

Criminal Justice Ministry, p. 3

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in Odessa, p. 4

Honduran relationships, p. 6

Roe v. Wade Mass, p. 7

YOUTH 2000, p. 8

Visionary of Medjugorje visits Diocese, p. 9

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Service, p. 12



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Perpetual Adoration Chapel opens in San Angelo

by Peter Micale, WTA

SAN ANGELO – Each one of the three Deaneries in the Diocese of San Angelo now have a Perpetual Adoration Chapel. Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI, Bishop of San Angelo, dedicated and blessed the *PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL* at a Mass at St. Margaret's Church on Wednesday evening, January 26, 2005, at 7:00 PM. St. Margaret's Church, at 2619 Era St. in San Angelo, now has the only chapel in San Angelo that will be open to the public twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, every day of the year.

The Blessed Sacrament – Eucharist – will be visible 24 hours a day in a sacred vessel called a monstrance that is placed in the center of the altar in the chapel. This will continue a tradition begun in the early centuries of the Church when the tabernacle was

left open on the altar of chapels in monasteries and convents where the monks and nuns would pray, never leaving the chapel unattended.

It is the Catholic belief, and also of some other Christian Churches, that during the celebration of the Mass the consecrated bread and wine truly become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. The Eucharistic wafers – the Body and Blood of Christ – that are not consumed during Mass, are always reposed in the tabernacle of the church. In the fourteenth century the monstrance was created as a sacred

see "CHAPEL" page ten



Parishioners pray and meditate at the Perpetual Adoration Chapel in St. Margaret's Catholic Church in San Angelo.



Bishop Pfeifer carried monstrance from main Altar of St. Margaret's to the Perpetual Adoration Chapel. (Photos by Peter Micale.)

Dallas Morning News vs. Truth

by Peter Micale, WTA

Editor's Note: Because of the importance of the subject of this article, it is being sent to all the Catholic papers of the State of Texas.

SAN ANGELO – Several major media outlets use catchy phrases to hype their products. One national newspaper claims it "prints all the news that's fit to print." A major news network makes the claim that "it is fair and balanced" in its reporting. Now it is time to give a major Texas newspaper, when it comes to reporting on items involving the Catholic Church, the epithet: "We will print all the bad news we can gather, over and over again, using twisted journalism!"

The Dallas Morning News (DMN) certainly fits that description, and operates

on the premise that "bad news sells, and twisted journalism attracts readers." Its reporters go out of their way to uncover: any seemingly nugget of information; any item that through half truth, innuendo, or ambiguous reporting; or print any inflammatory photo with a shocking caption, that slams the Catholic Church. There is no attempt here to hide any blemish that occurs within our Church; we have grown out of that. The point needs to be made, however, that the Church's openness and transparency, corroborated by the recently completed audits of all the Dioceses in the United States, unequaled by any other segment of our society, and the recent 50 year John Jay Study have not been reported by the DMN. Rather, it currently has one of its reporters calling a Diocese,

even out of the State, and sending a multi-page questionnaire to a Diocesan attorney, attempting to gather information on "old, bad" news. This is another attempt to gather information before the printing of another "bombshell" article. We are telling other Dioceses to beware the subtle ploy of the DMN.

That, at least, is better treatment than the Diocese of San Angelo received before the DMN printed a story on December 5, 2004. Its title was: "Runaway priests: When the law looks the other way." We have been in a constant dialogue with the DMN since it printed that story, because, even though the editor and reporters insist that the focus of the "story" was how civil authorities around the country have not followed through on their inves-

tigations of sexual abuse by priests, the articles in the series take every opportunity to say something derogatory about the Church. Let me repeat, when Church officials are mentioned, half truths, innuendos and intentional ambiguities are reported, and there is nothing positive reported about the Church. Items are reported that are only allegations, but the DMN presents them in such a way as to make them appear as facts.

The article boasts that the DMN reporters "traveled extensively, conducted hundreds of interviews, reviewed thousands of pages of church and law enforcement documents and built a database with more than 200 cases." When the DMN was questioned as to why they did not come to San Angelo to gather the facts on the San Angelo "case" that was highlighted with a sidebar to the article and with a photo

see "DMN" page eleven



A Lenten fast according to the Prophet Isaiah (Is this the manner of fasting I wish?)

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

The Lenten Season is a period of some 40 days that focuses our attention on the suffering, the passion and death of Jesus on Good Friday as we prepare for the greatest event of Christianity, the Resurrection of Christ on Easter Sunday. During Lent we are encouraged to deepen our spiritual life, our relationship with God, through prayer, through reading of the Scripture, service and fasting. There are many dimensions to fasting, and the great prophet Isaiah tells us about the fast that is truly pleasing to God, and we can say the fast that God wants most from us during the Season of Lent. Let us listen to what God spoke to God's people centuries ago through the prophet Isaiah - (58: 1-9) - and apply this message to our Lenten journey.

"Lo, on your fast day you carry out your own pursuits, and drive out all your laborers. Yes, your fast ends in quarreling and fighting, striking with wicked claw. Would that today you might fast so as to make your voice heard on high! Is this the manner of fasting I wish, of keeping a day of penance. Do you call this a fast?... This, rather, is the fasting that I wish: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke; Sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless; Clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own. Then your light should break forth like the dawn and your wound shall quickly be healed; . . . Then you shall call and the Lord will answer, you shall cry for help and he will say: Here I am!"

Isaiah provides us with a timely Lenten mediation.



Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

Ayuno de cuaresma según el Profeta Isaías (¿Acaso es éste el ayuno que me agrada?)

por el Obispo Miguel Pfeifer, OMI

La temporada de Cuaresma es un período de 40 días que enfoca nuestra atención sobre el sufrimiento, la pasión y la muerte de Jesús en Viernes Santo ahora que nos preparamos para el evento más grande del Cristianismo, la Resurrección de Cristo en Domingo de Pascua.

Durante la Cuaresma somos animados a hacer más profunda nuestra vida espiritual, nuestra relación con Dios, por medio de oración, leyendo las Escrituras, en servicio y ayunando. Hay muchas dimensiones de ayuno y el gran profeta Isaías nos habla sobre el ayuno que le agrada a Dios, y podemos decir el ayuno que Dios quiere más de nosotros durante la temporada de Cuaresma. Escuchémos lo que Dios habló a la gente de Dios hace siglos por medio del Profeta Isaías - (58: 1-9) - y apliquemos este mensaje a nuestra jornada de Cuaresma.

"Es que el día en que ustedes ayunan encuentran la forma de hacer negocio y oprimen a sus trabajadores. Es que ayunan, sí, para luego reñir y disputar, para dar puñetazos sin piedad. Ése no es un ayuno que haga oír en el cielo la voz de ustedes. ¿Acaso es éste el ayuno que me agrada? ¿A esto llaman ayuno? . . . El ayuno que yo quiero de ti es éste: Que rompas las cadenas injustas y levantes los yugos opresores; que liberes a los oprimidos y rompas todos los yugos; que compartas tu pan con el hambriento y abras tu casa al pobre sin techo; que vistas al desnudo y no des la espalda a tu propio hermano. Entonces surgirá tu luz como la aurora y cicatrizarán de prisa tus heridas; . . . Entonces clamarás al Señor y te responderá; lo llamarás y te dirá: 'Aquí estoy'".

Isaías nos provee una oportuna meditación Cuaresmal.

The Bishop's Schedule



February 2005

February 1: San Angelo, Christ the King Retreat Center - Workshop of Parish Youth Ministry 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

February 2: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Personnel Board meeting at 9:00 a.m. Diocesan Liturgy Commission meeting at 10:30 a.m. Presbyterian Council meeting at 12:00 noon.

February 3: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Cursillo and Walk to Emmaus meeting at 11:30 a.m.

February 4: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Staff Mass at 8:30 a.m. and Staff meeting at 11:00 a.m.

February 5: Abilene, St. Vincent - 41st Anniversary of parish at 5:30 p.m.

February 6: Abilene, Sacred Heart - Mass at 9:30 a.m. and meet with Pastoral and Finance Councils for Sacred Heart and Clyde after Mass

February 8: Odessa, St. Joseph (and St. Anthony) - Meet with Pastoral and Finance Councils at 7:00 p.m.

February 9: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - 12:00 noon Ash Wednesday Mass. Prayer Service at San Angelo State School at 2:00 p.m.

February 10: Andrews, Our Lady of Lourdes - Meet with Pastor, Pastoral and Finance Councils at 7:00 p.m.

February 11: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - World Day Mass for the Sick at 7:00 p.m.

February 12: San Angelo, Holy Angels - Scout Mass at 5:30 p.m.

February 13: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Rite

of Elections at 1:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

February 15: San Antonio, San Fernando Cathedral - Installation of New Archbishop Jose Gomez

February 17: Odessa, Holy Redeemer - Meet with Pastor and Pastoral and Finance Councils at 7:00 p.m.

