciliar Documents have lost none of their timeliness; indeed, their teachings are proving particularly relevant to the new situation of the Church and the current globalized society," Pope Benedict said in his address. Father Fessio said it is clear by the pope's statements that the work of Vatican II will be the focal point of a liturgical renewal for years to come.

However, he said, there have been two contrasting interpretations of Vatican II, and some liturgical changes that took place immediately after the council reflect a basic misunderstanding of the nature of the conciliar documents.

The crisis within the Church today is largely due to a disintegration of the liturgy, Father Fessio said. "The Spirit of Liturgy," written by then-Cardinal Ratzinger and published in 2000, may be viewed as a roadmap for the future of this papacy.

Diocesan library gets spring makeover

Catholics seeking books and information at the Diocese of Tulsa's library will have a much better chance of finding what they are looking for now that everything has been cataloged and entered into a computer system.

The Diocesan library was originally located at the Chancery office downtown. When the Chancery offices moved from the Holy Family School Building in 1996, the books were combined with the existing library at Church of the Madalene.

Monica Skrzypczak, director of religious formation, said the parish was a logical place for the library, because it was convenient for students taking courses through the Pastoral Studies Institute. Most PSI classes are held at Madalene.

The collection continued to grow. Many priests donated books, and Bishop Edward J. Slattery has donated books from his own collection.

For many years, library visitors had to look at every shelf - and sometimes in boxes - to try to find the books they were looking for. About five years ago, Renee Bolte began cataloging each book and assigning it a Library of Congress call number. Each book also needed a sticker and a pocket to hold the check-out card.

She cataloged more than 75,000 books. "I was amazed by the number of



Mary Malcom, left, and Sarah Jameson, administrative assistants in the Department of Religious Formation, sort through some of the thousands of books that comprise the Diocesan library at Church of the Madalene, 3188 E. 22nd St.

donations and how generous people are. Every time I thought I was almost finished, someone would donate another two or three boxes of books."

Once the books were cataloged, they were removed from the shelves and sorted according to their type. Mary Malcom and Sarah Jameson, who assist with religious education programs in the Diocese, spent more than a week reshelving all the books

with Miss Skrzypczak.

The new system will make it much easier to locate and check out books and videos.

Three other components of the Diocesan library system are housed at the Chancery office, 12300 E. 91st South in Broken Arrow. These are the Diocesan Archives, Diocesan Audio/Visual Library and the Pastoral Studies Institute Library.

Cascia Hall celebrates 80th anniversary

Cascia Hall rolled out the red carpet to celebrate the school's 80th anniversary at its annual fundraiser April 22. The theme for this year's event was "Give My Regards to Cascia," and all proceeds will benefit the new performing arts center.

The center is still under construction, but guests were given a tour of the 34,000 square-foot facility, which will include an auditorium and five classrooms. The center is scheduled to be completed by August.

"The new PAC will serve as a meeting place to bring people together for the benefit of our Cascia community. We are excited to showcase the talents of our students involved in the school's fine and performing arts activities," said Father Bernard Scianna, Cascia's headmaster.

Tish Stuart, head of Cascia's development office, said \$7.5 million has been raised toward the overall goal of \$10 million. "The community's generosity has been impressive. We can't even begin to express our gratitude to the many individuals, families and businesses that have shown their support."

Two other special events marked the school's anniversary. Cascia Hall alumni gathered April 21 for a reception at F&M Bank on Harvard Avenue. A communion breakfast was held April 23 with Mass in the school's St. Rita Chapel followed by breakfast in the cafeteria.

Students' artwork displayed at Gilcrease Museum

For the past two months, visitors to the Gilcrease Museum have been able to view the works of budding artists from area Catholic schools at the annual Diocesan art show.

The art display, which has been a tradition for more than 14 years, is divided into two separate shows. One displays works from elementary school students, and the other features artwork from middle- and high school students.

In the early years of the show, different schools would host. Artwork has been displayed at Holy Family Cathedral School and Marquette School and at Philbrook Museum.

Bobbie Whaling, art teacher at St. Mary's School, has been coordinating the art show for the past few years. "I started working on it, and the other teachers thought I was doing such a good job they asked me to keep doing it," Mrs. Whaling said. She works with Deborah Burke at Gilcrease, where the art work has been displayed for



"Burger with Everything," created by St. Mary's eighth-grader Julianne Pelger, is on display at Gilcrease Museum during the annual Catholic schools' Diocesan art show.

the past five years.

