

Bishop Ordains Two Priests • Travel Ideas For Retirees • Support For Single Parents

ST. AUGUSTINE

# Catholic

May/June 2004

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**First Communion**

Passing On  
Your Faith

**College Prep 101**

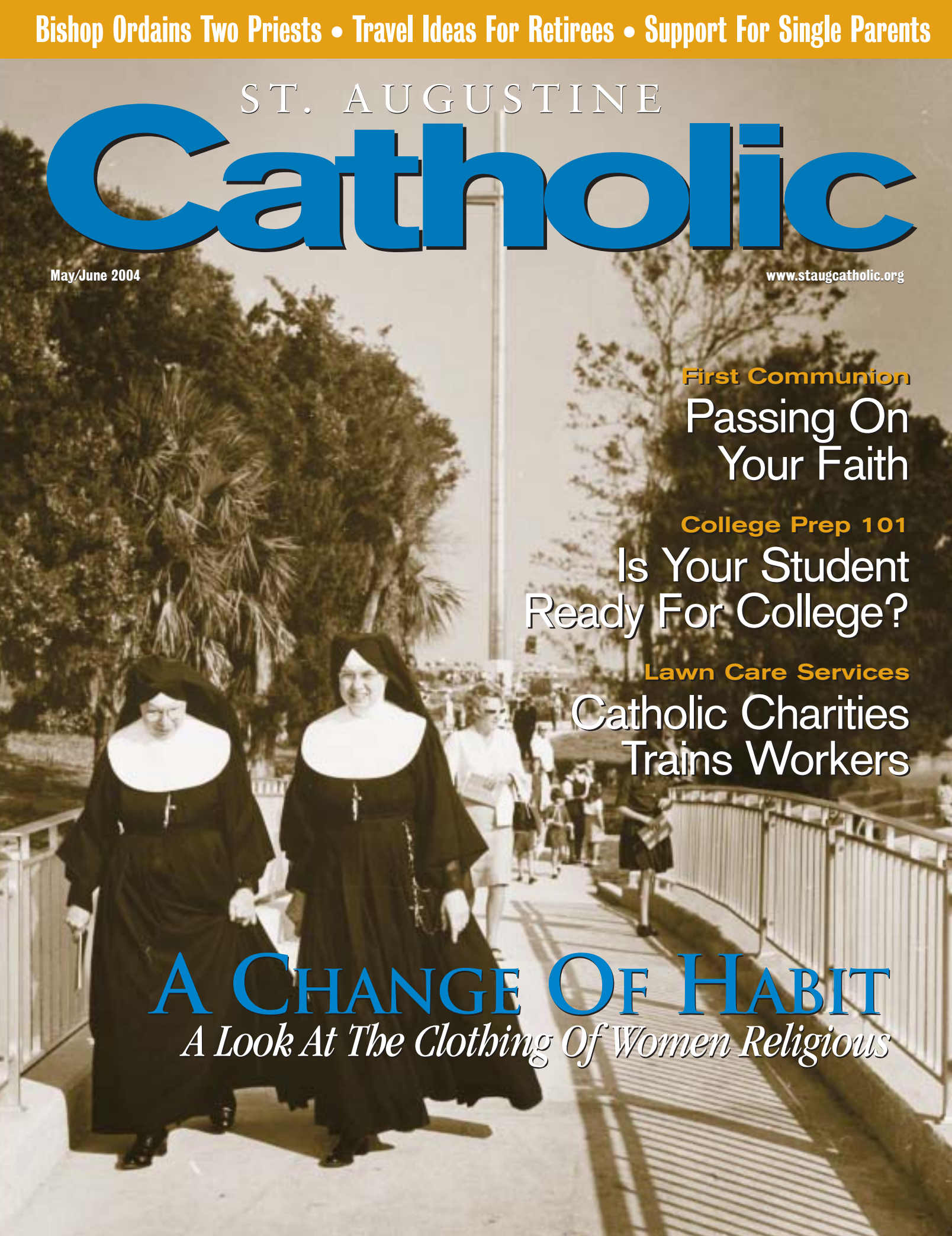
Is Your Student  
Ready For College?

**Lawn Care Services**

Catholic Charities  
Trains Workers

## A CHANGE OF HABIT

*A Look At The Clothing Of Women Religious*



The *St. Augustine Catholic* is the official magazine of the Diocese of Saint Augustine, which embraces 17 counties spanning northeast and north central Florida from the Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic Ocean. The diocese covers 11,032 square miles and serves 164,500 registered Catholics.

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COURTESY OF NOTRE DAME

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Cover: Photo courtesy of the Sisters of St. Joseph Archives

Pictured are the late Mother Louis Edwin and Sister Mary Frederic of the Sisters of St. Joseph at the 1966 dedication of the Great Cross at Mission Nombre de Dios.



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# Diocese Enhances Its Presence On The Internet



Just as the Catholic Church prepares to observe World Communications Day on May 23, the Diocese of Saint Augustine will launch its revamped website – [www.dosafl.com](http://www.dosafl.com).

The diocesan homepage, redesigned just twice since its

inception in the mid-1990s, promises to be an instrument to serve the Gospel and to promote dialogue and communication with the people of our community.

New features to the site include an expanded section on the history of the diocese, daily news from Catholic News Service, job postings, a search engine, a posting of diocesan policies and procedures, local news features with a calendar of events. The new site will include links to the Vatican, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Florida Catholic Conference and other dioceses throughout Florida. In addition, you can locate Mass times at each of our 51 parishes and missions in the diocese.

Last fall, we conducted an online survey to ascertain what our users would like to see included on the new site. I believe we have incorporated most if not all the suggestions made – making the site very user-friendly and a reliable source of Catholic news, information and spiritual formation.

Visit our site, which will debut on May 23, and let us know what you think. Features on our site will change frequently, so make sure you visit us often.

By June, school will be out for the summer and many parents will be looking for activities to keep their children busy during the break. Pope John Paul II in his message for World Communications Day 2004 has both a timely and strong message for parents and communicators alike.

The pope, in his annual message, called on parents, communicators and public authorities to fight what he termed an agenda "hostile" to family values – but without resorting to censorship.

The pope, in his message *The Media in the Family: A Risk and a Richness*, said today's global reach of mass media offers virtually unlimited opportunities for families in terms of education, cultural expansion and even spiritual growth.