February 19: San Angelo, San Angelo Convention Center - Diocesan Conference Day

February 21-22: Austin - 37th Annual Assembly of the Texas Conference of Churches

February 23: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Meeting of International Priests

February 24: Odessa, St. Mary and Our Lady of San Juan Mission - Visit with Pastor, Pastoral and Finance Councils at 7:00 p.m.

February 26: Midland - St. Ann's Catholic Schools Commission meeting at 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Mass and Banquet celebrating 50th anniversary of Cub Scout Pack #84 at 5:30 p.m.

February 27: Coleman, Sacred Heart - Mass at 11:00 a.m. and meet with Pastor, and Pastoral and Finance Councils after Mass

MARCH 2005

March 1-4: Bishop's Lenten Retreat
March 6: St. Lawrence, St. Lawrence - Mass at 10:30 a.m. and meet with Pastor, Pastoral and Finance Councils after Mass
March 7: San Angelo, Diocesan

Pastoral Center - Personnel Board meeting at 11:00 a.m.

March 7-9: San Angelo, Christ the King Retreat Center - Priests Convocation

March 10: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Meeting of the Diocesan Liturgy Commission at 10:30 a.m. Odessa, Holy Redeemer - Meet with Pastor, Pastoral and Finance Councils at 7:00 p.m.

March 13: Colorado City, St. Ann - Mass at 10:30 a.m. and meet with Pastor, Pastoral and Finance Councils after Mass

March 14-15: Rest and Prayer

March 16: San Angelo, for St. Mary - Lenten Presentation at Noon at the Nazareth Presbyterian Church, 313 W. Avenue N

March 17: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Chrism Mass at 11:00 a.m. and Presbyterian Council at 1:30 p.m.

March 18: Staff Meeting and Luncheon at 11:00 a.m.

March 19: San Angelo, St. Joseph - Youth Ministry Training for Adults

from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

March 20: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Palm Sunday Mass at 9:45 a.m. Holy Angels - Seder Meal at 5:30 p.m.

March 23: San Angelo, Christ the King Retreat Center - Lenten Retreat for the Diocesan Staff at 10:00 a.m.

March 24: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Holy Thursday Mass at 7:00 p.m.

March 25: San Angelo, St. Margaret - Way of the Cross at 1:00 P.M. St. Joseph - Good Friday Service at 7:00 p.m.

March 26: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Easter Vigil Mass at 8:00 p.m.

March 27: San Angelo, St. Mary - Easter Sunday Mass at 11:00 a.m.

March 28: San Angelo, Bishop's Residence - Staff Easter Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

March 29: San Angelo, Prayer for the Downtown Main Street Program Kick Off

March 31: Abilene, Hardin Simmons University - Presentation to the Student Body at 9:30 a.m.

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February Necrology

Please pray for the following priests and deacons whose anniversaries of death are during the month of February.

9-Rev. Albert Fuytinck, C.S.S.R. (1997)

10-Rev. Leo E. Lavoie (1978)

22-Rev. Francisco Lopez (1994)

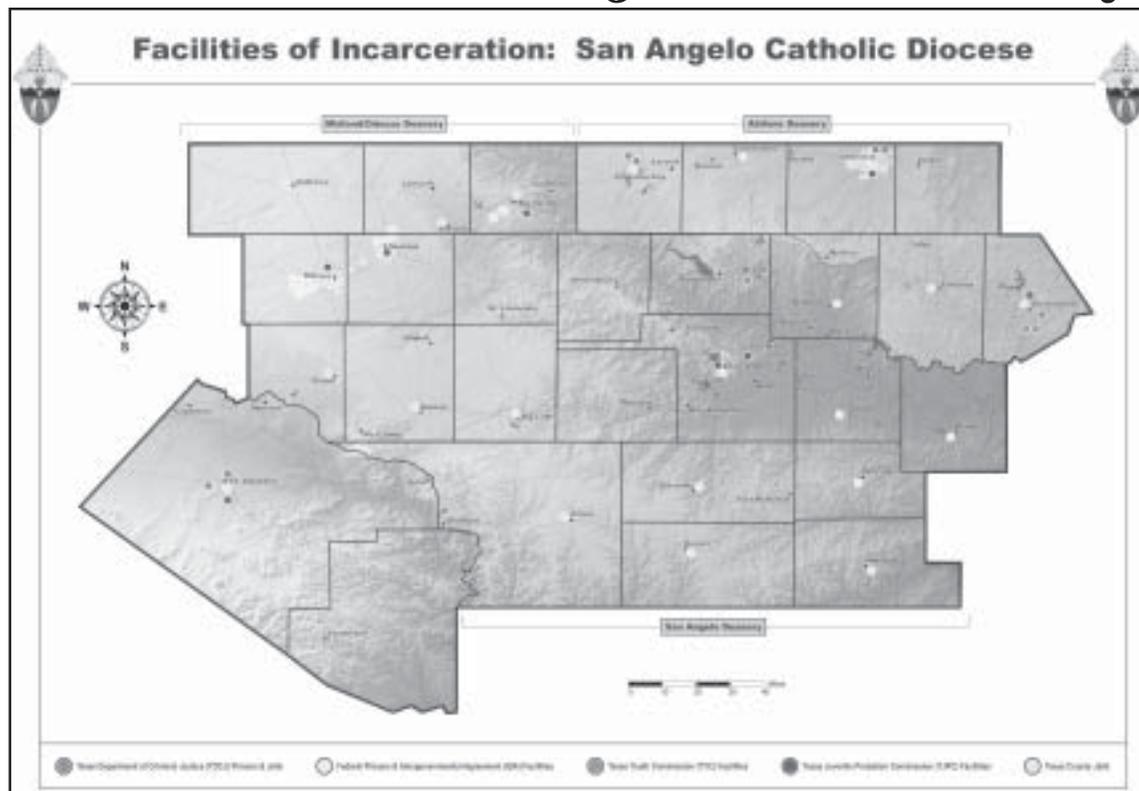
A broader focus for criminal justice ministry

by Deacon Robert Leibrecht

MIDLAND – Since its inception, the diocesan focus for criminal justice ministry has been primarily one of ministering to the incarcerated in our local jails, prisons and juvenile facilities. The director, until last fall, was Linda Hill who was coordinator for the Office of Correctional Ministries. Documents by the Conference of Catholic Bishops have emphasized a much broader perspective for criminal justice ministry to include not only the incarcerated, but also the need to assist in the healing of the victims and community, as well. With this intent of a broader focus, Deacon Robert J. Leibrecht, was named to the position, Director of Criminal Justice Ministry, in September 2004. Deacon Bob assigned to St. Stephen's parish in Midland, is shown in the attached photo. He was ordained in June 2004 along with 26 others who are now ministering in many different parts of our diocese.

In July 2000, Pope John Paul II said, "We are still a long way from the time when our conscience can be certain of having done everything possible to prevent crime and to control it effectively so that it no longer does harm and, at the same time, to offer to those who commit crimes a way of redeeming themselves and making a positive return to society." Shortly after this, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops published a booklet entitled: "Responsibility, Rehabilitation and Restoration" in November 2000. This document of the Bishops says that the Catholic approach must deal with the human dignity of both the victim and offender. Also, the Bishops endorse the Restorative Justice model, which focuses on the victim and community harmed by the crime, rather than just the dominant state versus offender model. It affirms the hurt and loss of the victim, harm and fear of the community and makes the offenders come to grips with the consequences of their actions.

With this broader perspective, Criminal Justice Ministry (CJM) for our diocese will now include four main areas of emphasis:



- Offenders in Jails, Prisons and Juvenile Facilities
- Ex-Offenders and Families
- Victims and Families
- Social Justice Issues Related to Criminal Justice

The first major area has been the primary emphasis for this ministry and will still be very important; however, the others will offer a broader focus and hopefully lead to greater involvement, especially by many who are apprehensive about making visits to a jail or prison.

A comprehensive inventory was made of all the incarceration facilities in the diocese. These facilities are highlighted in the attached map. The map shows the boundaries of the diocese with its 29 counties and regional color-coding to denote the three deaneries. The map legend shows the five different colored circles, which denote the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) jails and prisons, Federal Prisons & Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) facilities, Texas Youth Commission (TYC) facilities, Texas Juvenile Probation Commission (TJPC) facilities and Texas County jails. In total, there are 50 facilities of incarceration in the diocese with over 19,500 residents. The Catholic population of the incarcerated residents is just over

8,000. This represents by far the largest parish in our diocese, a significant mission field to bring the light and love of Jesus Christ.

The diocese is blessed with many volunteers already ministering to the incarcerated; however, there is always a need for more. Besides the efforts to get new volunteers and provide the necessary training, Deacon Bob will be working to build a strong relationship with each facility chaplain to ensure that the desired Catholic services, programs and materials are available and that the ministry time can be effective with minimal obstacles for those serving.