At the opening of each show, there is a reception for all the

artists and their families. "The students and their parents are excited to see their artwork

displayed and matted professionally in such a prestigious museum," Mrs. Whaling said.

All Catholic schools in the Diocese are invited to participate, and usually about seven or eight will submit artwork. This year's middle- and high school display featured work by students at All Saints, Bishop Kelley, Holy Family, Marquette, Monte Cassino, St. Catherine, St. Mary, Sts. Peter and Paul and St. Pius.

Each show can only accommodate up to 60 pieces, so the art teachers at each school must select a limited number of pieces to submit.

Sometimes the museum requests specific types of art or will have a theme for the show.

The show for middle- and high-school students opened April 4 and was to continue until April 30. A separate show featuring artwork from the elementary school students was displayed from March 7 through April 2.

Education news briefs



Fun run planned

St. Joseph School in Muskogee will host its second annual 5K and 1K Fun Run at 7 p.m. May 5 at Honor Heights Park. The course takes runners on a challenging and scenic trek through the park.

The run uses standard age brackets and is sanctioned by USA Track and Field. In addition to awards for the top finishers in each bracket, there will be awards for the top three teachers and medals for the top finishers in the 1K for students in pre-K through fifth grade.

"We wanted to plan a spring fundraiser that would involve everyone in the family, promote healthy habits, and draw in the general public. A 5K run is nothing new, but most of our school community had never been to one, so it was new for us. We were amazed and energized by the enthusiasm of the kids last year, and many have continued to participate," said Catherine Jorgenson, event coordinator.

After the race, all registered runners and walkers can enjoy free hamburgers and live music by Eddie Linehart, a St. Joseph parishioner. The \$20 registration fee includes a T-shirt. To register for the race, visit the school website at www.saintjosephsok.org.

Quest retreat rescheduled

St. Therese Church in Collinsville has rescheduled a Quest retreat for ninth- and 10th-grade students. The retreat planned for April 7-8 has been rescheduled to May 19-20. Quest allows students to explore who they are and how Christ fits in their lives. Participants will be encouraged to examine the choices they make regarding their identity, friendships, chastity, family and faith.

Volunteers bring prayers, concern to funerals of Louisville's poor

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (CNS) - Bordered by black hills of sludge, railroad tracks and a power station, River Valley Cemetery sets a dismal scene for the burials of Louisville's poorest citizens.

Only a handful of permanent headstones stand in the dirt-pocked grass field. Many of the ground-level grave markers - only inches long and made of metal and plastic - have been mangled and moved by mowing equipment.

The scene was worse a couple of years ago when indigent men, women and children were laid to rest in particleboard caskets without a witness or word of prayer.

The particleboard boxes are still used - and they still collapse when the backhoe piles on damp earth - but now, thanks to the Jefferson County Coroner's office and volunteers from Epiphany Catholic Church in Louisville, each burial includes at least one witness, a bouquet of flowers and a prayer.

And students from St. Xavier High School are poised to brighten the scene further, volunteering as pallbearers for the 100 or so 15-minute paupers' funerals held at River Valley each year. (Some private burials are held there, too.)

Dr. Ron Holmes, the Jefferson County coroner, met with a handful



Students from St. Xavier High School right a cross in Louisville's cemetery for the poor.

of St. Xavier students at the cemetery recently to show them what to expect during a funeral, including where they would place the casket and how the casket should be moved to the burial site.

Dr. Holmes, a member of Epiphany, pointed out a small, dark green shelter where the casket sits during the brief funeral. A large white sign with faded red letters delineates the rules, including one that limits the use of the shelter by

grieving families to 15 minutes.

"To us, this is not acceptable," Dr. Holmes told the students, pointing out muddy plots and misplaced grave markers. "Spend some time walking around (the cemetery). You'll see some heartbreaking markers."

As they walked, juniors Chip Condon, Cory Kress and Rex Soriano encountered a marker that had fallen down. After one failed attempt to right the fallen wooden

cross, they managed to keep it standing.