He noted that sometimes the media treat the family with intelligence and perception. They show married couples and children as they

deal with challenges and conflicts, all the while trying to separate right from wrong and "true love from its counterfeits," he said.

"On the other hand, the family and family life are all too often inadequately portrayed in the media," he said.

"Infidelity, sexual activity outside of marriage, and the absence of a moral and spiritual vision of the marriage covenant are depicted uncritically, while positive support is at times given to divorce, contraception, abortion and homosexuality. Such portrayals, by promoting causes inimical to marriage and the family, are detrimental to the common good of society," the papal message said.

The pope called for "practical initiatives" to offset this image of the family, including:

- Media professionals should know and respect the needs of the family and be prepared to resist commercial pressures or the demands to conform to secular ideologies.
- Public authorities have a serious duty to uphold marriage and the family for the sake of society itself. They should set in place regulatory policies and procedures to ensure that the media do not act against the good of the family.
- Parents, as the primary and most important educators of their children, are also the first to teach them about the media. They need to train their offspring in the moderate, critical, watchful and prudent use of the media. This also means they should be educated not to uncritically accept or imitate what they find in the media.
- Parents also need to regulate the use of media by planning its use, strictly limiting the time children devote to media, and making entertainment a family experience. Parents also need to give good example to children by their own thoughtful and selective use of media.

All modern communication should be inspired by respect for the truth and human dignity, the pope said. Without that, he said, media have the capacity to do "grave harm" by presenting a deformed outlook on life, the family, religion and morality.

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To learn more about the Diocese of Saint Augustine see our homepage at:

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**Brother Blossoms At L'Arche**

I'm so thrilled with the article in this month's magazine (March/April 2004) about the L'Arche community. Thank you so very much for publishing it and allowing this wonderful group of people who are living in community tell the story about their treasured assistants.

My brother Tommy, a recent addition as a core member, is absolutely blossoming, and my 86-year old father has a tremendous peace of mind knowing that Tommy is happy and so cherished by his new family. May God continue to bless you in all that you do.

*Nancy Smith  
Jacksonville, Fla.*

**Distressed Over Letter**

A reader's letter, "Illegal Immigrants Drain Resources," in your last issue (about a story in the Jan./Feb. issue on fern cutters) so distressed me that I want to make the following comments:

- 1) Everyone in this nation, except those of us who are of Native-American descent, is illegally here. I do not recall my Timucuan ancestors issuing visas for anyone to migrate here.
- 2) This great nation of ours was founded by "breaking" the law. Perhaps unpopular, unjust and unfair laws (Stamp Act and others), but King George III and the British Parliament didn't think they were.
- 3) How can anyone first speak of "illegal aliens," and then in the next breath offer the solution to Mexico's problems in the form of a "revolution?" Would this revolution not be illegal, too?
- 4) These people who arrive here without paperwork, to work their butts off, are more than "illegal aliens," they are human beings first and foremost! They deserve our dignified treatment just as the hordes of our European ancestors received during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The United States must have fair immigration laws that allow the legal entry of those who wish to come here to work, live and reside just as millions of others have done in the past.

*P. Emile Carr  
Palm Coast, Fla.*

**Letter Contrary To Roots Of Christianity**

It was with great dismay that I read the letter "Illegal Immigrants Drain Resources," in your March/April issue.

Having spent more than 15 years volunteering in various charities supported mostly by Catholics and volunteering with the Farmworker Ministry in Crescent City, I can attest to the unwavering support of the diocese

and the congregants who provide assistance and relief to whomever requires it. Whether immigrant Mexicans, migrant African-Americans, or homeless Caucasians, the Catholics I have known measure these people in terms of need, not "legal" status.

Moreover, I challenge this reader to find a native born American who would even consider performing the backbreaking work for a pittance in pay that the fern cutter does. I have met scores of Mexican immigrants, many of whom are not legal under today's laws.

They are decent, law-abiding, industrious and honest people who are trying to earn a living. In spite of their status, they do pay taxes; do contribute to the economy and are sending their children – a majority of them are American citizens – to school. I have had the pleasure of tutoring some of these children. They are bright and very "American," as they have grown up here.

Whining about helping these people strikes me as contrary to the very roots of Christianity.

*Alvin Mosner  
St. Augustine, Fla.*

**CCHD Thanks Diocese of Saint Augustine**

On behalf of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), I want to thank you and all the faithful of the Diocese of Saint Augustine for your very generous 2003 collection contribution of \$44,282.34. This support enables the Church in the United States to continue to support people who are poor to break the cycle of poverty.

Thanks to the prophetic foresight of our bishops and the generosity and dedication of clergy, religious and laity, CCHD has been able to support low-income people as they find a way out of poverty for themselves and their communities. In 2003, you helped CCHD grant \$8.75 million in support of 318 local projects in 45 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. We are proud to be one of the largest private funders of anti-poverty programs initiated and led by people living in poverty.

For more information about CCHD visit [www.povertyusa.org](http://www.povertyusa.org) and [www.usccb.org/cchd](http://www.usccb.org/cchd).

*Rev. Robert J. Vitillo  
CCHD Executive Director  
Washington, D.C.*

**We would like to hear from you. send your comments to: St. Augustine Catholic – Readers Thoughts, P.O. Box 24000, Jacksonville, FL 32241-4000 or Fax (904) 262-2398 or email to the editor, [kbaggmorgan@dosaf1.com](mailto:kbaggmorgan@dosaf1.com)**

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# To The Threshold Of The Apostles

Bishop Victor Galeone Recounts His Visit With The Holy Father

Every five years, all Catholic bishops are expected to meet with the Holy Father in a visit that is identified from its Latin title, *Ad Limina Apostolorum – To the Threshold of the Apostles (Peter and Paul)*. It should be noted that months before the actual visit to Rome, every bishop is expected to supply a detailed report, outlining the status of his diocese since the previous visit. For example, how many Catholics are there in the total population? How many baptisms were there, both of infants and adults? Are vocations increasing? Have any new parishes been established? In addition, every diocesan entity has to give a detailed report of its ministry. I am most grateful to our Chancellor, Father Keith Brennan, for having coordinated the compilation of our diocesan report.

The dioceses of the United States are divided into 14 regions. The first region to be scheduled for this round of visits was Region XIV, comprised of the states of Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas. We bishops from that region gathered in Rome the week of March 28th.

