



'I like your hat'

So said second-grader Sammie Teasdale to Bishop Edward J. Slattery Oct. 15 during a potluck dinner that followed the Bishop blessing classrooms and the new dining area/parish hall at Sts. Peter and Paul School. Sammie, a parishioner of St. Therese Church in Collinsville, wound up swapping his Chevy cap for a chance to wear Bishop Slattery's zucchetto. Sammie was among many students on hand as phases one and two of a construction campaign – the dining facility and restroom renovations – were celebrated. Fundraising for phase three of the campaign – renovation of the gym with a new floor and stage area – was to begin the weekend of Oct. 28-29. When everything is completed, cost will be about \$600,000. (Photo by Patrick Martin)

Evangelists go door-to-door in St. Thomas More Parish

By the end of the week of Oct. 8, when the 24 Legion of Mary visitors wrapped up their visit to St. Thomas More Parish, they had conducted a door-to-door census of about 10 square miles of the parish, whose boundaries run from 11th to 51st Streets and Garnett Avenue and the county line.

They also left behind a huge amount of data, information that amounts to a religious census of the east Tulsa parish. Of the Catholic households they visited, the Legion of Mary visitors have listed which members of the family have received the Sacraments, who might be interested in R.C.I.A., who are fall-away Catholics and who attend other parishes or Protestant churches.

That information will be followed up over the coming years by Legion of Mary members within St. Thomas More Parish.

"It's probably going to be close to 2,000 contacts. It's a mixed bag, but there's a lot of interest," said Kathleen Demaree of Spring Hills, Kan., who came to Tulsa with her



Lyle Schoonover and Lupe Hernandez visit with Garcia Avelar in her home.

husband, Larry, for the "Peregrinatio Pro Christo" – or "Adventure for Christ."

"Most of the people have been very, very friendly. A Jehovah's Witness said they were glad to see the Catholics out. They didn't know Catholics did this?"

Neither do many Catholics, it's safe to say. But the Legion of Mary has been around for more than 80 years. Its founder, Frank Duff, of Dublin, Ireland, established the lay apostolic organization with a twofold purpose: the spiritual development of its members and advancing the reign of Christ

through Our Lady.

Mr. Duff attended the Second Vatican Council at Pope Paul VI's invitation in 1965, where he received a standing ovation from all the bishops in attendance. Pope John Paul II praised the Legion of Mary as "a movement of lay people who propose to make faith the aspiration of your life up to the achievement of personal sanctity."

For Lyle Schoonover, president of the St. Thomas More Legion of Mary, this was his first "Peregrinatio Pro Christo," though he has belonged to the group for three years.

The St. Thomas More door-to-door canvass kicked off with a dinner and orientation after the 5 p.m. Mass Oct. 7. The following morning, Bishop Edward J. Slattery celebrated Mass and stayed for brunch.

The next day set the schedule for the rest of the week: 8 a.m. Mass with Father Carl Kerkemeyer, followed by breakfast; an assignment meeting and hitting the streets to go door to door until

See MARY, page 12



Toasting new PAC

Guests at the Oct. 10 debut performance at the new Cascia Hall Performing Arts Center mingle in the lobby prior to entering a concert that featured vocal and bell choirs from the school and the Tulsa Youth Symphony Chamber group. Earlier in the day, Bishop Slattery (pictured at lowered left) blessed the state-of-the-art theater, which seats 773 people, has approximately 34,000 square feet and cost \$8.3 million. (Photo by John LaFortune)

IN THIS ISSUE

New saints.....Pages 8, 19

Catholic counseling..... Pages 10-11

Clear Creek weekend.....Page 20

Calendar

OCTOBER

Cascia open house

29 Cascia Hall Preparatory School's open house will be at 1:30 p.m. Oct. 29. Potential students and their families will learn more about the school, meet the faculty and tour the facilities. No reservation is required.

Italian-America fiesta

29 The Italian American Society of Tulsa will host an Italian fiesta Oct. 29 at St. Patrick Church in Sand Springs. The celebration begins with Mass at 11 a.m., and an Italian dinner will be offered from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tickets are \$7, pastry and wine extra, and strolling musicians and an opera singer will offer entertainment. For information, call the parish office, 245-5840.

NOVEMBER

College night at Bishop Kelley

2 Students, parents and grandparents are invited to attend College Night from 6-7:30 p.m. Nov. 2 in the Kelley gym. More than 90 universities will be represented, and all Catholic high school students are encouraged to attend. For information, call Carol Klenda, 742-0053.

'Evening with the EOC'

2 Bishop Edward J. Slattery, publisher of the Eastern Oklahoma Catholic, will be joined by the newspaper's staff for a discussion and Q&A about the Diocese of Tulsa's newspaper. Sponsored by the Pastoral Studies Institute, the session will be from 6:30-8 p.m. at Church of the Madalene. The evening is free, but please register by calling 294-1904 or email psi@dioceseoftulsa.org.

TV interview with Ambassador Rooney

2 An interview with U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican Francis Rooney III will be aired at 10 p.m. Nov. 2 on the News on 6. The station's anchor, Terry Hood, recently went to the Holy See and interviewed the well-known Tulsan about his role and what life is like "at one of the most powerful and revered places in the world."

Fall foliage

4 Single Catholics of Tulsa will have a day trip Nov. 4 to southeast Oklahoma to view the fall foliage. They will bring a picnic lunch with dinner in Krebs at Pete's Italian Restaurant. For information, contact Ken, 645-1806.

Kelley placement test

4 Bishop Kelley High School, grades 9-12, will administer the placement test for incoming ninth graders for the 2007-2008 academic school year from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Nov. 4. The test fee of \$15 is payable at the time of testing, but pre-registration is required. A question-answer session for parents will also be given at 8 a.m. in the Christian Brothers Hall. Pre-register for the test at www.bkelleyhs.org under Admissions. For more information, contact Jane Oberste, 609-7133.

Cascia entrance exams

4 Cascia Hall middle school entrance exams will be held at 9 a.m. Nov. 4. The testing/application fee of \$25 is payable at the time you pick up your application or when you test. Applications will be available at the open house and entrance exams. Register for the exam online at www.casciahall.com.

Walk for adoption

5 The annual Walk for adoption will be from 2-4 p.m. Nov. 5 at the Angelo Prassa Stadium at Bishop Kelley High School.

Eucharistic adoration

6 The Benedictine Sisters invite you to join them for Holy Hour and Benediction from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Nov. 6 at St. Joseph Monastery, 2200 S. Lewis Ave., as they pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Celebrating a Catholic Christmas

6 Catholic business and professional women's club will meet at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 6 at the Green Onion, 4532 E. 51st St. Abbot Lawrence R. Stasyszen OSB of St. Gregory's University in Shawnee will speak on Advent and celebrating a Catholic Christmas. For more information contact Judy Vera, 269-9227.

Bipolar support group

7 St. Bernard Church has a bipolar support group at 7 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of each month. St. Bernard is located on 101st between Riverside Drive and Yale Avenue.

Dollar movie night

8 Single Catholics of Tulsa will meet for dollar movie night at 6:45 p.m. Nov. 8 at Cinemark Movies 8 at 68th and Memorial. Movie selection made on-site.

Cascia entrance exams

11 Cascia Hall upper school entrance exams will be at 9 a.m. Nov. 11. The testing/application fee of \$25 is payable at the time you pick up your application or when you test. Applications will be available at the open house and entrance exams. Register for the exam online at www.casciahall.com.

Arts and crafts bazaar

11 The women's club of St. Anne Catholic Church in Broken Arrow is sponsoring the ninth annual arts and crafts bazaar from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Nov. 11. Booths available and will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be served. For information on booth rental, call Bunny Coscia at 355-5354.

Annual bazaar

11 The women's club of St. Therese Church in Collinsville will have their annual turkey dinner, bazaar, raffle and auction from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Nov. 11. Tickets will be available at the door. Adults are \$7, children 6-12 are \$3 and under 6 are free. For more information contact Kim Thornhill, 371-1973, or Kathleen Quintus, 274-1037.

Beginning Experience training

11 New team member training will be held at 10 a.m. Nov. 11 in Sand Springs. Contact Eddie McInnes, 955-9309, or Barb Woodward, 865-3386.

Arts and crafts bazaar

18 The Women's Club of St. Henry's Church in Owasso, Highway 169 and 86th Street North, will hold its 29th annual arts and crafts bazaar from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Nov. 18. For more information call

the church office, 272-3710.

Wild about trivia

18 Come enjoy food, beer, snacks and fun at trivia night from 6-9:30 p.m. Nov. 18. at Holy Family Cathedral School. Table of eight is \$80. For reservations contact Bernadette Jones, 582-0422, or Terry Daniels, 638-6485.

TRAVEL

Pilgrimage to Mexico

There will be a "Queen of the Americas" Our Lady of Guadalupe pilgrimage Dec. 8-13. Pilgrimage includes five nights in Mexico City and will concentrate on visiting religious, historical and cultural sites in Mexico City and surrounding area, with a day trip to Cuernavaca and Taxco with traditional Mexican lunch near Santa Prisca Church. Trip includes Folklore Ballet in Mexico City. For more information, contact Alison Stookey, 451-0121.

VOLUNTEERS

Christmas distribution

Catholic Charities is seeking volunteers and parish choirs are being sought to help with food distribution of more than 1,000 families who will receive Christmas food baskets on Dec. 16 through Catholic Charities. The choirs can help brighten the day with traditional Christmas carols. Anyone interested in providing homemade cookies also may call to sign up. Please contact Rusty Starbuck at 918-585-8167.

Reading coaches

San Miguel School is looking for caring adults to spend one hour a week reading with a struggling student during the independent reading time, from 8:15-9:20 a.m. or helping a student with homework during afternoon study hall, 3:15-4 p.m. For more information, call Principal Curt Adams, 671-9637 or at adamscurt@yahoo.com.

EDUCATION

Bilingual pre-K

Instituto Bilingue Guadalupano Pre-school and Kindergarten Bilingual Program at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe-St. Francis Xavier Church, is now accepting

Bishop Slattery's public schedule

Sunday, Oct. 29 - 10 a.m.

Mass, homily, celebration of church restoration at St. Joseph Church, Krebs

Wednesday, Nov. 1 - 9:45 a.m.

All Saints Day Mass at St. Anne Church, Broken Arrow

Thursday, Nov. 2 - 6:30 p.m.

"Evening with the EOC" sponsored by the Pastoral Studies Institute, Church of the Madalene

Sunday, Nov. 5 - 8:30 a.m.

Mass at Uganda Martyrs Church, Okmulgee; then blessing of Marian Shrine to the unborn at St. Anthony Church, Okmulgee

Sunday, Nov. 5 - 2 p.m.

Catholic Charities Adoption Walk, Bishop Kelley track

Nov. 11 - 16

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops general meeting, Baltimore

Sunday, Nov. 19 - 3 p.m.

Dedication of new St. Joseph Church, Stigler

Friday, Dec. 1 - 10 a.m.

Mass, St. Francis Hospital Chapel in honor of St. Francis Xavier and the late William K. Warren Sr.

enrollment for the 2006-2007 school year. For additional information or to arrange a tour by appointment, contact Director Maria Ines Alcaraz at 592-9179, 402-2656 or 357-9094.

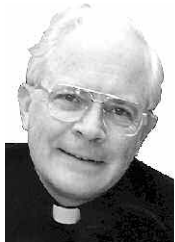
St. Catherine alums

St. Catherine School is trying to organize its alumni data base and is seeking information from former students. Please email your full name, including maiden and married names, contact phone number, mailing address, the names of both parents and the year of entry into St. Catherine School to alumni@cox.net or phone Johnna Gresham at 918-447-1974. If you are not a St. Catherine alumni but know someone who is, please submit their information.

Edward J. Slattery Bishop of Tulsa

Permanent deacon serves as bridge between two worlds

Editor's note: In this - his 15th article on the Synod - Bishop Slattery explores the vocation of the permanent deacon. Bishop Slattery believes that the deacon has an indispensable role in transforming the world by making certain that our Catholic communities are true communities, beginning with our families and extending into every level of Catholic life. By reflecting the face of Christ the Suffering Servant, the deacon himself becomes a living icon or image of Christ, the necessary complement to the presence of Christ the High Priest, as configured in the sacramental role of our parish priests, the impetus to the renewal of our institutions and the leaven of true charity.



I must admit that the picture that I have drawn concerning the situation of the Church in the modern world seems rather bleak. Precisely at a time in our history when the world rejects charity and service with greater vehemence than ever before, preferring power, control and domination, the Church's institutions seem turned in upon themselves, communes of self-interest, riddled with doubt and timidity, utterly incapable - without a thorough renewal - of penetrating society with the saving presence of Jesus.

Why We Need Saints

This is our absolute necessity: to flood society with saints, ordinary men and women, whether they are married or single, fathers or mothers, teachers, workers, ranchers or technicians. We must flood the world with Christians who are so animated by the love of Christ that everything they do will be done for Him, for the sake of His people, and to bring about His Kingdom.

We have to so form our people in the image of Jesus, that everywhere they go, Christ goes with them, not alone in the unseen action of His grace, but in their conscious realization that His voice should be heard in every word they speak, and His love must be felt in every relationship they build.

Teachers who teach, then, should be conscious that first of all they love their students for Christ's sake, doctors should be mindful that what the world needs goes beyond their medicine. Physicians should love their patients, then, as Christ Himself loves them. Even businessmen must hold on to the idea that they love the world in which they sell or buy or build because that world has been redeemed by Christ.

Loving the world and those in it - this is what it means to be a saint in contemporary society, and we have to flood society with such saints because that is the only way will we be able to restore hope to our fallen world. Only when we are filled with love will we be able to show that love - the power of God at work in all who believe - can transcend the limits of our human sinfulness.

Renewing our Institutions

This means that our families must be renewed until they become schools of the Lord's service, and our parishes must become actively committed to the holiness of all their parishioners. Our hospitals and charitable institutions must recover the conviction that what they do, they do for Christ alone. When animated by Christ's presence, what we recognize as true charity, our Catholic communities not

only reveal the presence of God in our lives, but by erasing the difference between human love and divine love, reflect the authentic face of Christ and the true mission of the Church.