Headstones are an important part of the cemetery ministry for Dr. Holmes. His office has raised funds to pay for permanent stones for about 250 graves. Epiphany also has donated more than \$6,000.

Headstones cost about \$200 each, and so far Dr. Holmes has installed about 200. Stones for the cemetery's 59 children's graves and another 50 adult graves are expected to be installed by June.

In addition, Dr. Holmes' office is working to erect a better shelter, plant grass seed and keep the area trimmed. All of these efforts are about human dignity, he said.

"These people have had a life; they had families; certainly they had parents," he told The Record, newspaper of the Louisville Archdiocese. "No one needs to go out (of the world) alone like that. I believe in God, an afterlife and these people deserve some kind of send-off from us who are still here."

"I think the kids (from St. Xavier) are going to get more out of it than they think," he said. "It's a neat feeling after (a funeral). You feel warm, and you feel like you were a part of their life - that you're worthwhile. You did something for somebody that no one else would do."

Partnership of John Ford, John Wayne featured on PBS

JOHN FORD/JOHN WAYNE: THE FILMMAKER AND THE LEGEND

By HARRY FORBES
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) - The great American film director John Ford (born Feeney) was raised in Portland, Maine, in a typical Irish Catholic family. His collaboration with the ultimate he-man John Wayne (born Marion Morrison) would result in some of the most iconic films in Hollywood history.

The story of that partnership, bountifully illustrated with choice film clips from such masterworks as "The Searchers," "Fort Apache," "The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance" and "They Were Expendable," is absorbingly told in "John Ford/John Wayne: The Filmmaker and the Legend," airing on PBS' "American Masters" series on Wednesday, May 10, 8-9:30 p.m. CDT (check local listings).

Narrated by director (and sometime actor) Sydney Pollack, the show features interviews with directors Martin Scorsese and Mark Rydell, Patrick Wayne (the star's son), Dan Ford (grandson to the director), Harry Carey Jr. and actress Pippa Scott, along with vintage interview clips of the men themselves. Filmmaker Sam Pollard's documentary cogently proves its thesis that this complex relationship led to a durable body of work - 14 films in all - that influenced generations of Americans.

Ford's biographer, Joseph McBride, observes that "John Wayne was to Ford what David was to Michelangelo. He was the ideal man, the masculine ideal."

Ford had the biggest hand in molding Wayne into the screen colossus we know. Ford had come to Hollywood to work with his older brother Francis, already a director, but with the release of "The Iron Horse," it was John who rose to the ranks of grade-A director.

Wayne started out playing bit parts for Ford and others, but he and the director hit it off outside the studio. It was because of that friendship that Ford felt he had to be especially harsh with the novice Wayne so as not to show favoritism. He'd deride him as a "lousy B-Western movie actor" in front of the whole crew. Gruff and demanding, Ford was inwardly sensitive and vulnerable.

It was Ford who went to bat for Wayne to get the breakthrough role in "Stagecoach." The films increased in stature, and eventually Wayne's standing in Hollywood eclipsed Ford's. But Wayne would repay Ford's magnanimity by championing Ford's pet project, the quintessentially Irish "The Quiet Man," which no studio wanted.

The personal dynamic between the two was strained



during the Second World War, with Ford on the front lines photographing the Battle of Midway and the Normandy invasion up close, and Wayne - his career at full tilt after the years of struggle - avoiding service. But after a bumpy reconciliation afterward, the creative friendship continued.

The friendship also survived the fact that they were polar opposites politically - Ford a Democrat, Wayne a right-wing Republican - though they would find common ground later in supporting the Vietnam War, as Ford failed to see the difference between that conflict and World War II. Ford, though, took a courageous stand against director Cecil B. DeMille during the Hollywood "red scare" when actors were expected to take a loyalty oath.

When Wayne excelled in Howard Hawks' great "Red River," causing Ford to remark, "I didn't know the big son of a b— could act," Ford cast Wayne as the aging military officer in "She Wore a Yellow Ribbon," where his acting showed even more depth.

Apart from creating these mythic images of the American West, Ford's films were, as biographer Tag Gallagher observes at one point, basically "Irish-Catholic miracle plays."

There's the occasional expletive in some of the interviews, precluding the youngest viewers, but otherwise Pollard's compelling film (written by Kenneth Bowser) - like Ford's best work - offers cinematic rewards and a vibrant sense of American history.