We began our *Ad Limina* on Monday by concelebrating Mass at the tomb of the apostle Peter in the crypt of St. Peter's Basilica. What fond memories that Mass evoked for me from my seminary days spent in Rome! While praying quietly after Communion, I recalled the promise that Jesus had made to Simon Peter at Caesarea Philippi: "You are Peter – the Rock – and on this rock I will build my Church, and the power of death will never overcome it..." (Mt. 16:18) According to the early Church Fathers, Peter was the first one to bring the faith to Rome. And it was there that he was crucified head-down in the circus of Nero, located at the foot of the Vatican hill. In a word, he was the first bishop of Rome – the first pope. And here we were, almost 2,000 years later, visiting the present bishop of Rome – the 264th successor of Simon the fisherman.

Wednesday was a rainy day in Rome. But the rain could not dampen our spirits as we made our way late that afternoon to the Basilica of St. Paul's on the Ostian Way. There, we concelebrated Mass at the tomb of St. Paul, the Apostle of the Gentiles, whose name is always associated with that of St. Peter in the founding of the Church in Rome.

The second segment of our *Ad Limina* visit consisted of a series of meetings between the bishops and members of the Roman Curia. During the course of the week, we met with the Cardinal director or his secretary of the following congregations: Clergy, Bishops, Doctrine of the Faith, Catholic Education, Divine Worship,

and the Secretary of State. For the most part, we had candid discussions with the directors of the congregations about matters that were both timely and of concern.

The third and final segment of our *Ad Limina* visit was our meeting with the Holy Father. Throughout the week, the bishops met individually with him for about ten minutes. During my visit with him, the Holy Father asked about the status of vocations in our diocese, both to the priesthood and to the religious life. We also discussed issues dealing with family life and the challenges posed by the large number of Mexican immigrants and how to minister to them properly.


I would like to underscore two points of my visit with the Holy

Father. First, for the most part, he kept his eyes fixed on me the entire time, making me feel like the most important person in the world. And second, even though his Parkinson's condition had slurred his speech, he was still very alert and most interested in what I had to say.

On Friday, all the bishops of Region XIV concluded our *Ad Limina* at a special audience with the Holy Father. First he read a portion from a prepared text. Then he bid us farewell individually, giving each of us a pectoral cross as a parting gift.

I would like to conclude with an anecdote. Most of the bishops of our group were lodged inside Vatican City at the residence of Casa Santa Marta. Whenever leaving on foot to attend one of the Curia meetings, we had to walk past the Swiss

guards standing at attention at the entrance of the Vatican next to the Basilica of St. Peter's. As the guards noted our episcopal robes or pectoral crosses, they would click their heels and give us a military salute. There would often be tourists watching and snapping pictures of this rather impressive display. After several days of this, I thought, "This is heady stuff. If a man's not careful, he could mistakenly develop a sense of self-importance, which would be tragic." Obviously, the guards were honoring not us – the individual bishops – but rather the office we held. So we must never lose sight of what Jesus had to bring to the apostles' attention in Mark 10:42-44. Those who wish to lead in his kingdom must serve the rest; and whoever wishes to be the first, must become the servant of all. Please pray that we bishops never forget that most important lesson of servant-leadership.

I'm writing this report on my return flight to the States. It's the ideal way to relive the highlights of my first *Ad Limina*, especially the beautiful experience of meeting with Simon Peter in the person of John Paul II, who is still fulfilling the command that the Lord gave Peter to "strengthen the brethren." (Lk. 22:32) 



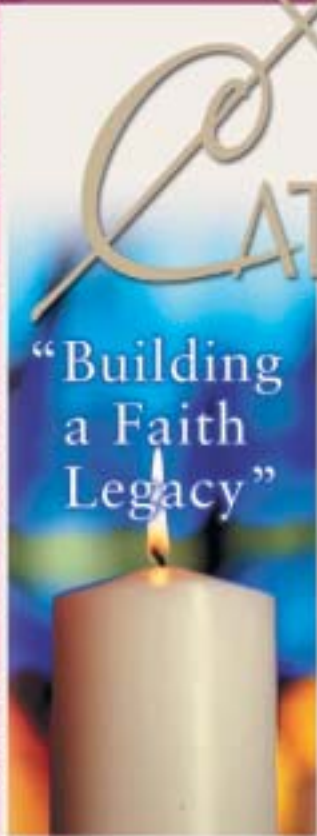
SPECIAL

Bishop Victor Galeone met with Pope John Paul II in Rome the week of March 28, 2004.

## Excerpts from The Holy Father's Report to the American Bishops

The following are excerpts from the Holy Father in his report to the Bishops of Region XIV, including those from dioceses in Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas, who made their Ad Limina visits to Rome the week of March 28, 2004.

- "Our meetings are taking place at a difficult time in the history of the Church in the United States. Many of you have already spoken to me of the pain caused by the sexual abuse scandal of the past two years and the urgent need for rebuilding confidence and promoting healing between Bishops, priests and the laity in your country. I am confident that the willingness which you have shown in acknowledging and addressing past mistakes and failures, while at the same time seeking to learn from them, will contribute greatly to this work of reconciliation and renewal."
- "The history of the Church demonstrates that there can be no effective reform without interior renewal. This is true not only of individuals, but also of every group and institution of the Church. ... The renewal of the Church is thus closely linked to the renewal of the episcopal office. Since the Bishop is called in a unique way to be an *alter Christus* (*another Christ*), a vicar of Christ in and for his local Church, he must be the first to conform his life to Christ in holiness and constant conversion."
- "I wish to reaffirm my confidence in the Church in America, my appreciation of the deep faith of America's Catholics and my gratitude for their many contributions to American society and to the life of the Church throughout the world. Viewed with the eyes of faith, the present moment of difficulty is also a moment of hope, that hope which 'does not disappoint' (Rom 5:5), because it is rooted in the Holy Spirit, who constantly raises up new energies, callings and missions within the Body of Christ."
- "... The exercise of this prophetic witness (the episcopal office) in contemporary American society has, as many of you have pointed out, been made increasingly difficult by the aftermath of the recent scandal and the outspoken hostility to the Gospel in certain sectors of public opinion, yet it cannot be evaded or delegated to others. Precisely because American society is confronted by a disturbing loss of the sense of the transcendent and the affirmation of a culture of the material and the ephemeral, it desperately needs such a witness of hope. It is in hope that we have been saved (cf. Rom 8:24); the Gospel of hope enables us to discern the consoling presence of God's Kingdom in the midst of this world and offers confidence, serenity and direction in place of that hopelessness which inevitably spawns fear, hostility and violence in the hearts of individuals and in society as a whole."
- "In the coming months, I would like to engage you and your Brother Bishops in a series of reflections on the exercise of the episcopal office in the light of the threefold *munus* (*function*) by which the Bishop, through sacramental ordination, is conformed to Jesus Christ, priest, prophet and king. It is my hope that a consistent reflection on the gift and mystery entrusted to us will contribute to the fulfillment of your ministry as heralds of the Gospel and to the renewal of the Church in the United States."