When our parishes, school, hospitals and communities are alive in Christ's love, they become the instruments capable of infusing the world with new energy, the power of the Holy Spirit. This is what it means to evangelize. But if our families remain as fractured and dysfunctional as they have grown, if our parishes remain communes mired in self-service and characterized by bitter faction fighting, and our other institutions concerned with success and profitability, we have become what St. Paul warned against, "nothing more than noisy gongs or clashing cymbals." (1 Corinthians 13:2)

And this, I am firmly convinced, is the essential charism of the permanent deacon. He is ordained to bring about the constant renewal of our families, parishes and institutions, purifying them and elevating them by allowing himself to be taken as a living image and a true icon of the charity of Christ the Suffering Servant.

And then, having restored in Christ any institutions and structures which may have fallen into self-absorbed communes, the deacon must become something more, a bridge - if you will - between the religious world and the secular world, or better, a visible sacrament in Christ of the very seamlessness between the Church and the world in which the Church works as the leaven of the Kingdom.

Seamless in Solidarity

What do I mean by seamlessness? Simply this: There is no border between the life which is proper to the Church and the life which is proper to the world in which the Church exists. One cannot look at the world and divide its activities, as if some belonged to the spiritual world, while the rest belonged to a world of purely secular concerns. There is no such gulf, no such imaginary divide.

What belongs to the world belongs to Christ by virtue of His having conquered sin and death. In effect, Christ has conquered the world, and made it His own. And the deacon who lives in both the secular world and the world of faith, by bridging these two, reveals the inner seamlessness of Christ's reign.

Christ reigns as King over the whole world, restoring all creation to unity in Him and thus reconciling the universe - and everything in it - to the Father. This means that the whole world is the proper sphere for the Church's activities because Christ exercises His dominion over the whole world, not simply over our families, parishes and charitable institutions alone.

Christ cannot be considered "the King of the Church." Such a concept is utterly foreign to the Church, which proclaims instead in Her preface for the Feast of Christ the King: "As King, [Christ] claims dominion over all creation, that He might present to you, His Almighty Father, an eternal and universal Kingdom: a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love and peace." (Preface for the Feast of Christ the King)

A Truth almost Forgotten

This is a fundamental truth of the Gospel, but one which we came perilously close to losing after the Age of the Enlightenment, when secularism began its relentless effort to undo what Christ had reconciled, by re-dividing the

world into separate and distinct categories: one of which was spiritual and one of which was secular and mundane.

Following the logic of Deists (who stood behind the Enlightenment), all that which was spiritual was proper to the spiritual world and could be known through religion, while everything else - that which is material, but also that which was abstract, like reason, mathematics, economy and politics - was proper to the real world and could only be known through science.

Man, who belongs to both worlds simultaneously since he has both a soul and a body, could be studied and known by either or both of these categories, by either theology or by the physical and social sciences, either by the Church or by the world; but as science became predominant, religion became more and more relegated to Sunday morning, so that as man forgot his soul from Monday through Saturday, he became the sole possession of science and the material world. The world was no longer a seamless entity belonging wholly to Christ, and man had to choose between religion and the "real" world.

This is a tragic compromise for mankind. There is no possible choice for man between religion and the world since man and his world are both incomprehensible apart from the Incarnation. Christ is the key that unlocks the riddle of human existence, the necessary pattern which makes it possible for us to make sense of what we experience, not just "scientific" sense, but "human" sense. The Fathers of the Second Vatican Council put it like this: "The truth is that only in the mystery of the Incarnate Word does the mystery of man take on light." (Gaudium et Spes, §45.) Remove Christ from the "real" world and restrict Him to a false world of religion, and the world ceases to make sense.

The Deacon's Simultaneous Responsibilities

This, too, is the role of the deacon, to have simultaneous responsibilities, to exercise a ministry in the heart of the Church, standing at the very Altar where the sacrifice of reconciliation is continually offered, and then to exercise his ministry in the world, in the heart of the business and professional world, moving effortlessly from one realm to the other, and giving personal witness to that seamlessness of which I wrote.

Let us recapture what we have said of the permanent deacon so that we can return to this theme in the next issue of the Eastern Oklahoma Catholic. The deacon is the instrument of charity whose leadership in service, whose tireless preaching of the Word, and most certainly whose own personal example constantly challenges us to reform and renew our institutions, to elevate them to the level of true communities of love.

But secondly, the deacon is the bridge between two modern worlds, and as a bridge, living in solidarity in two opposing realities, the deacon becomes a living sign of the solidarity of Christ in the world and a promise that mankind has in Christ a single end and a single destiny.

The deacon in his person and in his ministry reveals the depth of St. Augustine's thought: "Thou hast made us for Thyself, Oh Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee."

Marilyn Duck EOC Editor

Catholic counseling is there for those who need it

Amanda Williams has been a reporter for not quite three months, but she's going to be a good one. She already has the essential ingredients: She's curious and conscientious and enthusiastic, and she becomes completely engrossed in any assignment she receives.



The center spread of this issue is a package Amanda put together on Catholic counseling in the Diocese of Tulsa. The good news is that counseling is available. The bad news is that it's not available enough, which is true of society at large, Bishop Edward J. Slattery told Amanda.

A lot of people don't know the Bishop of Tulsa holds a master's degree in education, with a specialty in counseling, and as a young priest he hoped to set up a full-time ministry to married couples. His life took a different path, but he remains a strong supporter of counseling and said one of his dreams is to incorporate it into the Catholic school curriculum.

Several of our priests have studied psychology or counseling, and part of Amanda's package reports their perspectives and experiences.

But, as always is the case, Amanda had to leave out a lot of stuff, which is frustrating. Here are a few items that didn't make it.

Beginning Experience helps people who have been widowed or divorced. Several parishes have lay people trained in ministry of consolation, and people from parishes throughout the Diocese attended the 21st annual pastoral care day Oct. 26 at St. Benedict's.

Amanda reported that all the Catholics she interviewed stressed that while psychology and counseling can help people, practitioners also can do great harm.

We didn't have room for this particularly wrenching story from Father Jack Gleason:

He was on a pastoral care visit in a hospital and overheard a family in an adjacent room praying with their minister over a dying little girl. The minister talked to the parents about how Jesus healed the sick, and told them, "If you have enough faith, this child will be healed."

During their prayers, the child died. The minister declared, "There's not enough faith in this room." That's just downright cruel.

Amanda is finishing her degree in human development and family science at Oklahoma State University-Tulsa, and she was startled and semi-alarmed to learn that while seminaries encourage men to take counseling courses, they're not required to.

But her reporting – and anecdotal experience – suggests most priests are effective counselors even if they don't have formal training. But they are aware of their

limitations.

Msgr. Daniel Mueggenborg answered a query from Amanda from Rome, where he is currently assigned, via email. "We're not trained counseling professionals. We are prepared to offer someone little more than a compassionate ear and refer them to professional counselors when situations warrant it.

"Being a gatekeeper is a good description. I really think we risk preventing people from getting help if we try to practice a skill and profession we're not competently trained in. Therefore, we provide training in problem-solving, referral, and listening skills, but that's it. We can offer spiritual assistance but for someone who needs to work through serious emotional or psychological issues, we need to refer them."

We are blessed that so many people – priests, deacons, religious and lay people – are devoted to pastoral care and are active in our Diocese. In old school thinking, psychology and/or counseling was translated into the word we know now as psychobabble. Like that minister in the hospital, some people still believe that faith alone is all people need to get through this world. Or when people suffer depression, they can be told, "Just get over it."

We can be grateful that more enlightened perspectives are available. And we can pray that the people who need help will reach out for it.

George Weigel

Life issues have 'irreducible priority' in deciding how to vote

As the 2006 midterm elections approach, a battle of the booklets is likely in many U.S. Catholic venues.

First into the lists was "Voting for the Common Good: A Practical Guide for Conscientious Catholics," published last month by Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good, a group led by Alexia Kelley, an adviser to the Kerry campaign in 2004.



While "Voting for the Common Good" acknowledges that not all issues are to be weighed equally in forming one's public conscience and in voting, the booklet's overall thrust is reminiscent of the now-badly tattered "seamless garment" or "consistent ethic of life" approach to citizen responsibility promoted by the late Cardinal Joseph Bernardin.

It may also strike some as curious that the booklet's only recommended reference for voters wishing to learn the Church's social doctrine is the quadrennial publication of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, "Faithful Citizenship."

Now comes "Catholics in the Public Square," written by Bishop Thomas Olmsted of Phoenix as part of the "Shepherd's Voice" series being launched by Basilica Press (www.basilicapress.com).

Bishop Olmsted takes a question-and-answer approach to controverted issues of Catholic conscience and political responsibility, and he doesn't mince words.

Thus, on the question of whether Catholics can ever differ with the settled teaching of the Church on moral questions

that have become public policy issues, Bishop Olmsted writes that there can be legitimate prudential disagreements on the application of just war theory to a given conflict, or on whether capital punishment is justifiable in a particular circumstance.

Yet he immediately goes on to add, "It should be emphasized, however, that, despite these examples, there are other (practices), such as abortion or euthanasia, that are always wrong and do not allow for the correct use of prudential judgment to justify them. It would never be proper for Catholics to be on the other side of these issues."

Which is a point not well-emphasized, shall we say, by "Voting for the Common Good."

Then there is the question of the relationship among our priority issues. Bishop Olmsted is quite clear that concern for other legitimate public policy issues of lesser gravity "can never justify a wrong choice" by voters (or, one assumes, legislators) "when it comes to direct attacks on innocent human life."

To buttress his argument, the bishop cites John Paul II's teaching in *Christifideles Laici* (Christ's Faithful Lay People): "Above all, the common outcry which is justly made on behalf of human rights – for example, the right to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture – is false and illusory if the right to life, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition for all other personal rights, is not defended with the maximum determination."

Which is also a point not over-stressed by "Voting for the

Common Good"

Finally, and without mentioning names, Bishop Olmsted demolishes the argument made by Alexia Kelley's principal in the 2004 presidential campaign:

"...sometimes Catholic politicians mistakenly claim that they need to abandon their faith out of an obligation to respect those of differing opinions or to honor a political commitment inherent in their office. These claims are perhaps most frequently made when Catholic politicians claim to be personally opposed to the killing of innocent unborn children.

"Incredibly, it is sometimes claimed by such people that it would be inappropriate to support legislation protecting human life because doing so would impose their faith on others or somehow violate their oath of office. These claims are ludicrous. Protecting human life is not only a religious obligation, it is a human imperative, and it is an imperative for all people."

"Voting for the Common Good" stresses that no political party fully embodies the social doctrine of the Church. That is true, obvious, and not-quite-the-point.

If the guiding metaphor for Catholic engagement with American politics has shifted from the "seamless garment" to what the bishops, in 1998, called "the foundations of the house of freedom," then there is an irreducible priority to the life issues – precisely for the sake of the common good.

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

Forum

Clear Creek monk witnesses death row conversion

Editor's note: Brother Vianney-Marie Graham of Clear Creek Monastery for several years corresponded with, prayed for and counseled 31-year-old James P. Malicoat, who was convicted in 1997 of murdering his 13-month-old daughter. The monk wrote the following letter to Bishop Slattery describing the inmate's conversion immediately before his execution on Aug. 31.

His Excellency Bishop Edward Slattery, Pax et bonum from Clear Creek Monastery. After you have read this letter, you will be in accord that this really is a letter of peace. In fact, I am still somewhat choked up after witnessing the death of inmate James P. Malicoat on Aug. 31.

We were able, on the same morning of his execution, to receive James into the Catholic Church and see him go to confession to Father Kirk Larkin from St. Mary Parish in Ponca City. Deo Gratios!

There are a few lines on this amazing conversion. As you know, an inmate must draw up a list of witnesses for his execution, two of whom must be some sort of "religious witness" and five others from his family or friends in an extended sense. Well, James' Protestant minister, for some reason, did not wish to be part of all this, so in a last-ditch effort to find a priest, James' attorney asked Father Larkin to go. He initially refused, but later accepted out of charity, overlooking his own fears, too. We were both first-time witnesses.

James made me take a "no-preaching policy" when I visited him or wrote. In fact, I was very faithful to this, because it has been my firm belief from the beginning that it was the real way to win souls to Christ. With less than two months left until his execution, I dropped this rule somewhat and told him so, as time was now too serious to ignore his eternal salvation.

I never criticized James' past. It would be an error to do so now. I simply offered him the grace of being a Catholic, since he had agreed to have Father Kirk with us on his last day. Grace can work fast. We had about one-and-a-quarter hours with James Thursday morning. Waiting to see James, the attorney told us that he doubted (James) would go for it, as he had told him: "I confessed once, and it got me on death row." We prayed.

Come 10:45 a.m., James was willing to see us. He was a mess and really looked it. Knowing time was short, I told him right out that he could still do the steps needed to become a Catholic and go to confession.

He was still unsure of himself, so I gave the phone to Father Larkin. Immediately the spiritual combat was one of genuine grace. When Father started explaining the Credo, I left them, knowing well the confession would be the hard part.

I paced the hallway of H-Unit, rosary in hand, and prayed. An eternity passed by, or at least it seemed to me. Then I glanced over and saw

Father Kirk's arm raised to give absolution. I kept on praying to be sure. A few minutes later, James asked for me. He was completely changed; smiling, crying, all at once.

God knows how much he suffered in this life.

He wrote me a last letter, deliberately mailing it in such a way that I would get it after "I am gone." In it, he said you will see that "prayer is not in vain."

In the death chamber he thanked us for helping him, but then there were hundreds of souls praying for him: monks; family; children from all over. The tentacles of prayer are far-reaching, and James has shown me that the contemplative life of prayer truly bears fruit.

There is so much more to tell you, but I'm too choked up to continue. May Our Lady bless you always!

Sincerely in Christ,
Brother Vianney-Marie Graham
 Clear Creek Monastery

Retired priests grateful

Editor, EOC:

In the name of the retired priests of the Diocese of Tulsa, I would with utmost sincerity thank Pat Sisemore and all the women of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women who with great kindness and generosity invited us to the Church of the Madalene Oct. 12 for Mass and breakfast honoring all the retired priests of the Diocese. We are most grateful.

Especially are we grateful for the generous gift they made to the Diocese of Tulsa Priest Retirement Fund. May God bless you for your wonderful generosity.

Please know that you will be in our Masses and prayers, and with God's grace keep up your excellent work.

Father William J. Swift
 Tulsa

Thanks, Father Knipe

There are many times that I have been critical of Church leaders. I have complained of what has been done as well as what has not been done. This is one occasion that I would like to commend my pastor, Father Mike Knipe.

This past Sunday Mass (Oct. 8) was a true joy to be able to attend. Not only did Father Mike reflect on the Scriptures and Gospel but also he

tied them into our everyday lives. His message was that of hope, love and forgiveness, the very things that caused me to convert.