Harry Forbes is director of the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Does Hollywood get religion right? Critics' reactions vary

By MARK PATTISON
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - Does Hollywood get religion right when it makes movies? The answers are almost as diverse as the cinematic fare coming to mall multiplexes.

"Some people do their homework and get it right; other people exploit it," said Paulist Father Frank Desiderio, head of Paulist Productions and overseer of the Humanitas Prize.

"If you mean the studios, then no they don't," said Barbara Nicolosi, who runs the Act One screenwriting program for Christians who aspire to a Hollywood career. "Studios are not in the habit of hiring people of faith to either write, direct or be in any creative capacity for projects that involve religion."

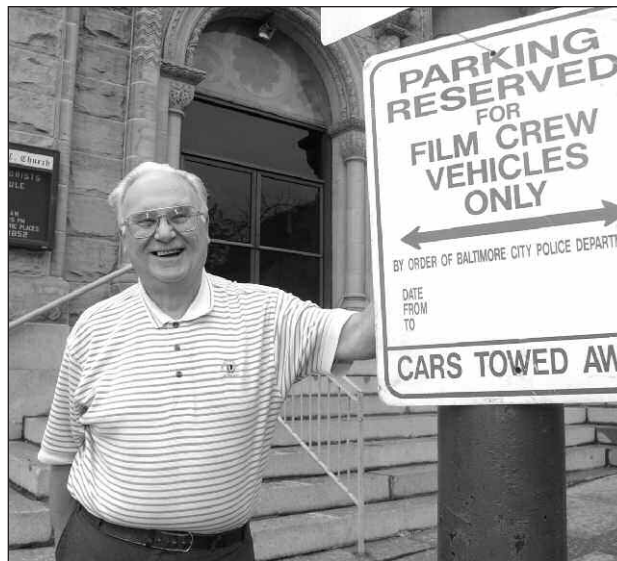
"In the old days, Hollywood would bend over backward not to offend," said Harry Forbes, director of the U.S. bishops' Office for Film & Broadcasting. Mr. Forbes defined "old days" as "from the dawn of sound through the '60s." While that era may have been inaccurate by portraying "an overly idealized view of religious types," he added, "that is preferable to a disparaging view of religion, as you often get today."

In separate telephone interviews with Catholic News Service, Mr. Forbes, Ms. Nicolosi and Father Desiderio offered their views on Hollywood's successes and shortcomings in portraying religion on the big screen.

The interviews were prompted by the impending release of "The Da Vinci Code," a movie based on the best-selling novel of the same name by Dan Brown, a work criticized for its treatment of Catholic figures and institutions.

"Hollywood knew there was money to be made from striking that grand religious chord" in films such as "The Robe," "Ben-Hur," "The Ten Commandments," and Bing Crosby's "Father O'Malley" movies, "Going My Way" and "The Bells of St. Mary's," Mr. Forbes noted.

A modern example of a positive portrayal of faith, he told CNS, is "Ladder 49," a 2004 film about firefighters and the



In the movie, "Ladder 49," Baltimore Deacon Richard Novak played a role he knows well: a permanent deacon who assists during Mass and a baptism in the 2004 film about a veteran firefighter. The movie's religious scenes were shot at St. Michael's Church in the Fells Point neighborhood of Baltimore. (CNS photo)

bonds they share. It had "a fairly extraordinary, for this day and age, portrayal of a Catholic societal subculture, where everyone in that film - all blue-collar working-class firemen - were clearly Catholic. Throughout the film many of the rituals, from baptisms to weddings ... , were very nicely dramatized," he said.

"There was one particularly heart-stopping moment when Joaquin Phoenix walked into Mass on Christmas Eve after a fire, and it was a beautiful moment," Mr. Forbes added. "It couldn't have lasted more than 20 or 30 seconds, but it made

you forget how little of that there is in movies today?"

Father Desiderio said Barbara Hall, the Catholic woman who created "Joan of Arcadia," which ran on CBS for two seasons, was "the best recent example of someone who got it right." He also pointed to James Cromwell's guest appearance a few years ago on NBC's "ER" as a chronically ill bishop and Rita Moreno's nun-social worker character on the old HBO series "Oz" as two examples where Hollywood got it right.