A second area of CJM emphasis

is the ex-offender and family. In February 2003, Linda Hill implemented a program entitled "Welcome Home" for those being released back to our diocese. Weekly lists are provided of offenders being released from TDCJ prisons. The information includes offender's name, address, phone number and religious preference. To date, this program has been somewhat successful; however, it is timely to re-emphasize the effort with the pastors. An effective way to implement the program is to establish parish teams to assist in reaching out to the offenders upon return, and also to their families. The teams can make contact with the ex-offend-



Deacon Robert Leibrecht (Photo courtesy of the Deacon.)

ers offering to help with food and clothing, as well as, any potential job leads. These actions of love, support and fellowship can be critical as the recidivism rate of offenders is very high during the first few months after release.

Besides offenders, the parish CJM teams can also assist the victims and their families with healing. Our focus in society has been to punish the offender and many times there is no one to offer comfort and support for those victimized by crime. When an incident occurs, the team should be ready to offer love, compassion and empathy in ministering to the victims. Also, awareness training is needed for these parish teams to help identify potential signs of domestic violence so that support might be offered to those impacted.

see "JUSTICE" page ten

Priest assignments in the Diocese

Rev. Gabriel BINYE, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Winters

Rev. Miguel DINIO, St. Ann Church, Sonora

Rev. William DuBUISSON, OMI, Judicial Vicar, Tribunal, Reduced Active Ministry

Rev. Joey FAYLONA, St. Joseph Church, Fort Stockton

Re. Clement ONWUNATA, C.SSp., Holy Family Church, Sweetwater

Seminarian from Diocese named to Conception Seminary College Dean's List

Conception, Mo. – Seminarian Matthew Fenner, of Holy Family parish in Abilene, has been named to Conception Seminary College's Fall 2004 Dean's List for earning a grade point average of 3.25 or better.

Fenner, a sophomore, is the son of Patrick and Debra Fenner.

Discernment Weekend

VICTORIA – The Sisters of Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament are hosting a Discernment Weekend for single Catholic women between the ages of 18 and 50 years of age on March 5-6, 2005, at Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria, Texas. If you are interested, please call (361) 771-3325 or 575-7111 or e-mail iwbsvoc@yahoo.com for more details. Visit www.iwbsvictoria.org for more information about the Sisters.



Pope John Paul II grants a plenary indulgence to mark the Year of the Eucharist

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

SAN ANGELO – According to the information taken from Zenit, from the Vatican City, January 14, 2005, which I share in this article, Pope John Paul II has approved a special plenary indulgence to mark the Year of the Eucharist, which began in October, 2004 and will end in October, 2005.

According to a decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary, during the Year of the Eucharist a plenary indulgence may be gained by participating in acts of worship and veneration of the Most Holy Sacrament, as well as by praying vespers and compline of the Divine Office before the tabernacle.

The objective of the Papal favor is to “exhort the faithful in the course of this year, to a more profound knowledge and more intense love of the ineffable ‘mystery of faith,’ so that they will reap ever more abundant spiritual fruits.”

The decree reminds the faithful that to obtain a plenary indulgence it is necessary to observe the “usual conditions”: “sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion, and prayer in keeping with the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff, with the soul completely removed from

attachment to any form of sin.”

In the Year of the Eucharist—which began October, 2004 and will end October, 2005, when the world Synod of Bishops will be held on the Eucharist—the plenary indulgence may be obtained in two ways.

In the first place, according to the decree, “each time the faithful participate attentively and piously in a sacred function or a devotional exercise undertaken in honor of the Blessed Sacrament, solemnly exposed or conserved in the tabernacle.” For example, during the 40 Hours devotion, by taking part in Perpetual Adoration, or by praying before the Blessed Sacrament on a First Friday. In the second place, the plenary indulgence is granted “to the clergy, to members of institutes of

consecrated life and societies of apostolic life, and to other faithful who are by law obliged to recite the Liturgy of the Hours, as well as to those who customarily recite the Divine Office out of pure devotion, each and every time they recite—at the end of the day, in company or private—vespers and night prayers before the Lord present in the tabernacle.”

The key to understanding the Eucharist

by Rev. Thomas Richstatter, O.F.M.

SAN ANGELO – Note: In this year of the Eucharist, I am featuring various articles on the greatest gift Christ has left our Church, the Eucharist. I present here a brief reflection by Father Richstatter, who teaches Liturgy and Sacramental Theology, tells us that the key to understanding the Eucharist to balance three metaphors - Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

“A good way to describe the Mass is to say that is Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday made present today in ritual. It is not merely a meal which reminds us of the Last Supper, or a Passion play which helps recall Good Friday or a Sunrise Service, which celebrates the Lords’ Resurrection. It is Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter all together.”

The decree also provides the granting of the plenary indulgence to those persons who, due to illness or other just cause, cannot participate in an act of worship of the sacrament of the Eucharist in a church or oratory.

These persons will obtain the plenary indulgence “if they make the visit spiritually and with the heart’s desire, with a spirit of faith in the real presence of Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of the Altar, and pray the Our Father and Creed [that is usually prayed at Sunday Mass] adding a pious invocation to Jesus in the Sacrament (for example, “May the Most Holy Sacrament be blessed and praised forever”).

The decree further states, “If they are unable to do even this, they will receive a plenary indulgence if they unite themselves with interior desire to those who practice the normal conditions laid down for Indulgences, and offer the merciful God the illnesses and discomforts of their lives, with the intention of observing the three usual conditions as soon as possible.”

The decree calls on all priests, especially pastors, to inform the faithful on these dispositions, to prepare “with generous and ready spirit” to hear confessions and, in days that are determined according to the convenience of the faithful, to lead them “in solemn public recitation of prayers to Jesus in the Sacrament.”

I strongly encourage all of our priests, especially our pastors, to inform our people about this special favor of the plenary indulgence during the Year of the Eucharist. And, I strongly encourage our priests to make themselves available for the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation with more frequency for all of our people.

The question is asked: What is an indulgence? In Number 1471, the Catechism of the Catholic Church explains that “an indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church, which as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints.”

Number 1479 adds: “Since the faithful departed now being purified are also members of the same communion of saints, one way we can help them is to obtain indulgences for them, so that the temporal punishment due for their sins may be remitted.”

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in Odessa

by Fr. Francis X. Frey, Pastor of St. Mary Church, Odessa

ODESSA – During this Year dedicated to the Eucharist, Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI, has asked me to share with you some reflections on Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. St. Mary’s Parish in Odessa is privileged to have a Chapel of Perpetual Adoration for all people of the city of Odessa.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Today we are to have many periods of silence during our Liturgy of the Mass. Because this is a celebration attended by large numbers of the faithful, some with limita-

tions on their time, the Mass must move on in a reasonable time. However, people need the opportunity to pray at their own pace, to pray for a longer period of time for the many things they are concerned about. The Adoration Chapel at St. Mary’s Church provides this time, especially when it is opened for longer periods of time, even for 24 hours each day.

One Hour of Adoration

Most Perpetual Adoration Chapels seeks out those who will spend one hour with Jesus. At the end of the Mass we are charged with going forth to bring Jesus into the world. One hour of adoration

should lead us to one hour of active service for the body of Christ. *Contemplation*

Adoration should lead to Contemplation which will lead to Action. Eucharist is a verb that means joining with each other around the altar giving thanks to the Father for his many gifts. Our prayer should flow from the Mass and lead us back to it. Eucharistic Adoration is a time for us to weep with God and to be aware of His concerns for God’s People. The Spirit prays in us and we pray in the Spirit. The Son by his life shows us the Father’s love. Christ on the Cross is still reigning. Christ is the Victor. He totally

gave himself out of love for us. *Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*

It is very appropriate that there are times when we have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in our churches and invite large numbers to attend. This ceremony ends with the Blessing of the Blessed Sacrament.

During Exposition, everything is to be arranged so that the focus is Christ. There should be a reasonable number of people present. There should be a beginning and end. There should be Song, Scripture and Silence + a time of instruction for the people. It is appropri-

ate for people to pray the Rosary silently as a help for their private meditation, but it should not be prayed publicly. It will be a nourishing time; it will be a healing time.

What To Do During Your Hour Of Adoration

Your time in the adoration chapel is a continuation of the Mass. Do the same things you do at Mass but at your own pace. Begin with a sense of your unworthiness and repentance for sin. Read a portion of Scripture and apply it to your daily life. Ask God for your needs and the needs of the world you live in. Offer the Father your life in union with Jesus. Give Him praise and thanksgiving. Allow a song to

see “**ADORATION**” page ten



From words to deeds: Continuing reflections on the role of women in the Church

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

SAN ANGELO – Awhile back the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Women in Society and in the Church published a challenging statement on women entitled, "From Words to Deeds: Continuing Reflections on the role of Women in the Church." The document built on and continues to implement the bishops' 1994 statement, "Strengthening the Bonds of Peace," by focusing on women's gifts, leadership, and cooperation in the Church. In 1994, I was a member of the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Women in Society and in the Church and helped to draft this statement.