While the knowledge of damnation is essential, Father Knipe's message points the way in which we should live our lives as Catholic Church members, the way in which we are in fellowship with our God and Savior. His message is constant - not only at the above-mentioned Mass.

This beautiful Mass was highlighted by the baptism of a young child. What a great joy it was to see the little girl's parents, family, godparents and in fact all of the parishioners join in this beautiful and joyous sacrament.

Thank you, Father Mike, for your teaching, love and compassion. You and priests like you are an extremely big part of what makes being a Catholic so meaningful.

Jim Cook
 Tulsa

Speak to be heard

I don't have many reasons to travel the Broken Arrow Expressway to downtown Tulsa, so please pardon me if this is old news. On Oct. 16, I took a short 10-minute drive to the downtown post office. All I recall of the entire 20-minute round-trip was an outdoor road sign that said "BIRTH CONTROL IS EASY." (Of course, it is sponsored by Planned Parenthood.)

Can the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Tulsa be less low-key, never to be noticed outside the Catholic community, and offer something in attention-getting media like "SELF CONTROL IS BETTER" - or perhaps something more memorable.

I wish the Church in Oklahoma would step up to the podium and speak with a great big voice in order to be heard. There are talented marketing individuals in our midst, let them do what they do best! SELF CONTROL IS NOBLE? SELF-CONTROL IS NOT EASY BUT IS COMPLETELY SAFE? SELF-CONTROL IS _____ (fill in the blanks.)

Rebecca Susan West
 Tulsa

Appreciates article

I wanted to express our gratitude to Amanda Williams for the wonderful Oct. 15 article about the RISE program soon to launch at Marquette Catholic School. It was beautifully written and completely factual.

As a result of the article, we've had a doctor who is a parishioner at Holy Family Cathedral volunteer to help with assessments or "anything else needed."

Thanks so much to Amanda and the EOC for covering the Religious Inclusive Student Education program. We'll keep you updated on progress.

Laurie Tilley
 Tulsa

EOC publication dates and deadlines

Eastern Oklahoma Catholic publication dates and deadlines for 2006:

Publication	Deadline
Nov. 12	Nov. 3
Nov. 26	Nov. 17
Dec. 10	Dec. 1

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Forum rules

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Violence makes living 'a nightmare' in Iraq, says Caritas official



A boy cries while holding the feet of his father Oct. 18 outside a hospital morgue in Baquba, Iraq, about 40 miles northeast of Baghdad. His father was killed by gunmen in a market. The sharp rise in civilian deaths in Iraq should increase pressure on the United States to remove its troops from the war-torn country, said the leaders of several Catholic peace and justice organizations. (CNS photo/Helmiy al-Azawi)

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - The war in Iraq has made day-to-day living "a nightmare," with violence, poverty and malnutrition on the rise since the start of the U.S.-led invasion, said an official of the Catholic Church's charity network.

The head of Caritas Internationalis' Middle East desk, Sebastien Dechamps, said "the needs are immense" for the people living in Iraq and for the thousands who have fled to neighboring countries.

Run by local staff for the past 15 years, Caritas Iraq has reported that the humanitarian situation has visibly worsened since 2003, Mr. Dechamps said in Oct. 19 written responses to questions by Catholic News Service.

"Daily life has become a nightmare. You hardly have one hour of electricity per day, access to food, water, health, education has deteriorated. But most of all, the lack of peace, the violence and the anarchy are everywhere and give a sense of hopelessness," he wrote.

Some studies have shown a 35 percent increase in poverty since 2003, and a Pentagon study released in August

"estimates that about 25.9 percent of Iraqi children examined were stunted in their physical growth due to chronic malnutrition, which is on the rise," he wrote.

Staff at Caritas centers meet "the human face of poverty" every day as they reach out to those most in need: the sick, the poor, infants and children suffering from severe malnutrition.

The chaos and violence on the ground has made monitoring humanitarian conditions and determining an accurate death toll very dangerous and difficult for organizations like Caritas.

On Oct. 12 the British medical journal, *The Lancet*, published a survey that estimates 601,000 civilians have been killed because of violence since the U.S.-led invasion in 2003. The survey said that taking into consideration a margin of error in the statistics, civilian deaths caused by violence could range from 426,000 to 794,000.

U.S. President George W. Bush and some other government and military officials dispute the accuracy or credibility of the report. Another independent British

group, Iraq Body Count, for example, puts the toll based on media reports at 43,000 to 48,000 civilian deaths.

Mr. Dechamps wrote that the difference between 40,000 and 600,000 innocent people dead "is of no moral/human interest" as both figures "are appalling." However, he said he and his colleagues "don't see why (*The Lancet*) study would not reflect reality."

Caritas workers in Iraq, he wrote, "would confirm that they probably don't know a single family who would not have lost at least one member to violence in the last three years."

The general feeling among Iraqis is that "this is a civil war, people are afraid, most of them have no more hope in the future. Iraqis are fleeing from their country by the thousands," he said. These are families who have sold everything and "are just looking for a 'normal life' where kids can go to school."

The study published in *The Lancet* was done by the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health and Al Mustansiriya University School of Medicine in Baghdad, Iraq.

Tridentine Mass, already offered in Tulsa, to be expanded

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Pope Benedict XVI is preparing to expand permission to use the Tridentine Mass, the pre-Vatican II rite favored by traditionalist groups, said an informed Vatican source.

The pope is expected to issue a document "motu proprio" or on his own initiative, which will address the concerns of "various traditionalists," said the source, who asked not to be named.

The source said the new permission, or indult, was a papal decision, but was being done in cooperation with agencies of the Roman Curia. He would not elaborate on the extent of the indult, when it would be established or how it would work.

The Tridentine rite is currently available to groups of Catholics who ask and receive permission for its use from their local bishops. In the Diocese of Tulsa, the Parish of St. Peter, whose pastor is Father Peter Byrne, FSSP, celebrates Mass at 8:30 a.m. (Sung Mass) and 1 p.m. (Low Mass) on Sunday at St. Augustine Church, 1728 E. Apache St. Weekday Masses are at 7 a.m. Monday and Wednesday, at noon on Tuesday and Thursday, at 7 p.m. Friday and at 8

a.m. Saturday.

Bishop Slattery said the reported expansion of permission by Pope Benedict XVI, said the Parish of St. Peter has his "full blessing and support," and praised the people of the parish for their gentleness, meekness and piety. He said he finds the Tridentine Mass "refreshing," noting it is the Mass with which he grew up.

The old rite is celebrated in Latin and follows the Roman Missal of 1962, which was replaced in 1969 with the new Roman Missal.

Among those who have strongly pushed for wider use of the Tridentine rite are the followers of the late Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, who was excommunicated in 1988.

Canadian Archbishop James Weisgerber of Winnipeg, Manitoba, told Catholic News Service Oct. 10 that Cardinal Dario Castrillon Hoyos, head of the Congregation for Clergy, had spoken briefly to Canadian bishops about the expected step.

"It sounded to me like it was a sort of concession somebody has made," the archbishop said.

Archbishop Weisgerber said the new indult was apparently motivated by a desire to bring

comfort to older people who may miss the old rite. But in his archdiocese, he said, the few people asking for it are "young people who never experienced it."

Pope Benedict has made new efforts to reconcile with leaders of the Lefebvrite religious order, the Society of St. Pius X. In a meeting last year with the pope, Bishop Bernard Fellay, head of the society, asked for the restoration of the Tridentine rite as a sign of good will.

Bishop Fellay later told CNS that he thought the Vatican should simply declare that the Tridentine rite can be used freely because it was never really abrogated. Bishop Fellay also said wider use of the Tridentine Mass would not solve all the problems the Lefebvrites have with the Second Vatican Council.

The pope discussed potential reconciliation terms with the Lefebvrites in two meetings earlier this year, one with heads of Vatican curial offices and one with the world's cardinals. In both meetings, sources said, there were mixed views on wider use of the Tridentine Mass.

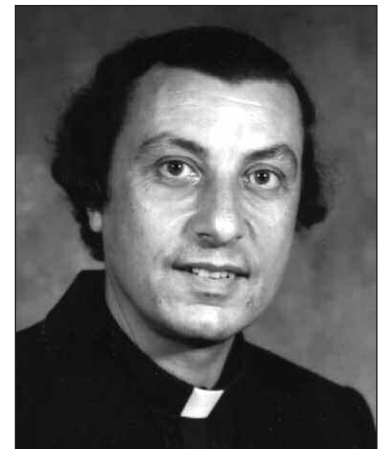
In 1984, Pope John Paul II first made it possible for groups of the faithful to worship according to the

old rite under certain conditions. In 1991, the Vatican established more liberal guidelines, encouraging bishops to grant permission and retaining just one basic condition: that those seeking the old Mass form must also accept the validity of the new rite.

Pope Benedict has long questioned the wisdom of the liturgical changes made after the Second Vatican Council. As Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, he was sometimes outspoken about what he considered the dismantling of the Church's liturgical tradition.

"I was dismayed by the ban on the old missal, since such a development had never been seen in the history of liturgy. The impression was given that this was completely normal," he wrote in a 1997 book.

In the same book, he said it was important for the faithful to understand that for liturgy and other areas, Vatican II was not a break but a "developing moment."



'Inexcusable behavior'

MIAMI (CNS) - Father Anthony Mercieca's admitted behavior 40 years ago with a young Mark Foley "is morally reprehensible, canonically criminal and inexcusable," the spokeswoman for the Archdiocese of Miami said Oct. 20, shortly after receiving the name of the former congressman's alleged abuser. Mary Ross Agosta, director of communications for the Miami Archdiocese, said Archbishop John C. Favalora had withdrawn from Father Mercieca the right to function as a priest and had begun an investigation that "could result in ecclesiastical sanctions" against the Maltese priest, who served in south Florida for 38 years.

Cartoon, documentary recount Pope John Paul II's life, teachings

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Piccolo and Fiona, two doves who narrate a new cartoon about Pope John Paul II, are much better behaved than their real-life counterparts.

In a 30-minute documentary accompanying the cartoon, Vatican television footage shows some real doves flying, but most of the winged symbols of peace refuse to soar away on cue, and one even perches on the head of Pope John Paul.

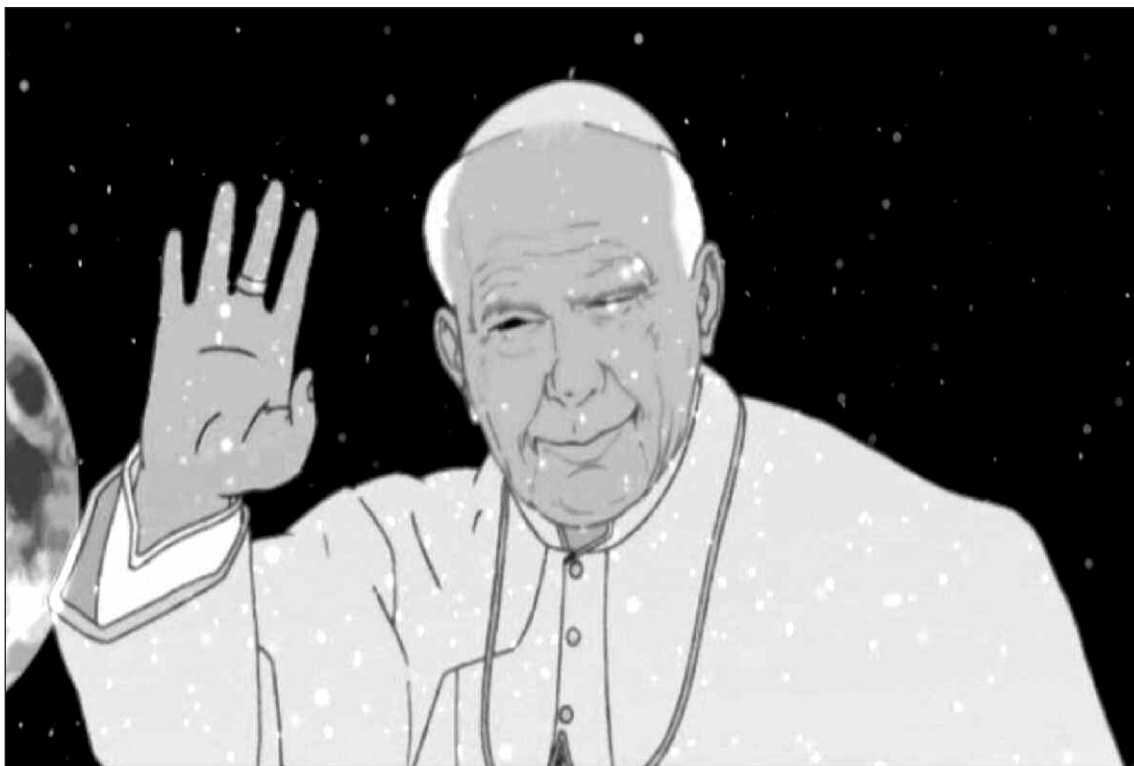
The cartoon, "John Paul II: The Friend of All Humanity," and the accompanying documentary, "John Paul II by John Paul II," were presented to reporters at an Oct. 17 Vatican press conference.

Spanish cartoonist J.L. Lopez-Guardia, who often draws under the name Cavin Cooper, developed both projects in consultation with the Vatican Television Center.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, director of Vatican TV, said he tried to suggest other names for the animated doves, but Mr. Lopez-Guardia drew the creatures and was certain he knew their names.

The films have been completed in Spanish, English and Italian, Mr. Lopez-Guardia said, and he hopes the DVDs will be on sale before Christmas.

U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley,



A likeness of Pope John Paul II is seen in a cartoon film developed by Spanish cartoonist J.L. Lopez-Guardia. The cartoon and an accompanying documentary were presented at the Vatican Oct. 17. Developed in consultation with the Vatican Television Center, the cartoon aims to teach children about the life of the late pope. (CNS photo/Reuters, courtesy of Caven Cooper Productions)

president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, said Mr. Lopez-Guardia effectively used animation to recount Pope John Paul's life and teaching, and especially his "message of love and peace."

"This is a useful tool for a family gathered in front of the television to remember the life of this great pope," he said.

Father Lombardi said he agreed to assist Lopez-Guardia because "I always thought it was important to

have biographies of saints adapted for children and young people, in their own language."

The cartoonist said using animation not only allowed him to produce a film children would find interesting and informative, but it

gave him the freedom to portray the human side of Pope John Paul, especially in his youth.