But he said there are also significant failures, including the recent NBC drama "The Book of Daniel," in which the Episcopal clergyman of the title has an Italian Catholic priest as a friend. "He needs a favor and he goes to the Catholic priest, and the Catholic priest goes to the Mob and gets the favor - which I found offensive, as an Italian Catholic priest," Father Desiderio said.

Ms. Nicolosi said ABC missed "the entire theological heart of the Moses story" in its recent miniseries, "The Ten Commandments" with its cursory treatment of the first Passover. "The people who make this movie, they don't believe this stuff and they don't get the most important stuff," she said.

Even the film blockbuster "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," which was "very good for what it was," Ms. Nicolosi said, "didn't pack the punch it could have" because the screenwriters "didn't get Aslan," a lion character viewed by readers of C.S. Lewis' novel as a Christ figure.

Ms. Nicolosi said she dreaded the May 19 release of "The Da Vinci Code," and on her Web log has advocated an "othercott." Rather than simply boycott the movie, she has exhorted others to see "Over the Hedge," the only other movie getting nationwide distribution that is opening the same weekend as "Da Vinci." "Over the Hedge" is an animated offshoot of the newspaper comic strip about woodland critters' encounters with creeping suburbia.

By JEANNE KRAWCZYK

MUSKOGEE - Donna Le grew up on a wheat farm near Peckham and attended Newkirk High School. One of her chores as a child was gathering fresh eggs from the chickens. "I would periodically get in trouble for not getting them water. They'd wander out to the horse tank for water and fall in. Did you know chickens can't swim?"

Her father raised Hereford cattle, and Mrs. Le remembers two calves she helped raise. "One time a cow had twins, and she wouldn't accept both of the calves. My dad gave me the heifer, and I named her Candy. I fed her on the bottle, and she was always tame." Mrs. Le and her dog, Sam, would take walks in the pasture with Candy.

Another calf, Richard, was a lot more ornery than Candy. Mrs. Le's father made the mistake of moving Richard to a different pasture several miles from their farm. "Richard wasn't afraid of people, so when the cowhands would try to herd the group, Richard would ignore them and lead the other cows wherever he wanted to go. After that, Richard never got to leave our farm again."

Mrs. Le first enrolled in secretarial classes at Oklahoma State University. When she began struggling with shorthand, she started considering other career options. "I wasn't used to getting low grades, so I thought about what else I liked to do. I liked reading. I liked learning about new cultures. I was pretty good at math." So she decided to pursue a degree in education and said this was a good choice. "I can satisfy my thirst for knowledge while helping students succeed."

She graduated with a bachelor's degree in education from OSU and began a teaching assignment in Stigler. She taught fourth grade in Stigler for five years before earning her master's degree in reading from North-eastern State University.

After the fall of Saigon in April 1975, a wave of Vietnamese refugees arrived in Oklahoma, sponsored by Catholic Charities and many parishes of the Diocese of Tulsa.

Immaculate Conception Church in Poteau was one of the parishes that sponsored a Vietnamese family. Many members of this family's extended

family also came to Oklahoma, including Mrs. Le's future husband, Tri. His uncle is Father Hoang Viet Le, a retired priest who served in the Diocese of Tulsa.

Mrs. Le met Tri through his younger brother, Hong, who was a student in her fourth-grade class. "Although Hong was older and could have enrolled at the middle school, fourth-graders were the oldest group who were in self-contained classes. We thought it would be better for him to have one teacher all day. I thought he would have a better chance of learning English that way," she said.

After they were married, Tri took a job in Muskogee, so the couple moved there. Mrs. Le taught third grade at St. Joseph School for four years. The Les have two daughters,

"I think preparing students for the future is an important job, and I hope I can be a resource for teachers as they carry out our mission to educate the youth."



Donna Le

Love of reading, learning about new cultures drives St. Joseph principal's career

Anita and Alicia. Both graduated from St. Joseph's.

The Les have not faced any prejudices in Oklahoma as a mixed-race family, Mrs. Le said. "Once people meet others from different cultures, they are more accepting. We've always tried to be positive in our relationships with others."