"From Words to Deeds" encourages the Church to speed up promotion of women in the Church wherever possible. The document states, "We assume that all roles in

the Church are open to women, unless otherwise stated by canon [church] law." This statement gives strong affirmation of women's role in the Church and will be a helpful resource for pastors, parish and diocesan staffs, diocesan and parish pastoral councils, women's groups, and women and men-clergy, religious, and laity-who are committed to working together collaboratively.

The statement calls on Church leaders to:

- Appreciate and incorporate the gifts of women in the Church,
- Appoint women to Church leadership positions.
- Promote collaboration between women and men in the Church.

"From Words to Deeds" especially encourages the recognition and use of the gifts of younger

women, outreach to women of various cultures, and appointment of women to Church positions that entail significant responsibility and influence. The statement stresses, "For the Church, collaboration is not an option; it is the way that mature Christians express their unity in Christ and work together to accomplish His mission in the world."

The statement suggests practical ways to promote collaboration, beginning with an examination of one's own beliefs and behaviors, especially those that hinder the ability to work together. It also notes that collaboration requires communication skills, the ability to work with groups and to accept diversity, and conflict management and resolution skills.

"From Words to Deeds" also suggests that inclusive language

Standing Strong

Featuring

Dr. Ray Guarendi

Sponsored by La Promesa Foundation

March 17, 2004 at 7:00 pm

St Stephen's Catholic Church

4601 Neely Ave, Midland TX

Dr. Ray Guarendi is a father, clinical psychologist, author, public speaker and a radio host of a live call-in show syndicated by Catholic Answers. Dr. Ray's enthusiasm provides his audience with an unforgettable experience. You can catch Dr. Ray on 1150 AM KJBC three times a week from at 11:00 am – 1:00 pm.

Come hear Dr. Ray speak to issues that concern all families and enjoy a delicious dinner catered by Tampico's Restaurant. Bring your family and friends for an evening of laughter and practical ideas to help build strong Catholic families. Contact the Marian Center at 432-682-1485 to purchase tickets for our First Annual Spring Banquet.

The Diocese of San Angelo guidelines for Lent

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

SAN ANGELO – 1. The time of Lent is to be observed by Catholics as a special season of prayer, penance, and doing works of charity.

2. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, in particular, are the most important penitential days of the liturgical year. They are days of both fast and abstinence. All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence.

3. The rule of fasting states that only one full meal may be taken per day. Two small meals, "sufficient to maintain strength," are allowed but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals breaks the fast but drinking liquids does not. The rule of fasting obliges all Catholics from ages 18 through 59.

4. Abstinence refers to the eating of meat of warm blooded animals (e.g., beef, lamb, chicken, pork). Under the present law, it does not include egg or milk products, meat broth or gravies. The rule of abstinence binds all Catholics 14

years of age or older. On days of abstinence, those who are eating in a school cafeteria may eat meat if it is served to them and there is no other main dish to choose.

5. The substantial observance of the laws of fast and abstinence is a serious obligation. Those whose work or health impairment make the observance difficult would be excused from fasting and abstaining. The individual conscience can decide if there is a proper cause to excuse. For more pastoral guidance on this point one may contact the local pastor. A more serious reason should be present to excuse from the Ash Wednesday and Good Friday penance.

6. Self-imposed fasting on the other weekdays of Lent is recommended. Abstinence on all Fridays of the year is also highly recommended. The Peace Pastoral of the American Bishops, stating that prayer is incomplete without penance, urges Friday abstinence as something all American Catholics should offer for the sake of world

peace.

7. Parents and teachers should see to it that even those who are not bound by the laws of the fast and abstinence because of age are brought up in an atmosphere that is conducive to a sense of penance.

8. The faithful should be clearly and positively encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Penance during Lent. There should be adequate time scheduled for Confessions before Easter. Group penance services should not be scheduled for the last days of Holy Week.

9. All the faithful after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year, ordinarily, during the Easter Season.

10. Funeral and Nuptial Masses are not allowed on Holy Thursday, Good Friday or Holy Saturday. The Funeral Rite outside of Mass, however, can be held either in church or at the chapel on those days, with a memorial Mass later.

11. The liturgical directions of

be used where permitted, that the lines of authority in the parish be clarified, and that discussions be held around the changing roles of women and men. It notes that marriage preparation is an opportune time to reinforce the value

of collaboration.

The document includes practical suggestions for pastoral actions that can be adapted by parishes, dioceses, and organizations.

the Sacramentary and the Lectionary must be faithfully observed regarding all the special Holy Week Rites.

PALM SUNDAY

• It is strongly recommended that the Blessing of the Palms with procession be celebrated at least once at the principal Sunday liturgy.

HOLY THURSDAY

• The Mass of the Lord's Supper must be celebrated in the evening with procession to the altar of repose.

• Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament continues until midnight.

• For pastoral reasons, one other Mass may be celebrated during the day.

GOOD FRIDAY

• The Liturgy of the Lord's Pas-

sion should be celebrated around 3:00 pm. For pastoral reasons this celebration may be moved to a later time.

• Other paraliturgical celebrations are suggested and recommended at the discretion of the pastor (Viacrucis, 7 Palabras, Pesame a Maria, etc.)

HOLY SATURDAY

• The entire celebration of the Easter Vigil takes place at night. It should not begin before nightfall; it should end before daybreak on Sunday.

• According to the rubrics for the Easter Vigil no Eucharist may be celebrated prior to the Easter Vigil. If a pastor feels that pastoral reasons and additional Mass is needed AFTER the vigil, he may consult the Bishop for permission.

Intentions of the Holy Father for February

Missionary - For missionaries: may they grow in fervent love, indispensable for proclaiming the Gospel with conviction.

General - For the sick, especially those who are poor: may they receive care and treatment worthy of their human dignity.



El Hermanamiento: Honduran relationships speak of love

by Rachel Tavarez

FORT STOCKTON – Many poets, authors and people in general have attempted to capture in words what love is. Depending upon who reads their words and because love is so difficult to describe, some have been successful and others have missed the mark. Because relationships come in different degrees, there can be great differences in the perspectives taken. But when one finds love, it registers profoundly within that person’s heart and soul.

Three years ago, we as a diocese of San Angelo entered into a relationship, which we call “el hermanamiento”, with the diocese of San Pedro Sula Honduras. To what degree of love this relationship would develop, no one knew. In fact, there are a variety of levels which exist within our diocese that have developed since the establishment of “el hermanamiento” such as that between Bishop Michael Pfeifer and Bishop Angel Garachana, St. Ambrose in Wall and the community “de Chamelecon”, St. Vincent in Abilene and “Nuestra Senora de Carmen de Cofradia”, between Ft. Stockton Catholic Community and “Mercedon/Cofradia” and even between some of the Honduran Universities and Texas schools ... each experiencing a different level of a very special relationship. Still, the more noticeable and unique difference is in those who have actually visited the diocese of San Pedro Sula. The difference may very well be in knowing about someone as opposed to actually knowing them. The people from our diocese who have visited the Honduran communities are among the very privileged who can attest to the new found relationships and the life changing experience that occurred during their visit. Their experience in Honduras has granted them far more than what most of us could ever hope to have in a loving relationship.

Last June, a group from Ft. Stockton which included Rudy Ramos, Frank Aguirre, and Amaro and Raquel Villarreal joined a group from the diocese of San

Angelo to meet, work, and to live among the people in Honduras. After their trip, they all fondly recalled the experiences of the days spent there. They had fallen in love with everything about those days and recently, it was that love that called two of them back. On December 1st, Ramos and Amaro Villarreal boarded a plane and headed back to Honduras to reconnect with the friends they had made earlier and to visit Father David Herrera who has been assigned to the diocese of San Pedro Sula for nine months. While the trip was only 5 days, the experience was as powerful as it had been their first time. Upon their return, Rudy was asked about Father David and his adjustment in this foreign country. Rudy peacefully described him by saying, “Imagine having been a fish in an aquarium being released out into the ocean”. For those who know Father David and his strong priesthood, one can only smile at the thought of him doing an incredible amount of what he does best. As Rudy continued to talk about their trip, Rudy struggled to find words amidst his tears ... tears of joy, pain, compassion but foremost love ... love for the people of Honduras which in turn has stirred within all of them a stronger love for Christ, our Lord. Their pictures speak countless words: the jungle, the steady rains, the heat, the poverty, the children, the humility and the unprecedented display of love for our God.

The week after Rudy and Amaro returned, Christina Rodriguez, Rufina DeLeon and Father David’s mother, Grace, also visited Honduras only to experience the same inexplicable love for the people who live in such great humility and simplicity. Again, picture after picture displays a background filled with hardships and disparity but clearly the smiling faces of the homeland people speak of a peace and love that most of us have only witnessed in the innocence and sincerity of a child. They have been overwhelmed and at times struggle to understand the outpouring of kind-

ness shown by their American visitors. Though the people of this poverty stricken society live their lives with only the barest of necessities, one can quickly see they do not live their lives in self pity but rather, their focus is in the love for God and their fellowman.