The youthful scenes include the future pope playing soccer, skiing with his older brother, acting in an amateur production, playing with friends and praying often.

But the cartoon also speaks about the suffering the future pope endured: the deaths of his mother, brother and father; the German invasion of Poland during World War II; work in a stone quarry and studies in a clandestine seminary.

"My idea was to present the human side of Pope John Paul II as the best way to bring him close to children and families," Mr. Lopez-Guardia said.

The cartoon begins with the April 2005 death of the pope, then lets Piccolo and Fiona tell the story of his youth, ministry as a bishop in Poland and election to the papacy Oct. 16, 1978.

The documentary takes over from there, using television footage of the pope to accompany his own words about the value of human life, the talents and needs of young people, the cry of the poor for justice and the yearning for peace in the world.

U.S. Hispanic priests meet, discuss pastoral challenges, leadership

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) - More than 100 U.S. Hispanic priests met in Philadelphia Oct. 9-13 to discuss the pastoral challenges of serving the nation's rapidly growing Hispanic Catholic population.

The five-day meeting was the 17th annual convention of the Asociacion Nacional de Sacerdotes Hispanos (National Association of Hispanic Priests).

Philadelphia's Cardinal Justin Rigali, who celebrated an Oct. 9 Spanish-language Mass for the group at the Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul, told them their ministry "is of tremendous importance for the future, not only of the Hispanic community in the United States, but the whole Church."

The cardinal urged them to "be a bridge in what you do and what you say."

There are approximately 4,200 Hispanic priests ministering in the United States, serving a Hispanic

Catholic population of roughly 25 million, according to the group's president, Father Andres Mendoza of Lubbock, Texas. Any Hispanic priest living in the United States can join the association, but Father Mendoza said most of the members are sons of immigrants or are immigrants themselves. He said he came to the United States from Chihuahua, Mexico, 13 years ago.

"I feel very happy in the United States," he said. "Yes, I had to learn another culture, another language, and another reality. I feel very accepted. And I think Hispanic priests are a blessing for the Church."

The single greatest challenge facing U.S. Hispanic Catholics is a dearth of Hispanic leaders in the Church, Father Mendoza believes. "The Hispanic Catholic priests who come here need to speak both languages. They have to be bilingual in order to become leaders and have greater

influence," he said.

He said their second task is to develop religious vocations from among Hispanics in the United States, urging youths to discover their calling from God.

Hispanics are becoming the largest single ethnic group in the U.S. Church, but without more priests and vocations, "we don't have the pastoral ministry to support these people, and it's a big challenge," Father Mendoza said.

Part of the problem is that some in the pool of prospective priesthood candidates are held back by a lack of education, a lack of the English-language skills required by most seminaries, or even a lack of documents showing they are legally in the United States, he said.

"To me, the bishops have to have an open mind, and help them, in one way or another, to fix their papers," he added.

Also challenging the Catholic faith and its traditions among

Hispanics - not only here but in all of Latin America - are the deep inroads made by Pentecostal churches into the Latino culture. Father Mendoza noted that the culture of the Hispanic people can be hospitable to the emotionality of Pentecostal worship services, which may draw in Latinos with that type of spirituality.

To counter that, he recommended that priests ministering to Hispanics stress movements such as charismatic renewal and the Cursillo movement, which seeks to promote individual and organized apostolic action.

The homilist at the Mass in the cathedral was Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of San Antonio, a former president of the association. His mother was raised in Texas, but he was born in Monterrey, Mexico, and came to the United States 20 years ago.

Hispanics can enrich the U.S. Church through the integration of

their gifts of culture and faith, Archbishop Gomez said. They are open to the values of family, community and forgiveness because they are Catholic, he said.

A particular challenge right now, he said, is resolving the problems of immigration "through laws that recognize immigrant people as human beings with rights and duties."

The shortage of Hispanic priests is not just in the United States, the archbishop said. Mexico has about 10,000 priests for 100 million Catholics, compared to 40,000 priests for nearly 70 million Catholics in the United States.

Previous generations of immigrants from Europe were able to obtain priests from their home countries to serve their pastoral needs. Because of the shortage of priests throughout Latin America, however, immigrants from those countries have not been able to get comparable numbers of priests from home to serve them.



Tapestries hanging from the facade of St. Peter's Basilica show four new saints canonized by Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican Oct. 15. From left, the tapestries show Italian Sister Rosa Venerini, Mexican Bishop Rafael Guizar Valencia, Italian Father Filippo Smaldone and Mother Theodore Guerin, foundress of the Sisters of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind. (CNS photo/Giancarlo Giuliani, Catholic Press Photo)

Pope canonizes four, says being a saint is not for the weak, fearful

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Presiding over the second canonization ceremony of his pontificate, Pope Benedict XVI honored two women and two men who demonstrated that becoming a saint is not for the weak and fearful.

"The saint is that man, that woman who, responding with joy and generosity to the call of Christ, leaves everything to follow him," the pope said at the Oct. 15 canonization Mass in St. Peter's Square.

Political persecution, poverty, suspicion and even opposition from Church leaders were not uncommon in the lives of the four new saints: Mexican Bishop Rafael Guizar Valencia of Vera Cruz; Italian Father Filippo Smaldone; Italian Sister Rosa Venerini; and Mother Theodore Guerin, foundress of the Sisters of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind.

Even in the midst of "trials and

persecutions," the pope said, the new saints knew that following Jesus "truly guaranteed a happy existence and eternal life."

"The saints had the humility and courage to respond 'yes' to Jesus Christ and renounced everything to be his friends," he said.

Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, who had cancer surgery in July, and Cardinal Salvatore De Giorgi of Palermo, Italy, were the main concelebrants at the papal Mass.

Five other U.S. bishops from Indiana and Illinois concelebrated the Mass, which was attended by some 125 Sisters of Providence, dozens of students from St. Mary-of-the-Woods College and 45 pilgrims from the newly renamed St. Theodore Guerin High School in Noblesville, Ind.

Philip McCord, the facilities manager at the college, joined two Sisters of Providence in bringing

offertory gifts to the pope during the Mass. The healing of Mr. McCord's right eye after prayers to the community's foundress was accepted as the miracle needed for her canonization.

In his homily, the pope said, "With great trust in divine providence, Mother Theodore overcame many challenges and persevered in the work that the Lord had called her to do. By the time of her death in 1856, the sisters were running schools and orphanages throughout the state of Indiana."

Speaking in French, St. Mother Theodore's native tongue, the pope said that in the Eucharist, in prayer and in her "infinite trust in divine providence," she found the "strength and audacity" to carry out her mission.

The pilgrims who came to St. Peter's Square for the canonization Mass included dozens of young

people from the United States.

Meggie Gallina, 16, entered the ninth grade in 2004 at Blessed Theodore Guerin High School in Noblesville.

Standing outside a Rome church Oct. 14 holding one side of a huge banner with the school's new name — St. Theodore Guerin High School — Miss Gallina said her trip to Rome was "surreal."

"It is rare enough to get to go to a canonization, but to go to the canonization of your school's patron is amazing," she said.

From the school's first semester, she said, students learned about St. Mother Theodore, her call to leave France and trip to Indiana in 1840.

"She was an amazing woman," Gallina said. "She relied so much on God, on providence. She came to a country, not speaking the language, and built schools, opened pharmacies, built hospitals - all of this was the work of one woman."

During his homily, Pope Benedict praised St. Rafael for his dedication to the poor and his commitment to preaching the Gospel and administering the sacraments despite being forced to flee the Mexican government's persecution of Catholics in the 1920s and 1930s.

Dozens of members of the Legionaries of Christ attended the canonization Mass to honor St. Rafael, the great-uncle of the Legionaries' founder, Father Marcial Maciel Degollado.

The 86-year-old priest did not attend the Mass; earlier this year, after an investigation into charges of sexual misconduct, the Vatican told Father Maciel that he could no longer exercise his priestly ministry publicly.

Members of the Knights of Columbus also participated in the Mass in recognition of St. Rafael's membership in the Catholic fraternal organization.

Retired priests honored, roasted at women's breakfast

The Gospel included the familiar words from Luke: "Knock and the door shall be opened to you," which Bishop Edward J. Slattery said was appropriate for the Mass celebrated Oct. 23 in honor of the retired priests of the Diocese of Tulsa.

"The main work of a priest is to encourage people to a life of holiness," he said in his homily at Church of the Madalene. "How did these retired priests spend their lives? They were holding your hand for very many years, in times of trouble and in times of joy."

Addressing the retired priests present, Bishop Slattery said, "That, Fathers, is why we are grateful to you – for holding people up."

Bishop Slattery also thanked the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, who hosted the Mass and a breakfast that followed, where there was plenty of good-natured teasing of the retirees. A check for \$2,000 was presented to Father William J. Swift for the priest's retirement fund by council president Pat Sisemore.

The first-ever breakfast was greatly appreciated by the priests, as is the council's support, said Father Swift, who has been a priest for 51 years.

The Diocese of Tulsa's priest retirement fund is under-funded by about \$1.2 million. Bishop Slattery has designated the second collection on Christmas to be allocated to the fund with the hopes of growing it by an extra \$120,000 each year. That would put it on sound footing by 2020.

"That collection is the thing we depend on," Father Swift told the audience of about



Pat Sisemore presents a check for \$2,000 to Father William J. Swift on behalf of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women.

135. He compared the Diocese of Tulsa's status to that of the Archdiocese of Omaha, home of a seminary classmate who visited Tulsa last month. "That brat Andy Meister," Father Swift said, referring to Msgr. Andrew Meister, told him his retirement fund stands at \$14 million. In contrast, the Tulsa retired priests often feel like "beggars,"

Father Swift said.

Father Jack Gleason, pastor of Church of the Madalene and director of the vocations office that is headquartered there, acted as master of ceremonies during the breakfast. "I thank all of you for your commitment and service to our Diocese," the priest said after introducing the retired priests present

in a way that at times resembled a celebrity roast.

He told of a time when Msgr. James Halpine, rector emeritus of Holy Family Cathedral, who has been a priest for 53 years, fell asleep during confession. When the penitent told Msgr. Halpine what had happened, "his response was, 'Well, did you say anything important?'"

Father Gleason introduced Father James White as "kind of a piker," with a mere 37 years in the priesthood; also recognized was Father J. Paul Donovan, pastor emeritus of St. Henry Church in Owasso, whose 48 years as a priest include being rector of the Cathedral, the seminary and serving as a missionary in Africa.

Father Dan Perlinski, with 49 years, "around here at Madalene is known as Father Dan Number 1," as opposed to one of his successors, former pastor Msgr. Dan Mueggenborg.

Father Dennis Casey, ordained in 1957, has served as a military and hospital chaplain and once "was on the cover of *Golf Digest*," Father Gleason said. Father Robert Pickett, a priest for 51 years, was known for his service at Church of the Resurrection and his commitment to the poor, notwithstanding the fact that his nephew is "a right-wing radio talk show host." Father Gleason added that Father Pickett "hasn't died because he has more conversion to do."

Not present were Father William Skeehan, Resurrection's founding pastor, who was ordained in 1960, and Father Kenneth King, ordained in 1957.

Mabee challenge grant boosts CC campaign

A \$1.5 million challenge grant from the J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation has boosted Catholic Charities' capital campaign to \$9.7 million, more than halfway to the \$16 million goal required to pay for a new central campus, Executive Director Tim Sullivan reported Oct. 17.

The campaign, the first in the 55-year-old history of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Tulsa, is to conclude in April 2007. An appeal to meet the Mabee Foundation challenge grant is planned for early next year.

"Mission of Hope: Changing Lives With Love" was launched March 25, and Catholic Charities has received three gifts of \$1 million from the William K. Warren Foundation, the Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation and Joe and Kathy Craft. Two gifts of \$500,000 have been offered by Alan Staab and

Sharon Voskuhl and an anonymous donor. The Herman G. Kaiser Foundation, Hille Foundation and Mary K. Chapman Foundation also pledged significant gifts. Contributions also have been made by every member of the Catholic Charities Board of Directors.

"We have experienced overwhelming generosity from people of many faiths throughout eastern Oklahoma," said Richard Minshall, the campaign's co-chairman. "Our success to date would not have been possible without the commitment of community volunteers and leaders."

The 77,000-square-foot central campus at Harvard Avenue and Apache Street will house nine programs that currently are scattered around Tulsa in facilities in varying stages of

deterioration. Deacon Sullivan said the agency provides the poor and needy "with innovative and long-term solutions to the many complex problems they face."

Among the programs to move to the new facility are Madonna House, St. Elizabeth's Lodge, a medical clinic, emergency assistance, refugee resettlement, immigration, adoption and counseling.

"This new facility is a gift to Tulsa, and we are grateful and blessed to be a part of this compassionate effort of Catholic Charities," said Sally Minshall, the campaign's co-chairwoman.

Robert J. LaFortune is serving as honorary campaign chair. For more information about "Mission of Hope: Changing Lives With Love," contact Kevin Sartorius at 918-585-8167 ext. 109.

Sister Jamesetta dies at 95

Sister Jamesetta Ireton, OP, who served the parish and school of Sts. Peter and Paul in Tulsa for 20 years, died Oct. 10 at St. Dominic Villa, Sinsinawa, Wisc. The Mass of Resurrection was held in Queen of the Rosary Chapel at Sinsinawa Oct. 13, followed by burial in the Motherhouse Cemetery.

Sister Jamesetta made her first religious profession as a Sinsinawa Dominican Aug. 5, 1932, and her final profession three years later. She was an elementary and junior high teacher for 42 years. Prior to her retirement in 1988, she had served in Wisconsin, Nebraska, Illinois, Minnesota, Oklahoma and the District of Columbia.

During her tenure at Sts. Peter and Paul, she saw the comings and goings of four pastors and numerous associate pastors, including Fathers Paul Eichhoff, Martin Morgan, John Wade and the late Tom Hildebrand.

"I knew Sister Jamesetta Ireton during my assignment at St. Peter and Paul Church from 1971-1975," Father Eichhoff said. "Sister Jamesetta was a lovely woman with a very outgoing personality. I knew her first as a classroom teacher but in her later years at Sts. Peter and Paul she was involved with pastoral ministry to the parish in visitation of the elderly and those homebound. We are truly blessed to have experienced the many gifts of the Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters in our Diocese of Tulsa for many years. May she rest in peace."