# Shaping The Future

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The income is also used to help fund the school's financial aid program that grants tuition assistance to 200 of its ninth through twelfth grade students, creating an education legacy where there once was none.

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# News From Around The World

## 150,000 New Catholics Join Church At Easter

More than 150,000 people joined the Catholic Church in the United States on Holy Saturday, April 10, according to figures compiled by the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Evangelization. In the Diocese of Saint Augustine there were 628 men, women and children who joined our faith community.

Nearly 64,000 participated in diocese-wide celebrations, usually held at the cathedral, while another estimated 90,000 men and women formally became members of the church in ceremonies at their new parishes. Of the 63,891 participating in diocesan ceremonies, more than 26,000 completed the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and were baptized, confirmed and received the Eucharist for the first time on Holy Saturday. More than 37,000 others, already baptized as Christians, became full members of the Catholic Church at those ceremonies.

Those who participate in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults are called catechumens, while Christians who are already baptized are called candidates. The 2004 numbers from dioceses are slightly higher than the 62,261 who joined the church last year. About three-quarters of the dioceses responded to the Secretariat for Evangelization's survey.

## Six Canonizations Scheduled For May

Six beatified people will be canonized as saints on May 16 according to Zenit News Agency. They include: **Gianna Molla** (1922-1962), who died after refusing cancer treatment, in order to spare her unborn daughter. **Luigi Orione** (1872-1940), Italian priest, founder of the Little Work of Divine Providence and of the Congregation of the Little Missionary Sisters of Charity. **Anibal Maria de Francia** (1851-1927), Italian priest,

founder of the Congregations of the Rogationist Fathers of the Heart of Jesus and of the Sisters, Daughters of Divine Zeal. **José Manyanet y Vives** (1833-1901), priest, founder of the Congregation of the Sons of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph and of the Sisters Missionaries of the Holy Family of Nazareth. **Nimatullah Al-Hardini** (1808-1858), priest, religious of the Maronite Lebanese Order. **Paola Elisabetta** (1816-1865), founder of the Institute of the Holy Family and of the Congregation of the Holy Family.

## Pope's Speech On Feeding Tubes Settles Some Key Issues

Pope John Paul II's forceful defense of nutrition and hydration for patients in a persistent vegetative state has narrowed the margin of Catholic debate on the issue, according to church experts at the Vatican and in Rome. At the same time, the pope's speech left some key aspects of the question open to further reflection and interpretation, the experts said. One crucial point the pope himself acknowledged was that tube feeding loses its purpose when the patient is no longer nourished by the process.

Interviewed by Catholic News Service in Rome April 6-7, the experts agreed that the pope's comments marked a significant step in consolidation of the Catholic position on the nutrition and hydration issue. "I have no doubt that the implications of this statement will be considered extremely important, particularly in the more than 600 Catholic hospitals in the United States," said Redemptorist Father Brian Johnstone, a theologian in Rome who deals with bioethical issues.

The pope's comments are authoritative, church officials said, although less so than if they had been expressed in an encyclical or other document.

## Priests Attract Vocations Through The Eucharist

Pope John Paul II prayed that the more than 400,000 Catholic priests in the world would never take for granted the mystery and blessing of being able to celebrate the Eucharist. In promoting vocations to the priesthood, "your own witness counts more than anything else," the pope told priests in his annual Holy Thursday message to them. The message, released April 6 at the Vatican, focused particularly on how priests can encourage vocations among altar boys by the way they live, pray and celebrate Mass. "In your hands they see the Eucharist 'take place,' on your face they see its mystery reflected, and in your heart they sense the summons of a great love," the pope wrote. The Holy Thursday remembrance of Jesus' Last Supper marks the institution of both the Eucharist and the priesthood, Pope John Paul said. "These two sacraments were born together and their destiny is indissolubly linked until the end of the world."

## Christian Pilgrimages To Holy Land Urged

The papal nuncio to Israel and the Palestinian territories is urging Christian pilgrims to visit the Holy Land as "disciples of Christ, witnesses of peace and agents of human solidarity." "Come to the Holy Land, the Christians here are waiting for you; the Israelis and Palestinians are waiting for you," said Archbishop Pietro Sambi during an April reception hosted by the Israeli Ministry of Tourism. The archbishop said a pilgrimage to the Holy Land would be "a gift for the Palestinian and Israeli people" and a "great gift" for those making the pilgrimage. "There is such spiritual elevation for (pilgrims) ... only at the end of the pilgrimage can they realize how enlightening it was," Archbishop Sambi said (See related story on page 14).

**Ave Maria's Monaghan To Visit Jacksonville**

Thomas Monaghan, the founder and former owner of Domino's Pizza, will be in Jacksonville in early June to kick off the First Coast Founders Club for Ave Maria University in South Florida.



Thomas Monaghan

Ave Maria University is a new Catholic university near Naples. It launched its first classes in September at an interim campus with more than 100 students.

When its campus is built, the goal is to have 4,000 undergraduate students and 2,000 graduate students. And adjoining the university are plans for a new town – Ave Maria. The centerpiece is to be the Oratory of Ave Maria, which will seat more than 3,000.

The First Coast Founders Club is one of about a dozen clubs being formed around the country to support Ave Maria, said Bob Grano, vice president of First Coast. Including Grano, officers in First Coast are from parishes in the Jacksonville area and are: Michael Gardner, president; Terry Kane, treasurer; and Laurie Gawin, secretary. Father Fred Parke, pastor of Assumption Parish in Jacksonville, is serving as the club's chaplain.