Many Ft. Stockton students began a pen pal program with the youth of Honduras not realizing how they would be touched by other youngsters whose lives are so rich in faith. Curiosity of one another and the mutual love of Christ have kindled a growing, loving relationship between the members of the two groups from two far away countries. With a childlike innocence, a new level of consciousness has been sparked in our American youth that would otherwise remain suppressed. With each letter, our children’s love and compassion extend hundreds of miles to reach their new friends. Their Honduran counterparts unknowingly inspire our American children with simple words that depict strong spiritually filled lives that revolve around the Church despite the fact they have no cars, no cell phones, DVD’s nor video games. With each letter received and each letter sent, both groups have begun to flirt with the idea of one day meeting one another.

We all have experienced love and we have all experienced it at different levels. Who is to say how many different levels there are? Those who have developed relationships with the people of Honduras have found a very special love ... a love they probably never knew could exist. If diamonds are forever, then consider the love of these people who live in their one room shack homes in the rugged, sweltering, thick jungles of Honduras as “diamonds in the rough” for the love they offer is the kind of love that can change your life forever.

A personal observation from the writer:

In a recent conversation with Father David, I asked him to describe his Christmas in Honduras:



Father David Herrera at the altar in Honduras.



Rudy Ramos poses with some Honduran children. (Photos courtesy Rachel Tavarez.)



Loading up in Honduras.

“There were no lights, there were no gifts. I never saw a single Santa Claus. During the entire season, the focus was on one thing and one thing only ... the celebration of the birth of the Christ child. I believe for the first time in my life, I actually felt what the shepherds must

see “HONDURAS” page ten



Special anniversary Mass for Roe v. Wade

by Peter Micale, WTA

SAN ANGELO – To mark the thirty second anniversary of the infamous US Supreme Court Roe v. Wade decision on abortion, Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI, offered a special Pro-Life Mass at Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart at 11:00 am on January 22, 2005. In this special Mass, the Bishop prayed for all the unborn, and for the unborn whose lives have been taken through abortion, prayed for all women struggling with a difficult pregnancy issue, and also prayed for a new respect for human life at all stages of life.

To recall this anniversary, Bishop Pfeifer has stated, “Abortion is a violation of human rights incomparable in magnitude and atrocity for the whole human family. Thank God our President has signed into law a ban on the brutal practice of partial-birth abortion, which sadly is being contested in the courts. Together with those from many other religious communities, we Catholics work to bring about a society that recognizes abortion for what it truly is – the



Members of the Knights of Columbus carried the sacramental gifts to the Bishop during the Mass.

killing of the innocent unborn. Each year, approximately 1.3 million abortions take place, and thousands of them are done in the sixth month of pregnancy or later, when the child would survive if born.”

Bishop Pfeifer has also recently announced that he will be celebrating a special Pro-Life Mass in the Prayer Garden near the Planned Parenthood Clinic in Midland, on Saturday, September 17, 2005 at 9:30

AM. The Bishop is asking the deacons of the cities of Midland and Odessa, in cooperation with the Knights of Columbus, to help with the preparations for this upcoming Mass. He encourages them to invite young people to be present from the parishes of the diocese, especially from the Midland/Odessa area. There will be more specific correspondence from the Diocesan offices as the time for the Mass approaches.



The Rector of the Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart, Very Rev. Maurice Voity, concelebrated the Mass with Bishop Pfeifer.



Combined choir of Cathedral Youth and Adult sang hymns during the Mass. (Photos by Peter Micale.)

Clergy inservice on youth ministry

by Sr. Adelina Garcia, OSF

SAN ANGELO – Rev. Len Wenke, diocesan priest from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati,

Ohio and former Executive Director of the *National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry*, presented a workshop for

clergy on understanding the Millennial Generation, the bishops’ document, *Renewing the Vision: A Framework on Catholic Youth Ministry*, and the role of the pastor in youth ministry.

The gathering was held at Christ the King Retreat Center in San Angelo on Tuesday, February 1, 2005. Fr. Len presented different studies on youth characteristics, needs, and strengths. He offered models of doing effective youth ministries and ways of enabling adults to serve as leaders. Opportunities for questions and discussions were also part of the day.

This inservice was made possible through a grant from the *National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry* and collaboration between Office of Education and Formation and Continuing Education of Clergy.



Fr. Wenke speaks to priests and deacons at Christ the King Retreat Center conference room. (Photo by Peter Micale.)



Jim Cook, the owner of the San Angelo Hockey Team, recently presented a jersey to his newest “player.” Sports writers are scrambling to find out what position on the ice this newest “player” will take. Rumors from the players’ locker room are saying the new “player” will be on a much higher level than the ice!?!)



Holy Family Parish Mission

by Dee Halbert

ABILENE – “Meeting the Presence of Christ” is the theme for the Abilene Holy Family Parish Mission February 14 - 17th. Father Charles (Chuck) Gunti, a member of the Franciscan Order, is the presenter. Father served for 23 years as a U.S. army chaplain. He is a former member of the National Board of Engaged Encounter and continues to present Engaged Encounter weekends. Living in San Antonio, he is a member of the San Jose Mission Friar Community and presents Parish Missions throughout the U.S. Evening talks will begin at 7 p.m. Morning masses will be at 9 a.m. followed by his talk. Childcare will be available in the evening. All are invited. Call 692-1820 for more information.

Fr. Charles (Chuck) Gunti is a member of the Franciscan Order. He has been a friar for over 40 years and a priest for 35. His early priestly ex-

perience was as associate pastor in Chicago, IL, St. Paul, MN and Quincy, IL. In 1976 he joined the U.S. Army as a chaplain. For 24 years Fr. Chuck took care of the religious needs of soldiers and their families. He was assigned to posts in the U.S., in Germany and in Korea. Fr. Gunti served as battalion chaplain, brigade chaplain and Division Chaplain of the 4th ID. In 2000 he retired from the Army and spent a year on sabbatical, attending the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas. The sabbatical experience culminated with a Master’s of Divinity Degree. In addition Fr. Gunti is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth, KS and the Army War College, Carlisle, PA.

Fr. Chuck lives in San Antonio, Texas. He is a member of the San Jose Mission Friar Community. He was formerly a member of the Na-



Fr. Charles (Chuck) Gunti will present the Mission. (Photo courtesy Fr. Gunti.)

tional Board of Engaged Encounter but continues to present Engaged Encounter weekends. He is a member of the Provincial’s Council for his Franciscan Province. His main ministry is to present parish missions throughout the United States.

570 youth attend YOUTH 2000 in Midland



Bishop Pfeifer speaks to gathered youth. (Photo by Steve Zimmerman.)

by Steve Zimmerman

MIDLAND – The gym of St. Stephen’s Catholic Church became alive with the sound of teenagers from all over the diocese of San Angelo and San Antonio. They came to spend time with our true savior, Jesus Christ.

Since Pope John Paul II had designated this year to be the “Year of the Eucharist”, YOUTH 2000 is a great way to bring the “Year of the Eucharist” to the youth of our diocese. A major theme of the weekend was to challenge “... young people to bear witness to the faith” that the Holy Father has said many times in his papacy. The presentations of the retreat were strongly centered on the real presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, one of the central and important beliefs of the Catholic faith. The weekend empowered young people to be apostles of Christ.

During the retreat, the young people spent time in prayer and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. They were led in singing by a choir, directed by Mr. Frank Diaz, of youth who came from all parts of the diocese. The youth were captivated by lively and insightful talks given by Fathers Juniper and Luke of the Franciscan Friar of Renewal. The weekend was guided by Sr. Clare of the Franciscan Sisters of Renewal and Brother Maxamillian of the Franciscan Friars of Renewal. The youth also participated in groups sharing about topics they heard in the talks.

Every day included praying the popular devotional of the rosary and Mass. The principal celebrants for the Mass of the three days were Fr. Ray Wilhelm on Friday, Fr. Rodney White on Saturday, and Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer on Sunday. The Sacrament of Reconciliation was occurring throughout the weekend. Most of the participants took advantage of this sacrament. There were so many youth who wanted the sacrament that on Saturday night, there were 7 priests and Bishop Pfeifer hearing confession.

The youth of the diocese want to give a special thanks to Fr. Bridges, the pastor, Denis Cano, the Coordinator of Youth Ministry, and all the parishioners of St. Stephen’s for being so warm and welcome in hosting this beautiful Eucharistic retreat in their parish. We also want to thank Bishop Pfeifer for his strong support of YOUTH 2000 and all youth activities in this diocese.

Diocesan Conference Day

February 19, 2005
9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Convention Center
San Angelo, TX
Theme: Building a
Community of Faith



Jo Rotunno

The theme of the Diocesan Conference Day 2005 is *Building a Community of Faith*. Current Church documents, particularly the General Directory for Catechesis, invite us to a broader vision of faith formation, one that incorporates the whole community of faith. Each of us has a role to play in the faith formation of all the members of the parish. What will this mean for you in your particular ministry? What do we have a right to expect from our parishes? What will we offer our parishes in return? The day will be an opportunity to reflect on a vision of parish life where all are invited to learn, celebrate and serve together.