Sister Jamesetta Ireton

Shifts in DDF, stewardship announced

Joan Dorney, who has been an assistant in the Office of Stewardship and Development since 2002, has been named director of the Diocesan Development Fund and already is at work planning the 2007 campaign that underwrites most ministries of the Diocese of Tulsa.



**Bob
Gisler**



**Joan
Dorney**

“Joan has done an excellent job in assisting Bob Gisler, and this change will allow Bob to focus his full attention on stewardship,” Chancellor John Johnson said Oct. 20.

Mr. Gisler said he is excited about the shift. “To narrow the focus of my attentions toward stewardship has been a stated goal of mine since coming to the Diocese in late 1998,” Mr. Gisler

said. “As stewardship intertwines with every aspect of our Catholicity, being in the position to help advance the authenticity and spirituality of stewardship in a more focused way will be a blessing – and a challenge.”

Mrs. Dorney expressed similar enthusiasm. “I believe the DDF is one of the most important

components of the Diocese, as without it, many ministries would struggle to exist, and our Catholic family would suffer.”

She noted that more than 8,000 Catholics donated to the DDF in 2006, more than ever, but said there still is a long way to go.

“The national average of parish participation in dioceses the same size as Tulsa is 44 percent. We currently are at 38 percent, which is an increase, but we want to do better. My primary goal is to get all parishioners to participate in the DDF and do even better than the national average.”

Mr. Gisler will continue to work on estate planning, which is part of the stewardship office.

Mary *Continued from page 1*

12:15 p.m.; back to the church for lunch; reorganize and resume knocking on doors until 5:30 p.m.; return to the church to fill out daily reports of addresses visited and contacts made, then dinner and a Legion of Mary meeting.

The next morning, the process started anew.

By Friday, Oct. 13, follow-up visits were being made to households that had been contacted earlier in the week but the residents spoke only Spanish. Mr. Schoonover was teamed with Lupe Hernandez, a Legion of Mary member of St. Mary Parish in Newton, Kan., who is bilingual.

In the St. Thomas More parking lot after lunch, the teams bid each other farewell, calling out to one another, “I hope you have many good calls!”

Mr. Schoonover and Mrs. Hernandez did not get off to a promising start; at the first house they visited, nobody was home. At the second, a friendly young woman answered the door and answered Mrs. Hernandez in Spanish. It turned out she also is fluent in English, and her family attends Victory Christian Center.

Third house? No answer. Fourth stop? The same. Mr. Demaree, the Legion member from Spring Hills, Kan., said typically the daytime visitors find somebody home at about half the homes they visit, but in St. Thomas More Parish, it had been more like one in three.

“Tulsa is a working town,” Mr.

Schoonover explained. The likeliest people to be home during the day are Hispanic mothers of small children whose husbands may work two or even three jobs to support the family.

The team hit pay dirt at their fifth house, which had a sign on the door with the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe and announcing “ESTE HOGAR ES CATOLICO,” or “THIS IS A CATHOLIC HOUSE.” Such signs are typical in Hispanic Catholic households and also include a request that solicitors from other religions not bother the family.

The visitors were welcomed graciously by Garcia Avelar, the matriarch of the house, who told Mrs. Hernandez that 10 members of her family lived there. All have been baptized and confirmed; two of her children were present, Ursula, mother of 3-year-old Karen, and Pedro, Mrs. Avelar’s “baby,” who is 25.

On his previous visit, Mr. Schoonover had left miraculous medals that already had been placed on the family’s home entertainment center, which serves as the household’s shrine.

The Avelars attend St. Francis Xavier Church in Tulsa, the largest Catholic church in Oklahoma, where eight of the nine weekend Masses are held in Spanish.

Ursula, the young mother, said she would like to improve her spotty English, and Mrs. Hernandez told her the YWCA offers free

English classes at St. Thomas More. She also got after Pedro, who dropped out of school after completing sixth grade in Mexico.

His older brothers would not let him attend school in America, Pedro said, because they were fearful he might get involved in drugs or fall in with “bad influences.” He currently works for a stucco company, and that day he had been on a job in Enid.

Mrs. Hernandez gave him a rosary – “You can put it in your pocket, you must carry it with you.” She left other rosaries for the other residents of the house and told Pedro that while he has managed to pick up a good amount of English from his co-workers on job sites, he will be far better off if he finishes his education and learns to read and write in English.

After concluding their visit, Mr. Schoonover and Mrs. Hernandez returned to her car to resume checking out as many addresses as they could reach.

Father Kerkemeyer said he enjoyed having the Legion of Mary people visit, and “I thought it was a great benefit to the parish. (The data) just gives us a sense of who we are.”

He said he was surprised at the numbers. Final data showed 5,200 homes were visited, and more than 1,900 face-to-face encounters were made over the six days the Legion of Mary was in the parish.



From left, Co-Emergency Directors Todd Hoffman, M.D. and Jason Lepak, M.D. were on hand for the St. John Owasso open house Oct. 14. They are both parishioners of St. Bernard Church.

St. John-Owasso hosts open house

About 60,000 people in the Owasso service area who now have a brand-new, state-of-the-art hospital in their backyards.

St. John Owasso, a 106,000-square-foot hospital with four floors, held a community open house Oct. 14 near 129th East Avenue and 96th Street North. Hospital staff members gave tours and provided general information about the hospital, and police, fire and helicopter crews also were present.

“We really hope to serve the needs of the growing northeast Oklahoma community,” said Becky Cartwright, labor and delivery manager. “The convenience is wonderful; we’re 15 minutes closer than Tulsa.”

The entire fourth floor is dedicated to labor and delivery, postpartum, obstetrics and gynecology with a private elevator to the operating room. The radiology department also has some of the fastest diagnostic equipment in the world.

The emergency room was staffed for the day by board-certified physicians and registered nurses to run a teddy bear clinic where children brought in their ailing stuffed friends for treatment.

Giving tours of the emergency room were Drs. Todd Hoffman and Jason Lepak, St. Bernard parishioners who serve as co-directors of the ER. After explaining innovative technology will allow quicker, more efficient trauma care, the doctors addressed the quality of care they will provide.

“Your emergency is our emergency,” they said. “We are furthering the ministry of Jesus Christ through healing,” Dr. Hoffman added. “It’s more than a motto, it’s our mission.”

The new hospital will staff highly qualified hometown physicians and specialists from throughout the Owasso, Claremore, Tulsa and surrounding areas.

“As it is now, everyone has to go to Tulsa for any kind of hospitalization,” said Father Bradley, pastor of St. Henry Church in Owasso. St. John Owasso “will be a great benefit to people in this area, and they are very excited.” He said hospital officials were overwhelmed by the public response to the open house and dedication.

St. John Medical Center, which built the Owasso hospital, is operated by the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother.

Father Carl Kerkemeyer

There's nothing to fear about confession – unless you don't go

More than three years ago, Father Tim Davison was assigned pastor of Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, and I was assigned pastor of St. Thomas More. Father Tim approached me to see if I would assist with an effort proposed by one of the retired priests in the Diocese. The idea involved hours of Adoration of the Exposed Blessed Sacrament and the availability of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.



For this idea to become a reality several confessors would need to commit to an hour or more each week at one location.

Having the support of several confessors (some retired and some assigned in the Tulsa area), the effort was begun. It did not require a lot of prayer or discernment on my part to commit one hour a week to the effort. I feel that the sacrament of conversion, Penance, confession, forgiveness, and Reconciliation (Catechism of the Catholic Church, para. 1423-4) is a beautiful sacrament of encounter with God's mercy that many Catholics fail to appreciate.

I assure you the priest confessor will gladly walk you through the sacramental encounter with God's mercy under the seal of the confessional. You have nothing to fear (unless you don't go) and everything to gain by accepting God's forgiveness of your sins.

The beautiful scriptures of the 15th chapter of St. Luke's Gospel serve as a basis for the sacramental encounter of a

sinner with God: The Parable of the Lost Sheep, The Parable of the Lost Coin, and The Parable of the Lost Son.

Also, St. John's Gospel conveys Jesus' response to A Woman Caught in Adultery: "Then Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you. Go, from now on do not sin any more.'"

What beautiful words are spoken by Jesus to the so-called repentant "good thief" as he hangs on a cross next to Jesus: "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43). These are not words of despair, hopelessness and rejection for our sinfulness, but rather hope, encouragement, and restoration to life in the Trinity, no matter how grave a sin might have been committed.

As expected, penitents are coming to have their sins absolved. Not only are penitents coming from Sts. Peter & Paul Parish and School and surrounding parishes, they are, surprisingly, coming from out of town.

The effort continues as sins are forgiven and God is adored. Some of the Catholic school children take advantage of the availability of confession right after school lets out. Others gladly drive miles in order to receive Christ's forgiveness.

The confessors themselves have expressed that it is good to be present for the assigned times even when penitents don't come. The priests are able to adore the Lord, pray (the Office), have their confessions heard and sins absolved, read spiritual materials and take a break from hectic schedules.

Personally, I think that taking the time to drive to a neighboring parish for an hour each week is a worthwhile

sacrifice. My contribution to this sacramental effort allows the faithful of the parish, the Tulsa area, and beyond to have access to confessors throughout the week.

The confessors certainly wish more Catholics would avail themselves to this beautiful, yet often neglected, sacrament. "For those who receive the sacrament of Penance with contrite heart and religious disposition, reconciliation is usually followed by peace and serenity of conscience with strong spiritual consolation" (Ibid., 1468).

Confessors experience slow days and busy days. In any case, the mercy of God is at work, sin is forgiven, and the penitent is reconciled with God and His Church.

What a privilege it is for a confessor, serving as Christ's instrument, to be able to state sacramentally to a repentant sinner, knowing that sin is forgiven, the words of absolution: "God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of His Son has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins: through the ministry of the Church may God give you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" (Ibid., 1449).

The current hours for Adoration and Confession are 3-7 p.m. Tuesdays and 3-5 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, 1436 N. 67th East Ave.

Father Carl Kerkemeyer is pastor of St. Thomas More Church.

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:

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P.O. Box 690240

Tulsa, OK 74169

Fax your information to 294-0920.

E-mail to easternokcatholic@dioceseoftulsa.org

ORGANIST/PIANIST - Part-time professional organist/pianist position includes Saturday evening and Sunday morning Liturgies, Wednesday night choir rehearsal (during academic year) plus various associated events. Salary negotiable. New three manual Allen Renaissance organ. Submit resume and three letters of reference to Charlene Hayes Elston, Director of Music, Church of the Madalene, 3188 East 22nd Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74114-1822; FAX: 918-744-0024; email: madaleneorganist@yahoo.com

STUDENT ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR - Responsible for assisting students in skills

development, encouraging campus-wide involvement and providing a variety of activities and events. Master's degree in student affairs or related field preferred. In addition, one to three years experience in co-curricular program planning and student leadership development. Submit a current resume with names and telephone numbers for five recent professional references and salary expectations. Mail to Human Resources, St. Gregory's University, 1900 W. MacArthur, Shawnee, OK 74804. Email, nrwalck@stgregorys.edu. Position open until filled. EOE

ACCOUNTING CLERK - The ideal candidate would be an experienced, hands-on individual familiar with monthly accounting cycles of G/L, A/P, A/R and inventory in manufacturing, distribution and retail environments. Proficiency in using a PC with Word and Excel and automated accounting systems. Excellent problem solving and people management skills essential. We offer a competitive salary and benefits, including major medical and 401(k). Send, FAX or email resume and salary requirements to F.C. Ziegler Co., Attn: Human Resources, 415 E. 12th St., Tulsa, 74120; FAX 918-582-3233, email hrdept@zieglers.com with "Accounting Position" in the subject matter header.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES CASEWORKER - Catholic Charities' St. Anthony Assistance Unit is seeking a caseworker, a full-time, service-oriented position that requires good people skills and initiative. Basic computer skills necessary, and bilingual skills (English/Spanish) are a valuable asset. Duties include direct interaction with individuals and families who need basic assistance, conducting interviews, assessing need, providing supportive listening,

information/referral and working in food pantry. Food pantry responsibilities include receiving, storing and stocking of foods, involving frequent and regular physical demands, including lifting and moving more than minimal weight. St. Anthony has a Franciscan approach in service to others with an openness to prayer provided in a manner consistent with the teachings of the Church. Inquires and applications may be directed to Matt DeWeese, P.O. Box 6429, Tulsa, 74148, 585-8167, FAX 582-2123, email: mDeWeese@CatholicCharitiesTulsa.org

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR - The Pro-Life Office of the Diocese of Tulsa is seeking a part-time coordinator for the Gabriel Project, a ministry to assist women and families facing crisis pregnancies. Duties for this volunteer position will include answering crisis pregnancy calls, coordinating training and promoting the ministry. Candidates should have basic computer skills, understand and support Church teachings on all life issues and have a passion to minister to women in need. Interested persons should contact Erick Bell, Family Life Director, 294-1904 or erick.bell@dioceseoftulsa.org.

SENIOR HOME CARE - Earn extra money and make a difference providing non-medical care to seniors in their homes. Premium pay for on-call flexibility at \$9.25-\$10 per hour. If interested, contact Companion Home Care at 376-3077.

CHILD CARE PROVIDERS - Catholic Charities Our Lady of Refuge Hispanic Helping Center is seeking two child care providers for pre-school children. Hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. every Wednesday during the Hispanic women's support group meetings. The ideal candidate will speak

Spanish and love to work with young children. Contact Marcela Frescott, 585-8199, or email mfrescott@catholiccharitiestulsa.org.

TELECOM SERVICES - St. Peter's parishioner provides telecom services throughout the U.S. 1.9 cents U.S. domestic. Low international rates. Works from your cell phone. For more information visit www.phone2cents.com

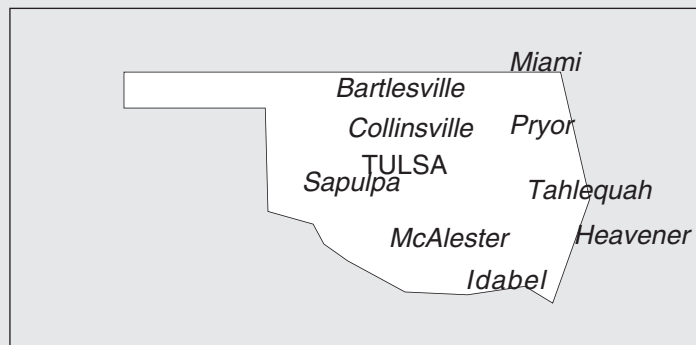
ST. JOSEPH RESIDENCE - St. Joseph Residence, an HIV/AIDS home operated by Catholic Charities, is looking for compassionate, caring individuals. Would prefer nursing assistant, medication aide or home health experience but will train the right person. We offer very competitive wages. Call Joan for an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

HOUSE CLEANING - St. Benedict parishioner with over 10 years housecleaning experience has openings available. Services provided weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or for special occasions. Insured and will provide own materials and equipment. References available. Call Jamie at 299-6603 for free estimate.