A renowned Catholic philanthropist, Monaghan, sold Domino's Pizza in 1998 and established the Ave Maria

Foundation based in Michigan. Among the organizations it supports are Ave Maria College in Ypsilanti, Mich., Legatus for Catholic businessmen, Thomas More Law Center in Ann Arbor, Mich., and most recently the Ave Maria



University in Naples. (See [www.naples.avemaria.edu](http://www.naples.avemaria.edu))

Monaghan and Nicholas Healy, president of Ave Maria University, and members of the First Coast Founders Club will be at Assumption Parish in Jacksonville for a Mass at 6 p.m. on June 8. A reception will follow: Cost is \$20 per individual and \$30 per family. All are invited.

– Chelle Delaney

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The Holy Childhood Association (HCA) has a new **web site** for kids and a new **mission education program** designed for schools, parishes and families — **HCA AROUND THE WORLD**. Contact your local mission office for more information about getting your “passport to adventure” or log on to [www.worldmissions-catholicchurch.org](http://www.worldmissions-catholicchurch.org).



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When Joe Helow started taking the homeless or under-employed off the street and putting them to work in a lawn care service through Catholic Charities, he figured he'd have trouble finding motivated workers.

"It was just the opposite: What is difficult is finding businesses willing to give us the work to do as a way of participating in the program," said Helow, who is the founding member and president of Catholic Charities Employment Program and a parishioner at Holy Family Parish, Jacksonville.

"More than just getting them into the habit of getting up every morning and coming to work, we help them with their self-image and self-confidence," Helow said. "We really try to get across the idea that God loves them as much as he loves anyone else."

Funding for the lawn care program comes from Catholic Charities, small grants from Good Will Industries and the federal government, which requires them to offer a certain amount of free lawn care services to seniors and shut-ins during the off-season. But the program's largest account, the Jacksonville Housing

# Success Is Measured Yard By Yard

By Tom Tracy



LAURA SIKES

*Workers receive on-the-job training through Catholic Charities Lawn Care Services.*

Authority, which provided about 75 percent of the budget for the lawn care service, recently put out new bids for its lawn care needs as a result of its own budget crisis. Ultimately, the Housing Authority went somewhere else for services.

The loss of that contract meant Helow had to shut down one of his two crews; fewer men and women (about 15 percent of the program participants are female) can be helped as a result.

Catholic Charities Lawn Service is a transitional employment program, which for 15 years, has helped men and women transition back into the workforce by providing job training along with spiritual and personal counseling.

The program solicits contracts for residential and commercial lawn care services in the Jacksonville area. Each Friday the workers meet with volunteers from the business community including executives from the banking and health care industry to talk about the value of work, cooperation, personal grooming, communication skills and anything that might facilitate their moving into the mainstream of the workplace.

"When we go to businesses and tell them how they can assist, they want to get a bid and they choose whomever is the lowest bid; they often aren't thinking about how they can help turn people's lives around... even if it takes another \$1,000 a year," Helow said.

To bring in more work and get a second crew working again, Helow has appointed a new program director, Rusty Cagle, to obtain new commercial business contracts. Until recently, most of the work has come through word-of-mouth or referrals from parishes.

Cagle believes the program offers quality lawn care, which benefits society by helping put unemployed men and women to

work in the community. "It is stewardship at its best," he said. "I am out knocking on doors to get business up to par so we can get that other crew working again."

The workers must submit to an application, submit to a screening process and training program as well as attend weekly meetings.

"We talk about grooming, interpersonal communication, how to get along with other people, the boss; how to write a resume, finding employment, how to handle a job interview, and other issues like budgeting and making their paycheck last until the next pay day," Helow said. If the workers need housing or a driver's license and identification, Catholic Charities can help with that as well.


Volunteers learned they have to take their success where it comes, and they can't force their issues or agenda on men and women who are just one step away from living on the street, according to Pete Cagle, a longtime volunteer with the Lawn Care Service program and a vice president and loan officer with Oceanside Bank in Jacksonville. He is a parishioner at Assumption Parish, Jacksonville.

One of the first questions we hear from new crewmembers is: What will it take to get my first raise?

"I tell them we don't give raises because we don't want them to get too comfortable; we want them to become skilled so they can make a better hourly wage from area employers. While at the same time, we need to be competitive in the marketplace and providing higher wages would mean fewer people we can hire and help," Cagle said.

Why has he been a volunteer for 15 years with the Lawn Care Service, Cagle says he and another regular volunteer, sports therapist Joe Bourdon, say they are getting as much out of the interaction as the people they counsel. Each meeting on Friday begins with a prayer and scripture reading.

"They minister to us through their observations on the Gospel readings of the day and that gets us over the short-term failures because we are dealing with men and women with little to no training early in their lives," said Cagle. "You will be amazed what a guy who lives under a bridge can come up with from the depths of his spirituality."

To learn more about Catholic Charities Lawn Care Service call (904) 354-4846, ext. 253. 

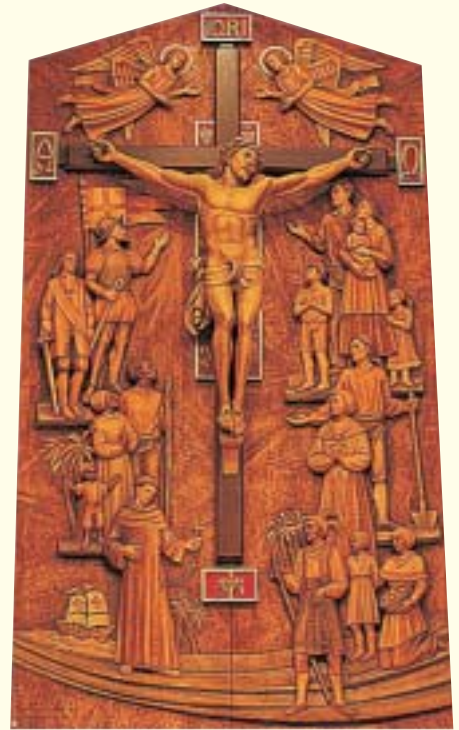
## **Congratulations And Prayerful Best Wishes To**

### **Father Joseph McDonnell**

### **As He Begins His Priestly Ministry**

**Rev. Luke McLoughlin,  
Pastor, and the Staff  
of the Parish and  
School at St. Matthew,  
Jacksonville**

**Father Joseph McDonnell  
will celebrate his First  
Mass at 10:30 a.m. on  
Sunday, May 16, at St.  
Matthew's Church**



## **Can Your Marriage Be Saved?**

Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-Vie), which means "Re-Discovery," is a method of communicating that may help heal and renew your marriage.