The two featured speakers Jo Rotunno and Donna Glaser will address the topics *Building a Community of Faith*, *Building Households of Faith* and *Implementing the Vision for*



Donna Glaser

a Whole Community of Faith: Practical Ideas and Resources.

Keynote presenter Jo Rotunno currently serves as Catechetical Specialist for Resources for Christian Living (RCL) in Allen, TX. Previously, she held management positions with four religion publishers She served the Archdiocese of Los Angeles as a Catholic school teacher, parish catechist, master catechist or diocesan consultant for twenty-five years before moving to Texas with RCL. She offers workshops throughout the United States and is author of the recent book *Heritage of Faith; A Framework for Whole Community Catechesis*.

Workshop presenter Donna Glaser, has over twenty years experience as a DRE in rural, suburban and urban parishes. She also served schools and parishes in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana for several years as an independent con-

sultant in religious education. A popular workshop presenter, she earned the MAAT degree from Wheeling Jesuit University and is a recipient of NCEA’s Religious Education Excellence Award. Donna is the Associate Director of Marketing for RCL and lives in Cincinnati, Ohio with her husband Tom.

Registration begins at 7:45 a.m. Displays of catechetical resources from exhibitors provide an opportunity to review the resources. The opening session is at 9:00 am. Lunch, included in the registration, is served at 12:15 p.m. A Sunday Liturgy is celebrated at 3:00 p.m. with Bishop Michael Pfeifer presiding. The day concludes at 4:00 p.m. For more information, contact your local parish or the Office of Education and Formation at 325-651-7500.



Visionary of Medjugorje visits Diocese

by Fr. George Varakukala

COLORADO CITY – On November 10, 2004, Ivan Dragicevic, one of the six visionaries of Medjugorje was at St. Ann Catholic Church, Colorado City, TX for an evening of prayer and reflection. Ivan has received nine of the ten secrets/ messages, promised by our Lady, who appears to him every day. At some time in the future, he will receive the 10th secret and then, the daily apparitions will cease. An unprecedented crowd gathered in the church to see and hear him. People from as far away as Lubbock and El Paso came for the evening service. Many who could not find a place in the church had to stand outside. It was an unforgettable evening for all who were there.



Ivan Dragicevic, one of the visionaries of Medjugorje (seated), is greeted by Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI. (Photo courtesy Fr. George Varakukala.)

The evening service began with an introduction of Ivan by Fr. George followed by Holy Rosary. Then the apparition of our Lady to Ivan took place. Holy Mass followed, after which Ivan addressed the people, which was translated by Helen Sarcevic. Our Lady, he said, urged all to pray the Rosary. Ivan's talk was much appreciated by all.

Diocese thanks Catholic Extension Society

by Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

SAN ANGELO – Dear Brothers & Sisters, as we begin this new calendar year, I ask you to please

remember the benefactors of the Catholic Extension Society of America and the Committee on the Home Mission who graciously provide critical financial

support to our diocese. Please pray that their generosity to the Diocese of San Angelo will be greatly rewarded in 2005!

EWTN available on AudioFeast™ portable internet radio

by Scott Hulst, EWTN

IRONDALE, AL (EWTN) – EWTN Global Catholic Network (EWTN) announces its affiliation with AudioFeast, Inc., a new media company that is delivering customized radio, both talk and music, to a wide range of portable devices. This new agreement makes EWTN's radio programming available to a growing audience of technologically oriented consumers.

Michael Warsaw, EWTN's President, said an agreement has been reached to make programming from the EWTN Global Catholic Radio Network available to all AudioFeast subscribers. "Long ago, our Foundress, Mother Angelica, rec-

ognized the importance of radio as a medium for carrying out EWTN's mission. We are delighted to be included in this new technology venture and are excited that even more people will have access to EWTN's radio programming. As the first Catholic media organization to be part of this new service, EWTN is once again using cutting-edge technology to spread the Gospel."

AudioFeast Inc., uses a patent-pending media distribution system called the Virtual Broadcast Network (VBN), which uses peer-to-peer technology to broadcast advertising-free programming to MP3 players, PCs and other mobile devices to provide their partners' con-

tent. As the first portable Internet radio service for MP3 players, AudioFeast has licensed the largest selection of news, sports, drama, comedy, business and entertainment channels available, along with a variety of hobby and niche programming options.

AudioFeast President and CEO Tom Carhart added, "AudioFeast is proud to offer EWTN's programming on our portable Internet radio service. AudioFeast allows consumers for the first time to listen to premier Internet and terrestrial radio programming on an MP3 player. Using AudioFeast,

see "EWTN" page eleven

Lenten Evening Of Reflection

"Could you not watch one hour with me?" Matthew 26:40

Friday - February 18, 2005

Beginning with the Eucharistic Celebration at 5:00 P.M., the Lenten Evening of Reflection will also include The Stations of The Cross along the Concho River, weather permitting. Father John Gonzales Castro, O.M.I., Christ the King Retreat Center director, will conduct sessions underscoring *The Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Mother* and *The Seven Last Words of Jesus from the Cross* to prepare the participants for the Liturgies of Holy Week. The retreat also includes a light supper and will conclude at 9:30 P.M. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call Margie Schillo at (325) 651-5352.

- I. 5:00 - 5:30 P.M. Registration
- II. 5:30 - 6:30 P.M. Eucharistic Celebration
- III. 6:30 - 7:00 P.M. Light Supper and Continuation of Registration
- IV. 7:00 P.M. The Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Mother
- V. 8:00 P.M. Break
- VI. 8:15 P.M. The Stations of the Cross (by the Concho River weather permitting)
- VII. 8:45 P. M. Jesus and the Seven Last Words from the Cross
- VIII. 9:30 P. M. Closing

Preregistration by Feb. 14, 2005 required. Donation \$10.00 Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Parish Name: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please mail to: 802 Ford St., San Angelo, Tx. 76905
e-mail : ckrc@zipnet.us

Christ the King Retreat Center

February Calendar

- 1 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Priests' & Deacons' Ongoing Formation
- 3 San Angelo Deanery Meeting
- 4-5 First Central Presbyterian Women
- 6 Confirmation Retreat
- 8 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- 9 Ash Wednesday
- 11-13 Trinity Lutheran Couples
- 12 Vestry Retreat
- 15 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- 18 Lenten Retreat
- 22 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- 22-23 International Priests' Gathering
- 25-27 Engaged Encounter



University youth enter commitment



San Pedro Sula and San Angelo Students, faculty and a campus minister. (Photo courtesy Sr. Marie Malachy Griffin, O.P.)

by *Sr. Marie Malachy Griffin, O.P.*

SAN ANGELO – The university young adults from the Dioceses of San Angelo, Texas and San Pedro Sula, Honduras, after a partnership journey from November 26 until December 6, 2004, have proposed the following.

Mission Statement: To encourage the communion among our

churches by challenging our students to live more consciously as the faith community of the Catholic Church, and by assuming the responsibility of developing ties among the Dioceses of Tyler, San Angelo, and San Pedro Sula, through communication and cooperation, through sharing pastoral plans, and by taking action on issues of major impor-

tance to all, especially on those which affect the poor. (Cf. Ecclesia in America, No. 37)

- We commit ourselves:
1. To be examples of giving and of service to others without expecting anything in return.
 2. To be inclusive not exclusive, to be nondiscriminatory, and to integrate all people.
 3. To proclaim the gospel of

CHAPEL from page one

vessel in which a large Eucharist was placed in a glass enclosure in the middle of the monstrance and set on the center of the altar. Through the centuries several religious orders have been established whose primary purpose was to pray before the visible Eucharist.

Perpetual adoration requires that at least two people are always praying before the visible Blessed Sacrament day and night. Catholic Churches of the City of San Angelo have pledged to have two people always present in prayer and adoration of Christ. Bishop Pfeifer is deeply grateful to the Catholic Community of San Angelo to have at least two people always in prayer in the Chapel, pointing out that countless and wonderful blessings will be poured out upon all of us by God.

Pope John Paul II has stated that one of his greatest desires in this year of the Eucharist is that perpetual adoration be established in every parish throughout the world. Bishops and priests worldwide have generously responded to the Pope's encouragement resulting in approximately 2000 parishes with perpetual adoration. Our nation is blessed to have 1000 of these chapels.

The general public is always invited to visit the perpetual adoration chapels in the Diocese at any time of the day or night and spend some quiet time in contemplation and prayer.

JUSTICE from page three

With the vast size of the diocese, the primary approach to implementation of CJM activities will be on a deanery basis. A presentation of this program was recently made to

the clergy and religious in each deanery with broad support received. Besides parish CJM teams, network teams are needed for each deanery to facilitate communications in terms of sharing ideas and success stories, and broader discussion of topics related to the social justice issues. Ideas for near term consideration are a healing Mass for all involved in the cycle of crime, increased awareness of capital punishment and prayer services on the days of TDCJ executions. These issues will be addressed on both a deanery and diocesan basis through the network teams being established.