In fact, there is one part of Vietnamese culture that the St. Joseph community has grown to love. Mrs. Le made 200 spring rolls for the school's Casino Night in February. "Any time there is a function at the school or parish, they ask me to make the spring rolls." A Vietnamese friend of the family, Tuynh Huynh, taught Mrs. Le how to make them many years ago.

Mr. Le returned to Vietnam for a visit about eight years ago. He still has friends and family there whom he contacts through letters and e-mail. Mrs. Le has never been to Vietnam. "I love to travel, though, and perhaps someday I will be able to go there," she said.

Mrs. Le is also a member of the Tulsa Night Writers, a group of writers who meet monthly to hear guest speakers and to offer each other support. She has written her first book and is in the process of editing it. The children's book is not yet titled, but the main character is a Vietnamese girl who is learning to deal with her Vietnamese roots in modern America.

Mrs. Le left St. Joseph's and returned to public schools, where she worked as a reading specialist with Muskogee Public Schools.

Administration has been a natural progression for her. "I've always enjoyed exchanging ideas with my fellow

educators. As a reading coach, I supervised other teachers. The state department trained us and encouraged us to be 'models' for other teachers, rather than just 'instructors,'" she said.

She uses her experiences as a reading coach to help her staff accomplish their objectives. "I think preparing students for the future is an important job, and I hope I can be a resource for teachers as they carry out our mission to educate the youth."

In July 2005 she became the principal of St. Joseph's School in Muskogee. One of her favorite things about the new job is the opportunity to pray at school. "There are a lot of Christian teachers in the public school system, but they can't share their faith," Mrs. Le said. "Here we start our day with prayer, which sets the right tone for the day."

Mrs. Le has been welcomed back to St. Joseph's with open arms. "Coming back to St. Joseph's, I felt welcome and at home. Everything seemed familiar to me." She even has become reacquainted with former students whose children are now attending the school.

"I love working directly with the students, the families and the staff. The paperwork part of administration is the only drawback to the job."

Now that she has nearly completed a full school year as principal, Mrs. Le is directing her attention to future programs she would like to offer. "So much of my first year has been spent 'learning the ropes.' I am looking forward to investigating and implementing new programs that will benefit our students."

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.

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.

Bishop Slattery visits prison, washes inmates' feet

By **BARB HILGER**

HOMINY - On Holy Thursday, prisoners at Conner Correctional Center were visited by Bishop Edward J. Slattery and priests of the Diocese of Tulsa who heard confessions and celebrated Mass. Before communion, Bishop Slattery also washed the feet of several of the prisoners, as Jesus did for the disciples after the Last Supper.

About two dozen prisoners attended the Mass, at which Bishop Slattery recounted the tradition of foot-washing and how Jesus astonished the disciples by washing their feet – a task usually handled for guests by servants, not by the host.

"In the Church, it's the reverse of the world. The master becomes the servant," Bishop Slattery said. "By washing our feet, He's asking for permission to love us. God's desire is to love us. Will you give Him permission to love you?" he asked the inmates.

A three-photo package and news story in the following day's April 14 Tulsa World reported on the visit. Black, white and Hispanic inmates greeted one another with hugs and handshakes, and the Bishop alternated his remarks between English and Spanish, the World's religion writer, Bill Sherman, reported.

Deacon Bill Dunbar of the Diocese of Tulsa's prison ministry, said he knows most of the men who were present for the Mass, and he knows how much the clergy's visit meant to them.

"They all were hovering around (Bishop Slattery) and Father Matt Gerlach for confession," said Deacon Dunbar, of Stillwater. He told the World that "we give these men hope."

St. Henry teens Mississippi-bound

OWASSO - Fourteen high school juniors and seniors from St. Henry Church are preparing for a mission trip to Kiln, Miss. July 8-16. The group had been looking into other



Bishop Slattery, assisted by Father Matt Gerlach, washes the feet of an inmate of the Conner Correctional Center April 13, Holy Thursday. (Photo by Deacon Bill Dunbar)

mission trips, but in light of the devastation of the hurricanes in the south, Mississippi was chosen, said Father Richard Bradley.

The trip is being coordinated through a national organization, Young Neighbors in Action. The organization provides the opportunity for students to serve Christ through working in soup kitchens, hospices and homeless shelters.

The St. Henry group has raised more than half of the \$8,500 needed for the trip. On April 22, after the 5 p.m. Mass, they held a cake decorating contest and auction and sold root beer floats.