Nationwide, thousands of couples have experienced a Retrouvaille Weekend, with a success rate of 70 percent.

The process involves commitment, communication and change. Each person must have the sincere desire to work on building a stable relationship.

The cost? A non-refundable \$50 registration fee is requested to confirm meals and lodging and you will be asked to make a voluntary donation during the weekend.

Complete confidentiality is kept at all times.

For more information, visit [www.Retrouvaille.org](http://www.Retrouvaille.org) or call Retrouvaille coordinators Bill and Trudy Hehn at (904) 992-0408 or (904) 221-8383.



***Mark these dates on your calendar  
June 27-29 • October 24-26  
for the next Retrouvaille Weekend.***

When Jesus called them to be disciples, John and the two brothers, Peter and Andrew, were fishermen. Matthew was a tax collector. Luke was a physician. And, for a time, Saul of Tarsus, like his father before him, was a tentmaker.

Like the apostles, Transitional Deacons Joseph McDonnell and Richard Perko answered the call to be disciples as a second career. In the case of Deacon McDonnell his first career was an attorney. Deacon Perko was a funeral director and embalmer.

Their new life in priestly ministry begins on May 15 when Bishop Victor Galeone ordains them to the priesthood for the Diocese of Saint Augustine at the Cathedral-Basilica in St. Augustine.

Deacon Perko likens their call to the priesthood to the parable of the workers in the vineyard who were called to be hired at different times of the day.

As in the vineyard, Deacon Perko says, people are called at different times of the day and at different times in their lifetime. "I was hearing the call, I just wasn't listening intently or answering," he says. That is, until 1999, when he sought sponsorship from the Diocese of Saint Augustine to attend seminary.

While both men, who are 62, said they had thoughts about becoming priests as early as their days as altar servers, it wasn't until they were in their late 50s that they truly answered the call.

Deacon Perko remembers that in grade school he had strong interests in his faith but, he says, "I felt inadequate to the task of pursuing a priestly vocation."

When Deacon Perko finished studies at the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science, his new vocation was in demand. In 1965, Perko went to Viet Nam, where he served as a Memorial Affairs Specialist at the U.S. Army Mortuary in Saigon.

After leaving the Army and operating a funeral home for 10

# DIOCESE WELCOMES TWO NEW PRIESTS

*By Chelle Delaney*



*Deacon Joseph McDonnell*

CHELLE DELANEY

years, Deacon Perko says, "I seriously began again to entertain thought of becoming a priest, but I lacked sufficient funding to complete my education." So Deacon Perko found a government service position as a Mortuary Officer with the Department of the Army – in Germany.

In 1999, after 18 years in government service, Deacon Perko returned home and received sponsorship from the Diocese of Saint Augustine to attend seminary. "At last," he says, "I have been able to pursue my vocation."

Since February, Deacon Perko has been at Holy Family Parish in Williston, where he says he's been learning more about parish life and responsibilities.

He will celebrate his first Mass at Holy Family at 11 a.m. on May 16.

Deacons McDonnell and Perko studied at Sacred Heart School of Theology in Hales Corners, Wis., a seminary that specializes in adult, second-career vocations. At Sacred Heart there are about 100 seminarians who are, in general, between the ages of 30 and 71, with an average age of about 44.

While Deacon McDonnell's early life took him in other directions, he says the thoughts of priesthood were deeply ingrained. He graduated from Marquette University, with a degree in philosophy, and Marquette University Law School. For most of his law career he was in private practice. The last eight years of his law career he worked for a Milwaukee not-for-profit community support program, where he was both attorney and case worker for mentally ill clients.

Even before he applied to become a seminarian, Deacon McDonnell began taking courses at nearby Sacred Heart seminary. After a while, his seminarian friends urged him to think about becoming a priest.

Deacon McDonnell says that a number of priests have served as



*Deacon Richard Perko*

CHELLE DELANEY

role models in his life. "There are many men who are good holy priests," he says, "They've affected people's lives for the positive. I know we've had some bad shepherds. But that means we just have to be prayerful, good priests and serve our people. God will always be with his church. Priests have to be people of prayer."

Two years ago, when each daily newscast began with the revelation of another case of clergy sexual abuse, McDonnell said it was a very challenging time for all seminarians. "Morale was pretty low, when week after week we kept hearing this news. But then some of the seminarians were given a trip to Medjugorje. And it was during this trip that we saw the holiness of the church and the faith of her people — not all the negatives. The trip was inspiring to me."

Deacon McDonnell will celebrate his first Mass at St. Matthew Parish in Jacksonville at 10:30 a.m. on May 16. St. Matthew's is where he spent his pastoral year.

Deacon Perko, referring to his first career, says, "The sorrow of sending some of our finest young men and women home to their families, after having given their lives for their country, was, and is, for me, both rewarding and humbling."

Talking about the St. Augustine prayer group at Sacred Heart seminary, Deacon McDonnell says, "We gathered at midday, and prayed for all the priests, bishops and people of the diocese. It's very spiritually rewarding when you have a group like that to pray with."

Deacon Perko says, "With ordination to the priesthood soon to be realized, my heart is full of joy. Where the Good Lord will lead me to serve His people of the Diocese of Saint Augustine, I have no idea, but wherever it might be, I know that I have been a part of the grandest diocese anywhere." 🙏

## Is The Future In The Numbers?

Catholics talk about the declining number of priests, often as being a "crisis."

"Vatican officials have sought to correct what they call a 'false illusion,'" according to an April 6 report by the Associated Press.

"The precipitous drop in some Western countries shouldn't create a false illusion," Msgr. Csaba Ternyak, secretary for the Congregation of the Clergy, told the Associated Press. "It correlates to the progressive aging of the local population, of the worrying phenomenon of the drop in births and, finally, the cultural phenomenon of the increase in secularism."

The Vatican says the number of priests is up worldwide. Although the number of priests has dropped in North America and Europe, the decline was offset by an even larger increase in Asia, Africa and Central America, the report said.

That increase, however, was not a large one. From 1961 to 2001 the number of priests worldwide grew from 404,082 in 1961 to only 405,067 in 2001 – an increase of less than 1,000, the report said.

And the number of Catholic faithful in that time doubled to more than one billion, the report noted.

So, even worldwide, the ratio of priests to Catholics has declined significantly.