HOUSE SITTING - Catholic woman teacher wants house-sitting jobs. Please call 946-1251. References available.

HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS - Preferred Hospice of Tulsa is looking for compassionate volunteers and companion care sitters. Use your talents and skills in a variety of ways to help others. Complete training provided. Contact Caroline Hendricks, volunteer coordinator, 665-1213, chendricks.tul@preferredhospice.com.

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. Chester Artysiewicz, 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.

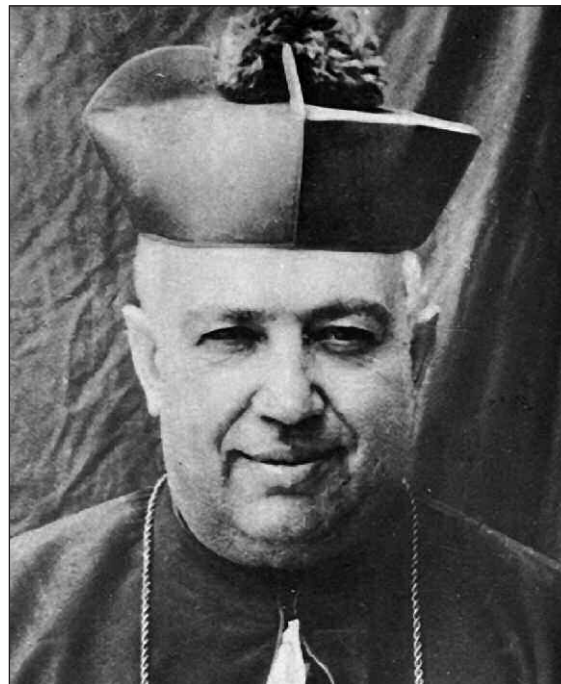
PRYOR
Iglesia de San Marcos
1507 S. Vann St.
Misa todos los Sábados las 7:30 p.m.

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. Don Tranel
Misa los Domingos a la 5:00 p.m.



Nuevo santo de México 'uno de los nuestros'

Obispo Mexicano Rafael Guizar Valencia, quien llegó al sur de Texas durante su exilio de Meexico por la persecución del gobierno de la Iglesia Católica en los años veintes y treintas, fue canonizado en Octubre 15 por el Papa Benedicto XVI. San Rafael es el primer Obispo nacido en las Americas que es declarado santo. Un par de días antes de su canonización, el Arzobispo José H. Gómez de San Antonio y el ya retirado Arzobispo Patrick F. Flores dijeron a los católicos del sur de Texas que el recieen santo es 'uno de los nuestros.' San Rafael fue nombrado obispo de Veracruz, México, en 1919, pero posteriormente llegó a Texas para escapar la persecución y ofreció su ministerio a la gente. En este hombre de Dios tenemos una joya y a alguien para rezar y pedir su intercesión, comentó el Arzobispo Flores.

Sacerdotes Hispanos de los Estados Unidos se reunen, analizan retos pastorales

Philadelphia (CNS) - Más de 100 sacerdotes hispanos de los Estados Unidos se reunieron en Philadelphia en días pasados, del 9 al 13 de Octubre para analizar los retos pastorales en cuanto para servir a la población de más rápido crecimiento en la nación, los Católicos hispanos. La reunion que duró cinco días fue la XVII Convención anual de la Asociación Nacional de Sacerdotes Hispanos. El Arzobispo de Philadelphia, Justin Cardenal Rigali, quien celebró el día 9 de Octubre una Misa en Español para el grupo en la Basílica de San Pedro y San Pablo, les dijo que sus ministerios "son de gran importancia para el futuro no solo de la comunidad hispana en los Estados Unidos si no también para la Iglesia en general."

El Cardenal los invitó a "ser el puente en lo que hacen y en lo que dicen." Hay 4,200 sacerdotes hispanos aproximadamente en los Estados Unidos, sirviendo cerca de 25 millones de Católicos hispanos según comentó el presidente del grupo, el Padre Andrés Mendoza, de Lubbock, Texas. Cualquier sacerdote hispano que vive en los Estados Unidos, puede unirse a esta asociación, pero el Padre Mendoza dice que muchos de los miembros son inmigrantes o hijos de inmigrantes, como él que llegó a los Estados Unidos hace ya 13 años de Chihuahua, México.

"Me siento muy feliz en los Estados Unidos," dijo. "Sí, tuve que aprender otra cultura, otro lenguaje yotra realidad. Me sentí aceptado.

pienso que los sacerdotes hispanos son una bendición para la Iglesia." El reto principal que enfrentan los sacerdotes hispanos de los Estados Unidos es la escasez de líderes hispanos en la Iglesia, cree el Padre Mendoza. "El sacerdote Católico hispano que llega aquí necesita hablar ambos idiomas. Tiene que ser bilingüe para poder ser líder y tener influencia," comentó. Él dice que la segunda tarea es desarrollar vocaciones religiosas entre los hispanos de los Estados Unidos, animar a los jóvenes a descubrir el llamado de Dios. Los hispanos se han convertido en el único grupo étnico más grande en la Iglesia de los Estados Unidos, pero sin más sacerdotes y vocaciones, "no tenemos el ministerio pastoral para apoyar a esta gente y este es un gran reto," opinó el Padre Mendoza.

Parte del problema es que algunos de los candidatos al sacerdocio no pueden avanzar por la falta de educación y conocimientos del idioma requeridos por la mayoría de seminarios o por la falta de documentos que muestren que ellos estan legalmente en los Estados Unidos, dijo.

"Para mí, los obispos tiene que tener una mente abierta y ayudarlos, de alguna manera u otra, arreglar sus papeles," agregó. También, retando la fe Católica y a sus tradiciones entre hispanos- no solo aquí sino en todo Latinoamérica - están los hechos profundos que la iglesia Pentecostal ha hecho dentro de la cultura latina.

Padre Mendoza notó que la cultura de la gente hispana puede ser hospitalaria de los servicios de adoración de esta dicha iglesia, que atrae a los latinos con ese tipo de espiritualidad. Para enfrentar esto, recomendamos a los sacerdotes con ministerios hispanos a dar énfasis a movimientos tales como renovaciones carismáticas y los cursillos, los cuales suelen promover acciones apostólicas individuales y organizadas. La homilía durante la misa en la Catedral fue dada por el Arzobispo José H. Gómez de San Antonio, ex-presidente de la asociación. Su madre creció en T́exas, pero él nació en Monterrey, México, y llegó a los Estados Unidos hace veinte años.

Los hispanos pueden enriquecer la iglesia de los Estados Unidos a travez de la integración con sus valores culturales y de su fe, dijo el Arzobispo Gómez. Ellos están abiertos a los valores de la familia, la comunidad y el perdón porque son Católicos, comentó. Un desafío particularmente ahora es resolver el problema de inmigración 'a travez de las leyes para reconocer a los inmigrantes como seres humanos con derechos y responsabilidades.' La escasez de sacerdotes hispanos no solamente es en Estados Unidos. México tiene cerca de 10,000 sacerdotes para 100 millones de Católicos, comparado a 40,000 sacerdotes para cerca de 70 millones de Católicos en los Estados Unidos, comentó.

VIRTUS video filmed in Diocese with local Catholics

In an opening scene of the newest video for VIRTUS, "Keeping the Promise Alive," Bishop Edward J. Slattery addresses the national "failure to protect our little ones" from sexual predators and says that "parishioners are rightly outraged."

"In 2002 we (U.S. bishops) promised to demonstrate the power of God's love, and we'll keep that promise."

The video, which will be distributed nationwide, was filmed last summer using Holy Family Cathedral Church and School as a backdrop. Many scenes have familiar diocesan faces re-enacting training sessions and real-life scenarios that have occurred elsewhere. VIRTUS, a Tulsa-based firm, is one of several companies that provide child safety programs for use in dioceses across the country.

The Diocese of Tulsa contracted with the company in 2003 to train facilitators who in turn lead three-

hour instruction on keeping children safe from sexual predators. The VIRTUS sessions are required for all people in the Diocese who have contact with children.

As of mid-October, 8,160 people had attended VIRTUS training, which has been held 359 times in 66 locations throughout the Diocese.

Previous VIRTUS videos portrayed candid stories from abusers describing their mindsets and techniques they use to harm children while keeping their families and friends unaware. The theme of the new video, which is described as a "refresher," is how awareness prompts action to protect children.

Following a script provided by VIRTUS, local Catholics participated in preparing the new production. Kevin Sartorius of Catholic Charities, for instance, portrays a parishioner relating how he was able to discover and remove

predators from his community by observing warning signs outlined in the video and taking the recommended actions.

"It empowers us to catch predators in time to spare children from abuse," Mr. Sartorius told the camera.

The video reiterates that awareness plus education equals pro-activity. Through role-playing and demonstrative skits, viewers learn in-depth characteristics and warning signs of sexual predators, accompanied by specific instructions on what to do.

The video's closing message is not to "slam doors and lock children away," but to maintain a healthy suspicion.

"Nobody wants to foster paranoia, but as responsible adults, we need to pay attention and be alert," said Bishop Slattery, who in February was named to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops'



Father Matt LaChance portrays a priest confronting an actor who posed as a parish "dad" and was observed taking excessive numbers of photographs of young children in the new VIRTUS video filmed at Holy Family Cathedral. Local clergy and Catholic community members acted out scenarios demonstrating warning signs and precautions to keep children safe.

Committee for the Protection of Children and Young People.

The new VIRTUS video will be available later this year. It has not yet

been decided whether it will be mandatory for all covered volunteers as the earlier VIRTUS training is.

Schools shore up existing safety, security policies on campuses

The front page of the Oct. 22 Our Sunday Visitor, a nationally distributed Catholic newspaper, asks: "How safe are our schools?"

After a spate of school shootings earlier this fall, school safety is a prevalent question on the minds of many administrators, educators and parents. "People are more aware these days," Superintendent Todd Goldsmith said Oct. 16.

Catholic schools in the Diocese are constantly reviewing safety procedures and conducting security audits to ensure efficiency, he said. "The Tulsa Police Department has been a tremendous resource for Catholic schools, as they are constantly working with us to implement the most updated security techniques." He said a number of police officers have children who attend Catholic school. "It's a good partnership."

Every school has security protocols in place and takes steps to make sure faculty, students and parents are aware of the guidelines and procedures. Suzanne Nelson, principal at St. Mary School, informs the school community about security but draws the line with publishing the specific details of the school's procedures.

"We don't want to draw attention to our specific security methods," she said. Though requests have been made, it was deemed unwise



A new fence has been erected at Bishop Kelley High School.

to post security procedures on the school website as the widespread use and availability of the Internet means "anyone could have access to it," Mrs. Nelson said.

Principal/President Alan Weyland of Bishop Kelley agreed and also keeps security details on a need-to-know basis. "Anyone has access to the Eastern Oklahoma Catholic; you just don't know who will see it," he said.

An obvious benefit to the safety of the campus is having students wear uniforms, which greatly enhance the staff's ability to

identify visitors, Mr. Weyland said. A new security fence built at the school this summer was not in reaction to current events, he said, but was part of a capital campaign that began more than a year ago.

Sts. Peter and Paul School installed a security fence and camera system five years ago.

In addition to installing high-tech security and restricting access, there are practical ways everyone can enhance the safety of their schools. St. John in Bartlesville recently sent letters to families outlining some of these steps.

- Make sure the school is aware of who is allowed to pick up your child and keep the "allowed" list updated. Mr. Goldsmith stated that in addition to random acts of violence, non-custodial parent issues are also a concern.

- Constantly review emergency procedures to determine their effectiveness or need for revision.

- Make sure students arrive on time. This practice is essential for success in school, but also aids in organizing school procedures.

St. Pius X School has numerous security measures in place that

account for a variety of emergency situations. In addition to restricted access, cameras and lock-down drills, the school has had Federal Emergency and Management Agency and Tulsa Police Department officials review security, help educate the staff and provide general safety information.

St. Pius X Principal Karen Arras said that two years ago, parents put together emergency backpacks for every classroom containing emergency procedure instructions, cell phones, rosary beads, prayer cards, playing cards and other items needed during an emergency.

"Administrators and faculty of our schools are professionals, and we are as invested in - and dedicated to - the safety of each student, as are their parents," she said.

Each principal said very basic and similar security standards have been in place for at least two decades. St. Catherine School recently upgraded its security system, but Principal Vicky Adams said the new technology is merely an addition to a system already in place.

"The recent tragedies that have occurred across the country in small schools have only solidified our decision," Mrs. Adams said.

Monte Cassino implements spiritual version of 'Montessori method'

By AMANDA WILLIAMS

"Silence, children," whispered Catechist Camille Zumwalt as third-grade students at Monte Cassino School were ushered into the small room. "Welcome to the atrium."

The atrium is a classroom-type space prepared to help foster the relationship between God and child. Monte Cassino has two, one in the elementary school and one in the early childhood learning center, which was renovated through support from Bishop Edward J. Slattery, Catholic Schools Superintendent Todd Goldsmith and the Diocese of Tulsa professional development and religious formation program for teachers. The atriums are part of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program implemented at Monte Cassino this fall.

The program, founded in Rome in 1954 by Sofia Cavalletti and Gianna Gobbi, incorporates "self-teaching" methods of Maria Montessori with Scripture, liturgy and doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church. The foundation of the catechesis is that a deep bond already exists between God and child, instilling a natural hunger in the child to be closer to God. The program involves Scripture and hands-on activities to foster this bond.

"I prepare the environment,

present the material and then get out of the way," said Mrs. Zumwalt.

Last year, Monte Cassino Director Sister Mary Clare Buthod was contacted by Sister Janice Futrell, OSB, about the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd at Christ the King Parish in Oklahoma City. Sister Mary Clare was instantly intrigued and recruited Mrs. Zumwalt, an oblate to the Benedictine sisters, to complete a 90-hour training program and serve as catechist for the program.

"Every aspect of the catechesis is age- and developmentally appropriate and delivered in such a way that the children are exploring their faith on a level where they can absorb the meanings and understand the stories," explained Mrs. Zumwalt. "Instead of telling them everything, you capture their imagination and let them get involved hands-on."