In an effort to learn more about the plight of the homeless and develop empathy for the people they will be serving, the young people slept in boxes outside the church doors with no access to facilities, said Elizabeth Gagner, St. Henry's religious education director.

The mission trip is, "a wonderful opportunity to see the Church active in other parts of the world, to see how people are struggling and recovering," said Father Bradley.

Contributions are appreciated and can be sent to St. Henry Church, Youth Mission Trip, P.O. Box 181, Owasso, 74055.

St. Benedict 'travels' to Promised Land

BROKEN ARROW - St. Benedict Church in Broken Arrow brought the Gospel to life for Lent through a program called "Passport to the Promised Land." The program was done 10 years ago in the parish under the direction of Eileen Dolan.

"It was a wonderful Lenten journey for families, so we decided to resurrect it," said Carol Bryan, St. Benedict's religious education director.

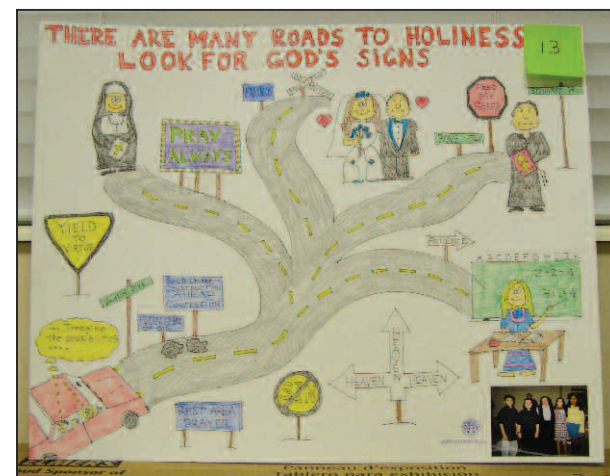
Passports were issued to 250 parishioners on April 1, to visit the Promised Land and experience life during the time of Jesus. "It was vacation Bible school for the whole parish," Mrs. Bryan said.

The parish hall was transformed into a marketplace where parishioners were invited to browse while waiting for their "tour" of the Promised Land. In the market, shoppers could find frankincense, myrrh and a ram's horn among other items characteristic of the time. Weavers were weaving baskets, and children danced to entertain those who waited.

Tourists were taken on a journey that included stops to visit Zaccheus and experience his change of heart; in Jericho, they could watch the Good Samaritan in action. A visit to the house of Martha and Mary showed tourists the value of both serving and listening.

"The various presentations were wonderfully conceived and executed," said Msgr. Patrick Gaalaas.

Middle-school and high-school students performed their own script of the Last Supper as the final stop on the tour, and the guests left in silence.



St. Anne students design winning poster

The fifth- and sixth-grade students in St. Anne's religious education program created the winning entry in the 2006 Vocation Awareness Poster Contest sponsored by the Serra Club of Tulsa. Students who attended the Vocation Awareness Days earlier this year dressed as priests or sisters and had their pictures taken. The classes used these pictures to create a poster based on the theme, "Imagine the Possibilities."

Deacon *Continued from page 1*

Cathedral on April 30, 1999. Though born to Perry and Margie (Franklin) Butler on Dec. 22, 1942 in Pawhuska, he was raised in Fairfax. He was reassigned to Immaculate Conception Church in Pawhuska in 2005.

He survived by his wife, Jacqueline Anette Gray of the home; son Nikia Parker and his wife, Debra, of Pawhuska; a daughter, Jaime Butler, of the home; brother Joe E. Barnard of Fairfax, sisters Linda Heskett of Fairfax, Marlene Rodriguez of Tulsa and grandchildren, Kristin, Lauren, Isaiah, Jaylyn and Brynn.

Deacon Butler, an alcohol and drug counselor for the Osage Nation for 12 years, also was an artist and photographer.

"He was the patron saint of the Osages," said Mary Jo Webb, a Sacred Heart parishioner who has been close to the Butler family for years.

"Jacquie stood at the casket after communion and sang an Osage mourning chant," said Father White. "It was quite beautiful, very well done and quite affective."

Deacon Butler was the first Osage to be ordained in 152 years of Catholic ministry to the tribe, he said.