How are we doing in the Diocese of Saint Augustine? Instead of looking backward, let's look forward, beginning with today.

Today, the diocese has 51 parishes, nine missions, and 88 priests. However, 15 of those priests are retired – although some may still serve in some capacity. Subtract six (one in the military, four chaplains, and one Sulpician) – and the diocese has just 67 priests who are active. Two of those priests continue to serve their parishes, even though they were 75 last year – and have, as required, submitted their resignations. Their parish appointments are renewed annually, following a review by Bishop Victor Galeone.

In the next five years (2005 -2009) six more pastors will become 75 and will have to submit their resignations. If they become inactive, who will take their place?

Of the 88 priests serving our diocese:

- 5 are between the ages of 30 and 39
- 10 are between the ages of 40 and 49
- 30 are between the ages of 50 and 59
- 20 are between the ages of 60 and 69
- 19 are between the ages of 70 and 79
- 4 are between the ages of 80 and 89.

By the way, among our diocesan priests, Father Jason Trull, 30, of Blessed Trinity Parish in Jacksonville is the youngest and Father Fernand Couture, 86, who serves as chaplain at Moosehaven in Orange Park, is the oldest.

Not counted among the diocesan priests are 23 priests who are members of religious communities and are of great assistance to parishes. These include three pastors and a number of priests who assist at parishes throughout the diocese.

This year, two priests are being ordained in May.

In the next five years, will the number of ordinations make up for the number of priests who retire?

– Chelle Delaney

As school children all over our diocese prepare to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Sacrament of Eucharist, continuing that enthusiasm may be a challenge as they embark on summer vacation.

However religious educators say instilling lifelong positive habits about the church and the sacraments begin at home.

"If parents are to be active in their children's sacramental life and life journey, they must be actively involved in their own faith journey and development," said Sinsinawa Dominican Sister Elizabeth Dunn, principal of St. Michael's Academy in Fernandina Beach. "Parents are very involved in the sacramental growth of their children during preparation of the sacraments. They are encouraged to pray and study books sent home with their children," she added.

Sister of Mercy Carmel O'Callaghan, principal of St. Patrick Catholic School in Jacksonville agrees.

"The first strategy for parents to help their children prepare for the sacraments is preparation for themselves," said Sister Carmel. "They must ask themselves a host of questions about their attitude toward the



EAIMONN OBOYLE

## *Passing On Your Faith*

BY JOY BATTEH-FREIHA

# FOR A LIFETIME

sacraments such as, what is my attitude toward Reconciliation and Eucharist? Do I participate in the Mass? How do I greet others as I enter and leave and during the sign of peace?" she continued. "When a child sees his or her parents approaching the priest to confess their sins, the child learns that adults too can fail and they can say they are sorry, receive forgiveness and, most importantly, strength from God."

Children of the Queen of Peace Parish community in Gainesville are introduced to several hands-on opportunities to instill a familiarity and respect for the Eucharist and the Mass.

"Children preparing for the Sacrament of the Eucharist participate in small group classes to learn about various aspects of

the church," said Lisa McQuagge, pastoral associate at Queen of Peace Parish. "They make their own bread rolls and experience a simple 'Last Supper' meal, and are taught to reverently focus their eyes on the body and blood of Christ, saying 'Amen' with confidence."

"Our liturgies at Queen of Peace Parish are joyful events," said Sister of Immaculate Heart Nancy Elder, principal of the parish school, Queen of Peace Academy. "The children and their parents look forward to worshiping with others and are energized by their daily encounters with God, the welcoming love of the church community, and the energy of the parish priests and others – receiving First Eucharist is truly a highlight in our parish."


Indeed, two students from Holy Family Catholic School who

received First Eucharist last year has been growing in and savoring their reception of the sacrament.

Nine-year-old third-grader Brent Dody said, "Receiving the Eucharist is a very special time for me because I can share Jesus' body and blood with everybody. I take the Eucharist seriously because it is a very important part my life and the Eucharist helps me respect and love God."

Holy Family third-grader, Alexis Bajalia, 9, said, "Now, that I have been receiving the Eucharist for a year, I feel closer to God. I'm thankful to have his presence within me. I feel that receiving the body and blood of Christ is a great blessing."

"Children preparing for the sacraments must attend several classes, some with their parents," said Beverly Mulholland, a teacher at Holy Family School. "They participate in various religious centers or stations during class, and also attend Bible study in the chapel with our pastor. They learn to experience the privileges of receiving the sacraments."

"First Communion is not a day filled with magic," says Sister Carmel. "It is not an end, but a beginning, the initial step in a lifelong journey." 

*Joy Batteh-Freiha is a Jacksonville-based writer.*

# Keeping The Faith

*Tips from the experts on keeping children involved in the sacraments during the summer:*

"A challenge for parents today is to continue bringing their children to the sacraments," said Sister of Mercy Carmel O'Callaghan, principal of St. Patrick School, Jacksonville. "Parents have no choice about whether they will teach faith; their only choice is whether to teach well or poorly."

.....

"As a family, go to confession once a month," said Beverly Mulholland, a teacher at Holy Family Catholic School in Jacksonville.

.....

"Parents should set an example of love and reverence of the Eucharist

by attending Mass regularly with their children," said Sinsinawa Dominican Sister Elizabeth Dunn, principal of St. Michael Academy in Fernandina Beach.

.....

"Parents might want to consider making occasional visits on a weekday for Eucharistic Adoration," said Lisa Quagge, a pastoral associate at Queen of Peace Parish in Gainesville. "Even if it's only for just a few minutes of prayer. It helps to remind the children that Christ should be revered every day of the week."

## CHURCHES: TAX-FREE CASH FOR SENIOR HOME OWNERS

Seniors who are 62 or older and own the home they live in; this program is for them. Call for a FREE one-hour workshop about a Bill passed by Congress in 1989 which allows seniors to use the equity in their home any way that they please as TAX FREE cash.

And, MAKE NO MONTHLY PAYMENTS as long as they live in the home. Almost too good to be true? Passed by Congress, oversight by HUD and insured by the FHA.