A broader focus for Criminal Justice Ministry (CJM) opens the door for greater volunteer involvement. Jesus calls each of us to get involved in sharing our faith through love of our neighbor. Whether you are already active and want to take on a further role, or new to this ministry, the rewards

salvation through our actions.

4. To continually pray for each other in our three Dioceses.
5. To support all students of our universities by creating a Christian atmosphere through our actions and lives of service..
6. To respect ourselves and others as temples of God.
7. To become responsible Catholic Christians adults who are conscious of national and international realities and to be accountable in our professions by living our faith.
8. To communicate regularly with each other in the three Dioceses.

We pray that the all-powerful God will bless us and help us achieve these goals and execute these objectives in order to become brothers and sisters, in the one body of Christ our Lord.

Diocese of San Angelo, Texas, December 3, 2004. University Pastoral, San Pedro Sula and San Angelo, Texas.



Slovenian Archbishop Franc Rode holds a candle as he celebrates Mass on the feast of the Presentation of the Lord in St. Peter's Basilica Feb. 2 at the Vatican. The archbishop presided at the service in place of Pope John Paul II, who was hospitalized Feb. 1 after having trouble breathing. The 84-year-old pontiff had been ill with the flu for a few days. (CNS photo from Reuters)

Ethics and Integrity Workshop Dates

There will be no additional Ethics Workshops scheduled until April and May, in preparation for Vacation Bible School.

If you have need of an additional Ethics Workshop (English or Spanish) at your parish or Catholic School, please contact Mike Wyse at the Chancery Office (325) 651-7500.

will be great in saying, "Yes". There are a variety of areas to help and share your talents. Consider being a member of a CJM team in your parish and even serving on a deanery network team. Contact Deacon Bob for more details.

Please call 432-889-3858, 432-520-7394 or email at deaconbob@st.wtxcoxmail.com.

HONDURAS from page six

have felt when they saw Jesus in the manger. The experience was phenomenal!"

Here at home, I also asked one of my students not long after Christmas how his Christmas had been. He quickly told me of all the gifts he had received and who he had spent his Christmas with. I then asked what he had thought of the Christmas mass. This is what he sadly said to me, "Ms. ... it's my mom. Well, I tell her but she doesn't

listen ... no, we didn't go. I know Christmas is all about Him ... but we didn't go."

In a far away place, there live a people who suffer from poverty beyond the capabilities of our own understanding. Our material, financial and medical assistance would surely help their suffering. Still, in God's holy kingdom, He is quick to remind us that His blessings come in different forms. Is it possible that the people of Honduras may actually have more to offer us than what we think we have to offer them?

ADORATION from page four

be in your heart as you do all this, allowing a sense of joy to fill your being. You receive power from your time in front of the Blessed Sacrament to bring the love of Jesus to your home and your everyday world.



Locals earn honors from Catholic Life Insurance

by Ashlee N. Tondre

SAN ANTONIO – San Angelo area residents were honored recently by Catholic Life Insurance, the nation's 9th largest fraternal benefit society.

Larry Pelzel, FIC, General Agent of the Pelzel Agency was honored as one of the top agencies and received the "General Agency of the Year" award. He was also recognized as the "Fraternal Life Agent of the Year." Pelzel has been with Catholic Life Insurance since November 1973.

Wilbert Jost, FIC earned the prestigious Catholic Life Insurance "Twelve Apostle" award. Jost has been with Catholic Life Insurance since January 1985.

The individuals were honored during a special awards ceremony held January 22, 2005, during the 2005 Leaders Conference. The three-day conference was held January 21-23, 2005, at the Lakeway Inn Conference Center in Austin, Texas.

Other associates honored for their service include Arnold Frerich, FIC of Rowena, Floyd Frerich, FIC of San Angelo, Werner A Halfmann, FIC or Lowake, Tommy J. Hoelscher, FIC of Garden City, Edmund Klepac, FIC of San Angelo and Leslie Hampton of Millersview

Founded in 1901, Catholic Life Insurance is the nation's 9th largest fraternal life insurer. The San Antonio-based company offers life



Larry Pelzel (Photo courtesy Catholic Life Ins.)

insurance, retirement annuities, IRAs and fraternal benefits to individuals, families, and businesses. The company is financially strong with assets exceeding \$588 million and insurance-in-force surpassing \$1.6 billion.

Biblical justice vs. legal justice

by Peter Micale, WTA

SAN ANGELO – In a recent article in the *ANGELUS*' OPINION page, reference was made to the previous reporting in the *ANGELUS* of two legal cases that ended with the plaintiffs losing their attempts to sue a previous member of the Diocese and a parish. The writer, Fr. Mark Miller, questioned: "Was there any restoration of a relationship? Has the brokenness experienced by everyone involved begun to heal?" The author went on to question if "restorative justice" had occurred or even been attempted.

The author admitted that he had no details of the allegations of the two legal cases, nor was he aware of the many attempts made by the Bishop and pastors involved to communicate with the plaintiffs. It is necessary, therefore, to set the record straight and point out that the official policy book of the Diocese – *Policies on Ethics and Integrity and Ministry* – spells out the principle of restorative justice, the healing process, and that it was seriously attempted in both instances. In recent statements, the US Catholic Bishops featured the importance

of restorative justice in the Church, and for the entire judicial system.

If the writer had checked, he would have found that many attempts were made by the Bishop, the diocese, pastors, and religious communities to bring healing to the individuals involved before the legal process was invoked. Also, after the legal proceedings, articles in the local secular papers mentioned that the "Church" had offered healing and help. The primary concern of all these attempts was to bring healing first and foremost to the victims, but it is also necessary to recognize that often the one accused can become the victim.

It is interesting to note that in one of these cases when the purported victim was approached by his pastor to initiate a dialogue and begin the restorative healing process, he was handed a business card of the attorney he had hired. In subsequent correspondence, this attorney declared that his client should not be contacted, and any communication must go through the attorney's office. This is hardly a way to initiate a dialogue where healing might occur. Once the at-

torney was invoked, a wedge was driven into the healing process.

Now that some of the legal machinations have terminated, is it not time for the "victims" to intone by their actions, a profound "mea culpa?" Only after this occurs can restorative, biblical justice come into play and reconciliation begin.

EWTN

from page nine

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EWTN Global Catholic Network, in its 24th year, is available in more than 105 million television households in 110 countries. And with its worldwide short-wave radio station, direct broadcast satellite service, satellite delivered AM & FM radio networks, Internet website (www.ewtn.com) and publishing arm, EWTN is the largest religious media network in the world.

DMN

from page one

containing the caption "NO INQUIRY," no satisfactory answer was provided. Perhaps San Angelo's restaurants and hotels are not swank enough to inflate expense accounts, or a one day round trip from Dallas may be too taxing for the reporters. When phone logs were checked, the reporter's claim that he had called the Bishop of the Diocese of San Angelo, while gathering information for his article, quickly proved to be untrue. The religion editor and one of the religion reporters, who wrote the half-truths article about the San Angelo Diocese, when constantly confronted, admitted they had not called the Bishop for his assessment of the December article. What a difference the DMN's article would have had on the uniformed readers if the article had given space—which they claimed they didn't have – to one simple but vitally important sentence: "The Bishop of the Diocese of San Angelo was never contacted to give his side of the story." By leaving this out, the DMN falls into twisted journalism, otherwise known as not objective or faithful to the truth. The Diocesan Attorney was called for a brief statement, but a perfunctory rehash of an article printed in June 2002 was discussed. Evidently, a DMN reporter is a fast learner, because now he is sending out a multi-page questionnaire to respondents for better record keeping purposes.

Because of space limitation purposes here, there is no need to review the various errors printed in the original story in June, 2002, and its most recent inaccurate replay in December, 2004. Nor is it necessary to print the high and mighty statement from DMN that there is no need to retract any of its disputed statements or "facts." After all, we are dealing with the print media that believes it has a captive audience – it is now the only paper in Dallas – and that it can do no wrong. NOT SO! Suffice it to say, however, as a summary, that the First Assistant District Attorney of San Angelo