The spiritual formation program is made up of handmade materials that are "simple yet beautiful," and Mrs. Zumwalt said their purpose is to aid in prayer, attract the senses, require careful, slow movement and allow non-verbal expressions of a child's relationship with God.

Materials include wooden figures representing various Bible



Sydney Smith, back left, Erin Lucking, on the floor at left, Kyle Petty, Kadriye Hargett and Sadie Muelenberg practice pouring water and beans slowly and patiently in the atrium at Monte Cassino.

characters, geographical maps and furnishings. She said the simplicity of each item allows children to use their creativity to imagine and re-enact the Scriptures.

The atrium includes a practical living section with basic components of Mass, and the children have become familiar and comfortable with items such as cruets, ciborium, chasubles and the name and purpose of each vessel used during

Eucharist.

A substantial material donation came from Ed Rollin and Trinity Episcopal Church. He learned Monte Cassino was creating an atrium and contacted the school to donate materials and furnishings from his church's atrium. Other items have been crafted, donated and/or updated by parishioners and parents from all over the Diocese.

"It's wonderful how everyone is participating to create this sacred,

blessed place," said Sister Mary Clare.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd has a curriculum that guides children to listen to the word of God and then explore wherever their wonder takes them. Mrs. Zumwalt said she never pressures them to focus on any specific lesson or material. "What they choose to do with their time in the atrium is between the kids and the Holy Spirit."

"I feel very slow and peaceful in the atrium," said third-grade student Spencer Elias. "Whenever I come here I feel Jesus and God are watching over me, every minute we're here."

Each 30-minute atrium visit ends with partners singing together holding hands, placing their hands on each other's shoulders or lifting their arms to the Lord.

"My hope is that every child understands the Bible is a living story: Jesus was a real person; he walked from town to town; he dined with family; he fished with friends," said Mrs. Zumwalt. "I love watching them draw closer to God on their own through the presence of the Holy Spirit."

Concert raises funds for D.C. trip

MUSKOGEE – Approximately 200 young people gathered Oct. 16 at the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame for a performance by the John Flynn Band. The Catholic rock group from Allen, Texas, has performed on EWTN's Life on the Rock, National Catholic Youth Conferences and World Youth Day, in addition to performances for parish missions and youth group fundraising events.

The fundraising event for the youth group at St. Joseph Church in Muskogee turned out to be an ecumenical event, with young people present from St. Mark Church in Pryor, St. Benedict Church in Broken Arrow and several Baptist and Methodist churches in Muskogee. "It was great to see the youth come together to praise Jesus," Matt Halbach said.

Mr. Halbach the youth director at St. Joseph's, organized the concert,

which many people told him could not be done on such short notice. "It was really kind of a miracle," he said, adding that the youth group is raising money for a trip in January to Washington D.C. for the March for Life.

Eleven people have signed up, and "our goal is for the kids not to have to spend more than the \$125 deposit they have already put down." So when John Flynn, lead singer of the band, called and asked if the Muskogee church would like to host a fundraising concert, Mr. Halbach sprung into action.

Mr. Halbach presented the information to Father Bryan Brooks, pastor at St. Joseph's, who told him that if he could come up with the \$750 deposit then the concert could go on. Mr. Halbach said his first stop was the adoration chapel, where a parishioner asked him how things were going. The

parishioner made a \$100 donation after learning of the challenge Mr. Halbach faced.

Returning to his office, Mr. Halbach made a list of people and started calling. "God wanted this to happen," he said, because almost the entire \$1,200 for the cost of the concert was raised in one day.

The next hurdle was where to hold the concert and how to promote it on short notice. The date Mr. Flynn's band would be traveling through the area was only three weeks after the initial phone call. Mr. Halbach approached Joel Evans, proprietor of the Music Hall of Fame. After hearing what the group was trying to accomplish Mr. Evans donated the room for the concert.

"It was really neat that this guy wanted to donate. It must be God motivating people," Mr. Halbach said.

The concert had a powerful effect



John Flynn, at left, and several of his band's members meet with Ryan Perry and April and Lita Chitwood, parishioners of St. Mark in Pryor, who attended the Muskogee concert.

on young people and adults alike. During the concert, the young people formed a circle with arms linked, and "you could really see the Body of Christ there, united, not worried about differences," Mr.

Halbach said.

The concert was a success in unifying the kids and raising money. More than \$1,100 was raised from donations and ticket sales.

Madalene's 'red-hot' new youth room



Bob Wilson, religious education coordinator at Church of the Madalene, unveils the new large-screen HDTV with accompanying five-speaker surround system.

Fire engine-red walls, kitchen with built-in juice bar, exposed steel beams, garage doors opening onto a breezeway and a big-screen HDTV with five-speaker surround system – no, it's not MTV "Cribs," it's the new youth room at Church of the Madalene.

The parish began a capital campaign in 2003 to renovate the church, nursery, outdoor areas and create a new youth room on the building's north side. Most of the projects were completed, or near completion, months ago. However in the case of the youth room, Bob Wilson believes they've saved the best for last.

Mr. Wilson was brought in as full-time parish director of youth formation last summer and has been moving and shaking ever since. He's been in constant collaboration with Father Jack Gleason, parish council members, parishioners, interior designers and, most importantly, young people of the parish in redesigning

the religious education programs as well as the youth room.

The motif of the remodel resembles that of a trendy New York restaurant or high-dollar salon with its bold colors, black and white checked floors and industrial ceiling. The room has highly anticipated and distinctive highlights - the first of which is the television.

"It seemed enormous when they first delivered it, but now that it's installed in such a spacious, bright room, it doesn't look so big," said Parish Life Coordinator Rebecca West.

Mr. Wilson rebuffed her statement, demonstrating that the TV is almost as tall as he is.

The second highlight, and perhaps a future favorite, is the opening garage. What was once a wall of often-cloudy windows is now a dual-garage door system opening at the push of a button allowing fresh air or outside entertainment.

"The room has always been filled with children and I think it is wonderful that it will be filled with young kids again," said Tina Rouser, parishioner who has witnessed the evolution of the youth program and facilities. "I am glad Madalene is continuing to keep our young people active in the church."

The church will host an open house and building tour from 2-4 p.m. Nov. 12 and has invited all parishioners from Madalene, other parishes as well as the Tulsa community at large. Event promoters extend a special invitation to the Florence Park South neighbors who have "put up with" their construction and disarray for the past three years while they implemented the many renovations funded by their successful capital campaign.

Campaign pledges for the renovation totaled more than \$874,000; actual contributions collected as of Aug. 31 neared \$948,000.

Technology teams San Miguel, Cascia Hall students at computers

Cascia Hall Preparatory School invited students from San Miguel School to visit Oct. 11 for lunch and to experience computer class with Cascia teachers and students.

Middle School Principal Maureen Clements arranged for the eighth-grade class to visit and said she hopes to make this opportunity an ongoing relationship between the two schools. Cascia students have been coming to San Miguel for the past two years during their January break to work with middle-school students there.

"My partner was very nice and made me feel welcome," said San Miguel eighth-grader Anna Soto. "I was surprised by the size of Cascia and how big the classrooms are."

Cascia sent the school's bus to San Miguel to pick up the students and teacher Matt Joram, a Lasallian volunteer from Baltimore in his second year of teaching at San Miguel.

"The San Miguel students were very nice to work with," said Catherine Uhren, Cascia's computer teacher. "They practiced keyboarding and document set-up; we hope to continue lessons throughout the semester."

San Miguel School administrators said they are especially grateful to Cascia Hall



Students from San Miguel School, from left, Meyosha Allen, Anna Soto and Bladimir Segovia learn keyboarding and word processing in the Cascia Hall computer lab.

Headmaster Father Bernard Scianna for his continued support of the cooperative relationship the two schools have formed.

"We have at least four students who will attend Cascia Hall's open house Oct. 29 and plan to take the placement test Nov. 4," said Principal Curt Adams.

San Miguel accepted its initial sixth-grade class in 2004, and

added another in 2005. This year, the first class is scheduled to graduate from the middle school, which takes in predominately minority students who were struggling in public school.

This is the first year the school has had all three classes – sixth, seventh and eighth – in place in their classrooms at St. Francis Xavier Church.

San Miguel students give service to community

Though they are often recipients of generosity, students at San Miguel School give much-needed service back to the community. During their fall intercession the week of Oct. 9, said Margaret Ellison, the school's development director, San Miguel provided service to the following organizations:

- Volunteers of America
- Neighbor for Neighbor
- Kendall-Whittier/St. Francis Xavier neighborhoods
- The Day Center for the Homeless



Bartlesville faculty confers

St. John School faculty member Rita Leland engages Principal Bud Sexson in a discussion about their Bartlesville school. They traveled to Tulsa with the rest of the school's teachers to attend the diocesan-wide Catholic school teachers' in-service Oct. 13 at Monte Cassino School.

Powerful 'Flags of our Fathers' is primarily an examination of heroism

By DAVID DiCERTO
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) - Few photos in American history are more iconic than that of six U.S. servicemen raising the flag on the Pacific island of Iwo Jima during World War II. But many may not know the story behind the photograph or the faceless men immortalized in it. That story is powerfully told by director Clint Eastwood in "Flags of Our Fathers" (Paramount).

Based on the book by James Bradley - the son of one of the flag-raisers - and Ron Powers, the drama unfolds in "Citizen Kane" style, as James (played by Tom McCarthy) seeks out insights about his father, John "Doc" Bradley (Ryan Phillippe), by searching out veterans who served alongside him. This shapes the narrative.

Shuttling between interviews in the present and the wartime events, the film revolves around the battle for the Japanese-held island, the capture of which was key to the Allies' victory in the Pacific. After a pre-invasion assault to weaken Iwo Jima's entrenched defenses, Navy corpsman John - who remained very private about his experiences until his death in 1994 - was among the 30,000 troops to storm the beach and later take the strategically vital Mount Suribachi, atop which Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal captured the indelible image on Feb. 23, 1945.

The other flag-raisers - all Marines - were Rene Gagnon (Jesse Bradford), Mike Strank (Barry Pepper), Harlon Block (Benjamin Walker), Franklin Sousley (Joseph Cross), and American Indian Ira Hayes (Adam Beach), whose later life would be marked by tragedy.

The film also addresses the controversy surrounding the identities of the men in the photograph whose faces are obscured, a confusion compounded by the fact that the photo was actually of a second, later flag-raising.

Of the six men, only three - John, Rene and Ira - survive the subsequent fighting. When the widely circulated photo makes them instant celebrities, they are pulled from battle to help boost national morale back home and sell war bonds by touring packed stadiums.

While all three wear the label of "hero" uncomfortably, Ira drowns his gnawing sense of unworthiness in alcohol, believing that his fallen comrades are the ones who deserve the accolades. (He also encounters both subtle and blatant racism.)

The performances by the relatively unknown cast are all superb, but it's Mr. Beach's poignant turn that strikes the deepest chord.

Cinematically, Mr. Eastwood is at the top of his game. The combat re-creations, including an intense landing sequence that grimly echoes the Normandy invasion in "Saving Private Ryan," are horrifying in their realism, showing the obscenity



Ryan Phillippe, left, and Stark Sands star in a scene from the movie "Flags of Our Fathers." The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III - adults. (CNS photo/Paramount)

of war. (Mr. Eastwood is also directing "Letters from Iwo Jima," which deals with the battle from the Japanese perspective.)

With Iceland standing in for the charred, cratered Iwo Jima, the scenes are shot in slate-gray tones also similar to the ashen palette of "Saving Private Ryan."

There's quite a bit of carnage - at one point the Americans stumble across the grisly remains of Japanese soldiers who committed suicide by blowing themselves up - but Mr. Eastwood leaves a more brutal atrocity to the darker imaginings of the viewer.

In exploring the power of images, the director acknowledges that one strong visual can exploit as easily as inspire.

But while some may interpret the film's subtext as commenting on the propagandizing potential of pictures - as much a concern today as in 1945 - the film is essentially about heroism. In exploring that theme, Mr. Eastwood does not subvert the traditional ideal of valor, but honors it by reminding us that the heroes of Iwo Jima were not supermen, but ordinary boys who rose to the occasion, sacrificing their lives to do what was needed, not for glory, but for the greater good and the guy next to them in the foxhole.

The film contains graphic images of combat violence and gore, as well as recurring rough and crude language and profanity. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III - adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R - restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

David DiCerto is on the staff of the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. More reviews are available online at www.usccb.org/movies.

'Catholic Guy' awaiting debut as radio host on Catholic Channel

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) - It's the age-old story - local talent leaves town to live it large in the Big Apple.

Known for his work in the Twin Cities and on national television and radio, Lino Rulli, 34, has moved from Minneapolis to New York, where he will host a live radio program on a new Catholic satellite radio channel.

Titled "The Catholic Guy," Mr. Rulli's drive-time show will run from 4 to 7 p.m. Central time and will feature "everything under the sun" in Catholic life - including current events, apologetics, doctrine and pop culture, Mr. Rulli said in a telephone interview with The Catholic Spirit, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

"We wanted to call it 'Lino's Train Wreck of a Show,' but marketing wouldn't go for it," he said with a dose of his usual self-deprecating humor.

"Hopefully it's going to be funny, and hopefully it's going to be faithful - that's what I'm going for."

Sirius Satellite Radio and the Archdiocese of New York are working together to create the Catholic Channel, which will debut soon, though no official date has been set, said Joseph Zwilling, communications director for the Archdiocese of New York.

The original Sept. 26 launch date was delayed because of New York Cardinal Edward M. Egan's recovery from Sept. 6 knee-replacement surgery.

"The coolest thing is that Sirius has given the Church a place at the table," Mr. Rulli said of the 24-hour lifestyle channel. "We didn't have to make the reservation, we're not going to have to pay for the meal, and we're not going to have to ask for money. All they're saying is, 'I bet you Catholics have something to say.'"



Known for his offbeat humor and young adult appeal, Lino Rulli is pictured at the Catholic Channel's Sirius Radio station in New York. Rulli soon will host the afternoon call-in show, "The Catholic Guy," from 4 to 7 p.m. Central time. (CNS photo/courtesy of Lino Rulli)

Mr. Rulli said the channel is not meant to compete with Eternal Word Television Network's satellite radio channel, which is also broadcast by Sirius, or Relevant Radio, which has 17 stations plus 17 affiliates that air all or part of Relevant Radio's programming.