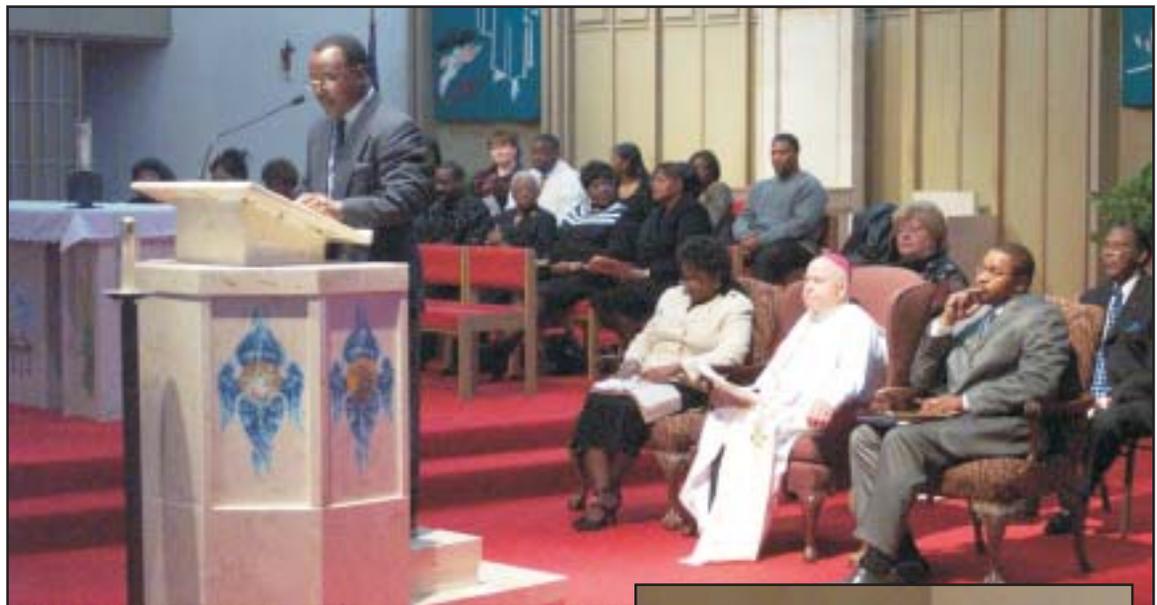
commended the actions of the Bishop and other diocesan personnel for quickly notifying the civilian authorities (the DMN never mentioned this); hosting a meeting of all principals involved in the investigation of the alleged misconduct – the First Assistant District Attorney, investigating detective, alleged perpetrator (a seminary candidate from Spain), teenager, his parents, and several priests – concurring with them after they agreed that the alleged perpetrator should return to Spain; sequestering him in a Church rectory; and then the very next day placing him on a flight back to his native country, with the total agreement of the family and local law enforcement officials. The First Assistant District Attorney stated that we acted exactly as we should have done, and the incident, in his mind, was closed. The DMN instead, reported this "case" as proving its point that police authorities around the country were negligent. Its article never mentioned that the Bishop insisted that the accused not be released without permission from local law enforcement people and the family. Nor does the article mention that the Bishop met with the family at his request and offered assistance.

One might ask: "Why all the fuss? The DMN has a shrinking readership, and people under 40 no longer get their news from the print media." The time has come when it must be made very clear, at least to our own Catholic population in Texas, that there is a significant bias against us by the main stream media. This is not new news. What needs to be new is our response to the accusers and particularly to the Dallas Morning News. It may be theologically correct "to turn the other cheek," but it is also theologically, economically and pragmatically correct to take these stone throwers to task (see John 8:1-11). We can choose not to buy their newspapers, nor support their advertisers, and let them know about it.

WE SHOULD NO LONGER REMAIN SILENT!



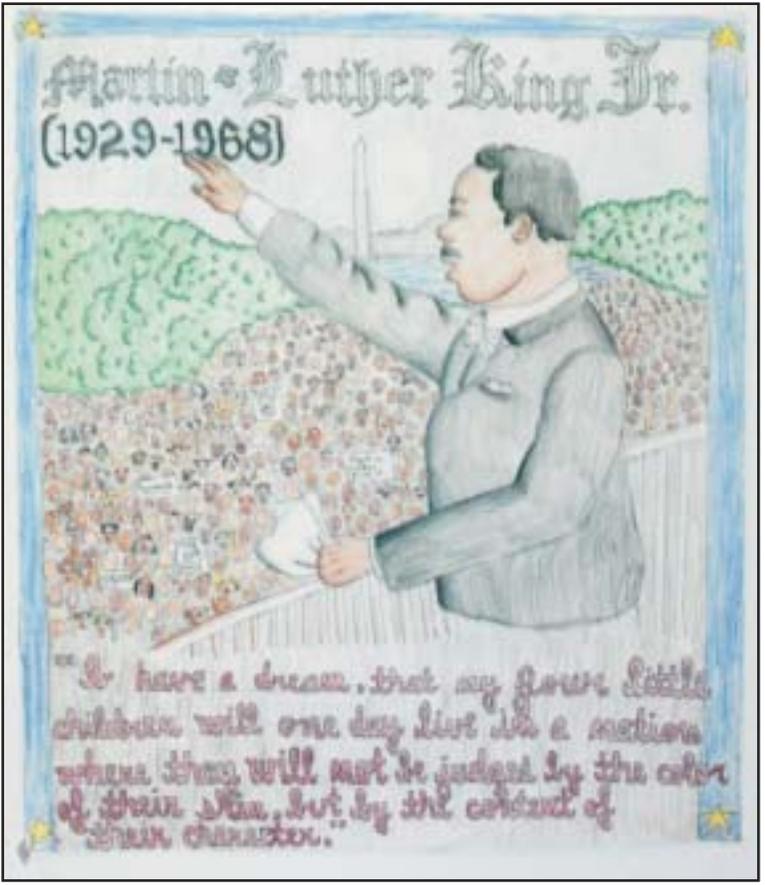
Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ecumenical Service held at Cathedral



Elder Jackie Allen from Miracle Temple proclaims the New Testament reading. (Photos by Stephen Talley.)



Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI welcomes the congregation to the Annual Ecumenical Service honoring the memory of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart on January 17.



A poster by David Lopez honoring The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was displayed at the front of the Cathedral during the service.

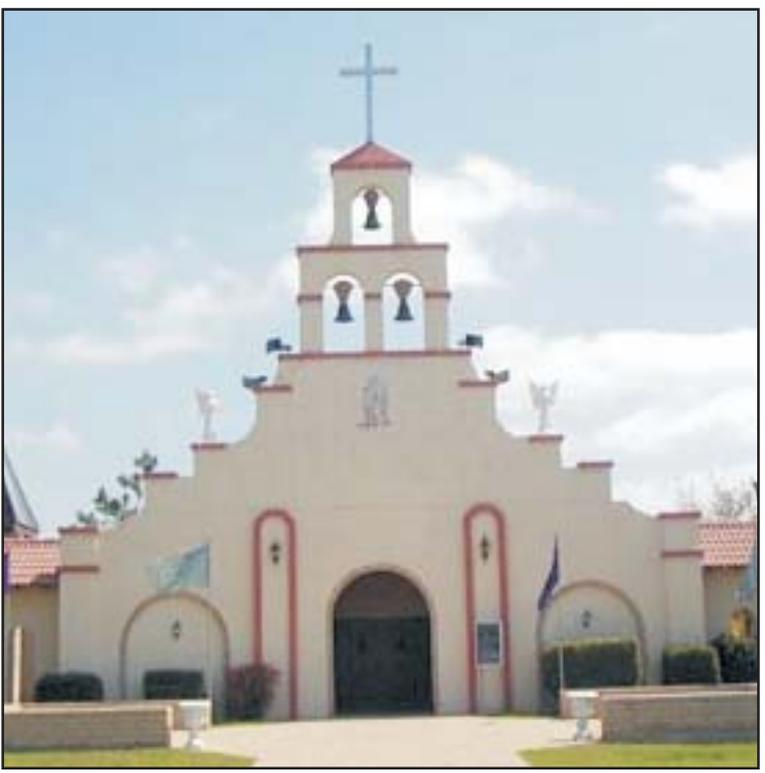
St. Vincent Parish celebrates 41st anniversary

by Mike Hernandez

ABILENE – St. Vincent Pallotti Catholic Church celebrated its 41st anniversary on Saturday, Feb. 5th. The celebration began with a Jamaica from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Games, food, and music along with pictures and videos of the church history were on display. A parish procession followed at 5:30 p.m. from Whelan Hall (our original church building) to our present church. Most Reverend Bishop Michael Pfeifer celebrated our anniversary Mass immediately following the procession. After the Mass a pot-luck dinner and program followed at the Pan American Hall. A St. Vincent anniversary souvenir program was available.

In July 1963 the dreams and efforts of Fr. Patrick Whelan to establish a new church in North Abilene was accomplished by the dedication and blessing of St. Vincent. The parish quickly organized the Holy Name Society, the Ladies Guild, the Cursillistas and the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD). Today groups such as the Knights of Columbus, The Daughters of the Blessed Mary, Cursillistas and youth groups carry on the ministries of the parish. After Fr. Whelan left for Ireland in March 1970, his Excellency Bishop Stephen A. Leven appointed Administrator the Rev. Michael Keley S.A.C. who came from his missionary post in Africa

to lead the people of St. Vincent. In September 1970, the church was declared a Parish with its boundaries and Fr. Herman Valladares was appointed pastor. Since the early days of the church, the parishioners have greatly contributed to the city's culture and heritage. Each year the parish ground is the site for the Annual city wide celebration of the Cinco de Mayo. The St. Vincent Ballet Folklorico dancers have become known as the "Ambassadors of Goodwill to the City of Abilene". The history of the parish, past pastors to the present, was a part of the day long celebration.



File photo of St. Vincent church in Abilene, Texas. (Photo courtesy Mike Hernandez.)