The Catholic Channel "is just one more opportunity for the

Church," Mr. Rulli said. "It's one more way for us to be out there and engage the culture."

Sirius also offers music programming; other talk shows on current events, politics, the arts and entertainment; play-by-play coverage of Notre Dame football and basketball games; and live daily Masses from St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York.

Sirius Satellite Radio tends to reach a young adult audience, Mr. Rulli said, and that excites him.

"I wouldn't drop everything, come out here, try to do all this stuff if I thought that it was preaching to the older folk," he said. "That's why I think it's awesome that here (at Sirius) there's something for everybody between this channel and EWTN."

While "The Catholic Guy" is Mr. Rulli's first live radio show, he has media experience to draw from. From 1998 to 2004, he hosted and produced "Generation Cross," a nationally syndicated Catholic television comedy.

He also has worked as a features reporter or pop culture commentator for two Twin Cities television stations and writes a column for The Catholic Spirit.

The challenge is going from TV to radio, Mr. Rulli said. "There's a lot of talking," he said. And with a live show, there's not the buffer editing provides.

Mr. Rulli has transitioned well between the media, however. "(Lino) is perhaps the most natural person I've ever seen behind a radio microphone. With virtually no experience he can adapt to this medium and speak to people," said Mr. Zwilling.

"His humor, his down-to-earth nature, his awareness of what's going on in the world, combined with his very strong faith is what's going to make his show be effective."

By **NANCY HARTNAGEL**
Catholic News Service

F WASHINGTON - The vice postulator of the sainthood cause of Mother Theodore Guerin, foundress of the Sisters of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind., sees her life and Oct. 15 canonization in Rome as a summons to holiness.

Providence Sister Marie Kevin Tighe, who was promoter and vice postulator for the completed cause, said she hoped that for each Sister of Providence the canonization "would deepen her own understanding of the call to holiness in her life in imitation of St. Mother Theodore."

Beyond that, she told Catholic News Service in a phone interview Oct. 5, "I would hope that every person would understand the fact that God does not create just some persons to become saints." Everyone is called to holiness, she said, citing a chapter with that theme in the Second Vatican Council's Dogmatic Constitution on the Church.

Sister Marie Kevin also hoped "Catholics and others would realize that the most important aspect of sainthood is the way the person lived life according to the Gospels, and that the miracles are secondary to that." In general, the Church must confirm two miracles through the intercession of the sainthood candidate before canonization.

The Sisters of Providence foundress was born Anne-Therese Guerin Oct. 2, 1798, in Etables, a village in Brittany, the picturesque French peninsula jutting into the Atlantic. Her family's cottage near the ocean likely prompted her fondness for the seashore.

She had three siblings, two brothers who died in childhood in a fire and a sister, Marie Jeanne, who outlived her. Her father, a lieutenant in Napoleon's navy, was killed by bandits in 1813 while returning home from duty. Her mother, who taught the young Anne-Therese at home, never quite got over the loss of her husband and became an invalid.

At age 20 Anne-Therese wanted to enter religious life, but her mother refused permission. Five years later, with her mother's consent, she entered the Sisters of Providence of Ruille-sur-Loir. As Sister St. Theodore, she made first vows in 1825 and perpetual vows in 1831. For eight years, she directed a school in Rennes, an industrial town, then was transferred to Soulaines, where she administered the school and studied pharmacy and medicine with a local doctor.

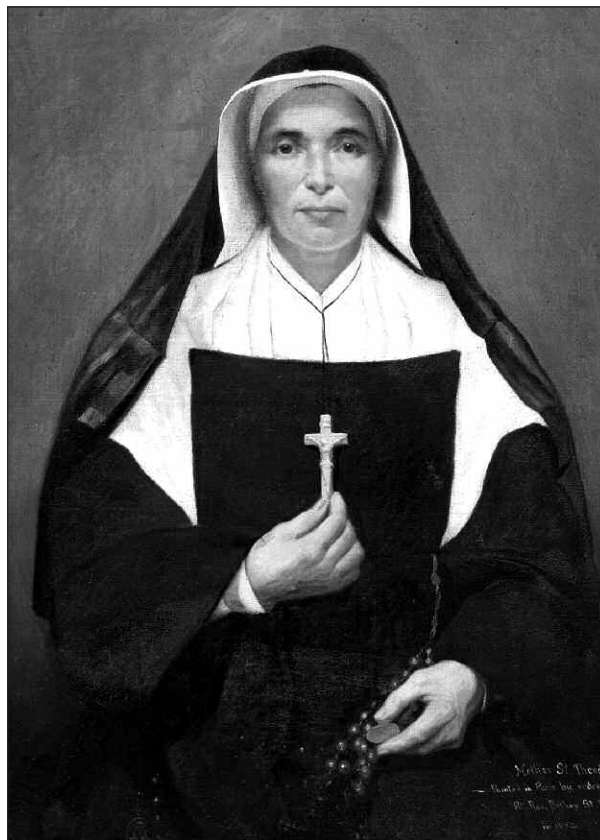
Meanwhile, in 1834 on the American frontier, Bishop Simon Brute de Remur, another native Breton, became the first bishop of the Diocese of Vincennes, Ind., which is now the Archdiocese of Indianapolis but which at that time comprised all of Indiana and the eastern third of Illinois. People were pushing west from the Atlantic seaboard, and Bishop Brute saw a need for Catholic sisters to serve in the large diocese.

He sent a colleague to France to find a congregation willing to help. The superior of the Ruille community felt Sister St. Theodore would be perfect to lead such a mission, but she was reluctant because of poor health. She had contracted smallpox as a postulant, and the treatment she received for it was believed to have damaged her digestive system.

But, after a period of prayer and discernment, she sailed from France with two other sisters and three novices July 27, 1840. They landed in New York Sept. 7, and arrived Oct. 22 at the forest clearing already named St. Mary-of-the-Woods.

Despite much hardship, the six sisters opened an academy for girls that became St. Mary-of-the-Woods College and began the foundation of a new religious congregation modeled on the one they had left in France.

Ill health accompanied Mother Theodore throughout adulthood. For many years she lived on broth and soft foods. She died May 14, 1856.



St. Theodore Guerin

St. Theodore Guerin was reluctant to come to U.S.

Her cause for sainthood was opened in 1909. After her life, work and writings were examined in U.S. and French dioceses and at the Vatican, Pope John Paul II declared her venerable in 1992. She was beatified in 1998, once the Vatican accepted as miraculous the 1908 healing of Providence Sister Mary Theodosia Mug through Mother Theodore's intercession. A second miracle through her intercession, the healing of the right eye of Philip McCord, the facilities manager at St. Mary-of-the-Woods, was accepted by the Vatican earlier this year.

Mother Theodore's remains had been in a tomb under the floor of the Church of the Immaculate Conception at the motherhouse in St. Mary-of-the-Woods. On her feast day Oct. 3, her remains were transferred to a coffin built by staff carpenters for placement adjacent to the church's altar. With Mother Theodore's canonization, the congregation felt the new resting place would allow for better visitation and prayer.

Sister Marie Kevin said she also hoped "that other young women would be touched by the story of the life of Mother Theodore and respond to God's call as women religious in our congregation." The mission of the Sisters of Providence today is "to promote God's providence by works of love, mercy and justice," she said.

From that first academy, their teaching ministry spread across Indiana, and extended to Illinois, Massachusetts,

California, Florida, Texas and Oklahoma. They were the first U.S. women's congregation to establish a mission in China, and currently they serve in Taiwan, China and the Philippines.

About 125 members of the community traveled to Rome for the canonization; the congregation also celebrated Mother Theodore's sainthood Oct. 21-22 at St. Mary-of-the-Woods. Details are provided on the sisters' Web site, www.spsmw.org.

New saint from Mexico 'one of us'

SAN ANTONIO (CNS) — One of the Church's newest saints is truly "one of us," Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of San Antonio and retired Archbishop Patrick F. Flores told the Catholics of south Texas.

The two archbishops spoke at a press conference in San Antonio days before Pope Benedict XVI canonized Mexican Bishop Rafael Guizar Valencia, who came to south Texas during his exile from Mexico because of government persecution of the Catholic Church.

"In this man of God we have a jewel - someone to pray to and to ask for his intercession," Archbishop Flores said. "My prayer is that the people get to know him."

Appointed bishop of Veracruz, Mexico, in 1919 by Pope Benedict XV, the new saint preached missions at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church and San Fernando Cathedral in San Antonio, as well as Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Austin.

At his Oct. 15 canonization, St. Rafael became the first bishop born in the Americas to be declared a saint.

Archbishop Gomez said that when he read the saint's biography in 2001 he saw in the life of the saint a "real source of inspiration" of how to live our Catholic faith, especially for bishops.

St. Rafael still has family living in the San Antonio area. Attending the press conference with the archbishops were Augustin Mora, the new saint's great-nephew, and Tito Guizar Jr., his great-great-nephew.

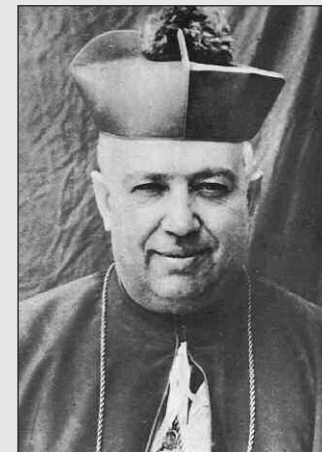
Archbishop Flores said the life of St. Rafael has become a part of his own, since he now owns the episcopal ring that once belonged to the Mexican prelate.

Consecrated a bishop Jan. 4, 1920, St. Rafael sold his pectoral cross, ring, clothes, shoes and more to provide for the needs of Catholics in his diocese affected by a major earthquake shortly after his consecration.

He was known as "the bishop of the poor" despite personal suffering brought on by diabetes, phlebitis, cardiac insufficiency and extreme obesity.

Evangelization also became a major concern and he rebuilt the seminary, which had been long closed because of anti-Catholic legislation in Mexico.

"A bishop can do without a miter, crosier and even a cathedral, but he can never do without a seminary, because the future of his diocese depends on the seminary," he once said.



Bishop Rafael Guizar Valencia

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.

Clear Creek supporters view progress

By **BARB HILGER**

The celebration of Solemn High Mass followed by a picnic at the monastery wrapped up a weekend of festivities for the monks of Our Lady of the Annunciation of Clear Creek Oct. 21-22. The celebration, hosted by Bishop Edward J. Slattery, was part of the second annual fundraiser gala and offered guests the opportunity to see the progress taking place at the monastery.

The weekend began Oct. 21 at the Southern Hills Marriott Hotel with a reception and dinner where keynote speaker Raymond Arroyo kept the audience laughing with his comparison of the monks' undertaking to build a monastery to last 1,000 years to the work of Mother Angelica.

Using humor and anecdotes, he told the group that Mother Angelica did many big things in her life and overcame many difficulties. She became a Poor Clare nun



Donna Wuerch from Tulsa admires the artwork on display at the reception prior to the dinner Oct. 21. The art was part of an online auction added to the Clear Creek fundraiser this year.



Solemn High Mass is offered for the guests in the crypt church at Clear Creek Monastery Oct. 22. (Photo by Brother Jerome Harrison)

and began a monastery in Birmingham, Ala. Then, against the odds, she established the Catholic cable network Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN).

Mr. Arroyo is the host and creator of EWTN's international news magazine, "The World over Live." He also is the author of the New York Times bestseller, "Mother Angelica: The Remarkable Story of a Nun, Her Nerve and a Network of Miracles."

Mother Angelica had a theology of risk, Mr. Arroyo said. Quoting her comment that "it is appalling so few people take a risk for God," he added that the monks are following her bold example.

"I love this project the monks are working toward. It is bigger than they are, bigger than anyone in this room, that's why I know it will be done," Mr. Arroyo said.

John Watkins, emcee for the evening's events, introduced the audience to the members of the speaker panel, which included the Right Rev. Dom Antoine Forgeot, Abbot of the Abbey of Notre Dame de Fontgombault in France.

Mr. Watkins said that like parents who give their sons for vocations, Abbot Dom Antoine Forgeot gave these men to establish the Clear Creek monastery, but it is thanks to Bishop Slattery that the monks settled in the Diocese of Tulsa in 1999.

Through the Bishop's work, the people in the Diocese have been given the "fullness of the universal Church. When these wondering nomads from France came, he said, 'Come and be my sons,'" Mr. Watkins said.

The monks accepted that invitation and now are working to build the Benedictine tradition of monastic life and contemplative prayer here in Oklahoma.

"I loathe to think of myself as more than what I am, the simple Bishop of this Diocese," Bishop Slattery said. "The building of the monastery will be like the building of the kingdom, brick by brick. Our effort demands unfailing hope. Christ is the one who will bring it to perfection and completion," he added.

Patrick O'Meara, of O'Meara, Ferguson and Kearns, a financial advisory company, updated donors on progress of the construction. Phase one began in 2002 and ended in 2004 with the completion of the foundation of the crypt church.

In comparison to other Romanesque architecture costs and construction time periods, modern construction could allow the project to be financed and completed quickly, but the monks "wish to build something beautiful," he said.

Like St. Peter's Basilica in Rome - which took 176 years to complete - or, closer to home, St. Patrick Cathedral in New

York, which took 20 years, this project will take time and money, he said.

Construction at the monastery resumed Oct. 16 on the monks' living quarters. The anticipated completion date of this second phase is December 2007.

New to the gala this year was an online auction. Artwork by renowned artists, donations from friends of the monks and a pilgrimage to France led by Bishop Slattery were among the items auctioned. About 350 people attended the dinner, and 450 attended the subsequent concert, but organizers will not know how much money was raised until all the auction proceeds are tabulated.

From the hotel banquet, guests were shuttled to the new Cascia Hall Performing Arts Center for a classical musical concert featuring Father Sean Duggan, OSB. Father Duggan's hands flew across the piano keys as he entertained the guests with a collection of preludes by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Jim Boatwright from Tulsa praised "the incredible precision" with which Father Duggan played. He also said "the singers have a nice range of dynamics, and the new building allows the soft acoustics to be heard."

Local classical musicians Professor David Britton, Dr. Raeder Anderson and Dr. Marilyn Carver were also featured during the concert.

"Monasticism and Gregorian chant have a place in our world, and it is wonderful to see the Church continue to grow," said Clear Creek supporter Cathy Costello from Oklahoma City.



The Vocal Arts Ensemble of Tulsa performs a traditional Welsh piece under the direction of Dr. Marilyn Carver of Oral Roberts University.