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## 2ND ANNUAL Sites & Saints Pilgrimage/Retreat to Italy

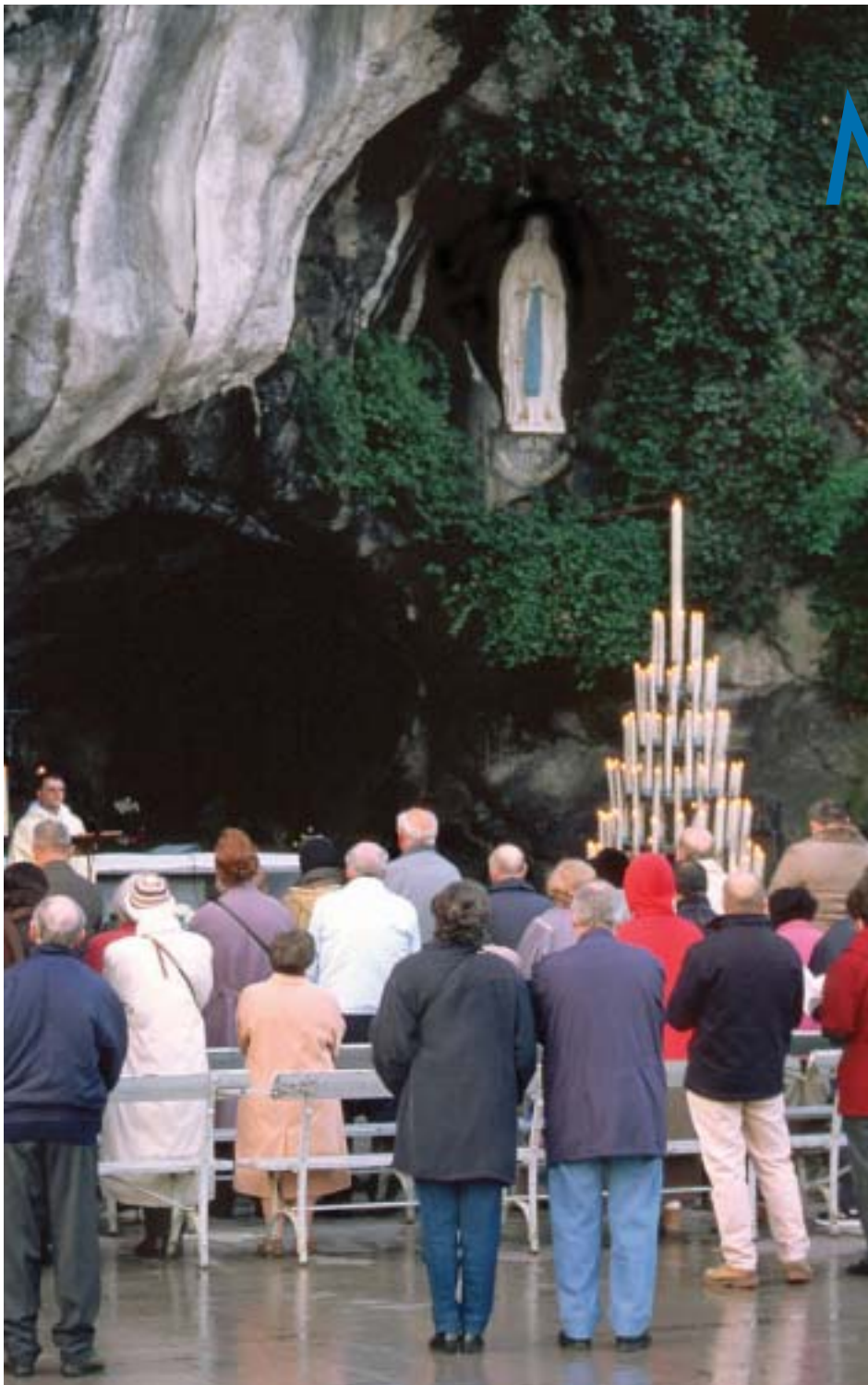
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CNS/THE CROSIERS

*The Grotto at Lourdes in France is the most important international Marian shrine. Several million people come each year in search of a cure or spiritual nourishment from its sacred waters.*

Many approaching their retirement years are looking forward to having the time and the money to travel.

But for Christians, travel to some of the world's most famous and noteworthy religious shrines and areas walked by faith-filled ancestors become more significant and meaningful than just a diversion.

"A pilgrimage is not a 'TWA Getaway Tour,'" Bob Faucett, the director of Religious Tours at Unitours in Purchase, N.Y., said. "It is different."

"All of our Catholic pilgrimages are designed to visit sites that are important to us as Roman Catholics," he said, adding that these sites would be in addition to "places that a secular tour would also expect to see." A tour to Rome, he said, would include a papal audience and visit to the Vatican as well as trips to "popular piazzas and ancient Roman ruins."

Many travel agencies provide packages and tours aimed specifically at Catholics. There are so many, in fact, you can journey just about anywhere in the world where there are Catholic sites to visit.

What these types of tours offer, according to Faucett, are a balance between the secular and the religious.

"We encourage our pilgrimage leaders, mostly priests, deacons, religious or lay leaders, to bring their own balance to the ministry of leading a pilgrimage," he said, "a balance of spirituality and fun."

A Catholic priest escorts most groups, he noted. "We arrange for daily Mass at one of the significant sites the group will visit each day," he said. "When we ask pilgrims what was the highpoint of their pilgrimage, they will tell us 'when we celebrated Mass at such and such a place.'"

"In Rome, this might include St. Peter's tomb beneath the Vatican or the catacombs or one of the major basilicas," he said. "In Paris, they will see the famous sites, but also celebrate Mass at the church of St. Catherine Labouré or St. Vincent De Paul or Notre Dame.

## Pilgrimage To Religious Shrines

By Willy Thorn

# Enjoy Retirement

"In Greece, our groups will cover the vast history and archeology of the country, but we will also combine that with walking in the footsteps of St. Paul," he said. "As this country is mostly Greek Orthodox, we often celebrate our liturgies out of doors at sites significant to St. Paul's ministry."

Additionally, Unitours organizes other trips to such places as the Marian shrines of Fatima and Lourdes, Austria, Bavaria, eastern and central Europe, Great Britain, Ireland, Mexico, Switzerland, Turkey and – "in better times" – Israel, Faucett said.

According to Zlatko Stoparic, managing director of Classic Pilgrimages in Glenside, Pa., most sites of the tours his company organizes are to places "visited by pilgrims only."

He stressed that tours through Classic Pilgrimages, as for those of other Catholic tour companies, draw upon the people who have familiarity with the church as well as tour experience. "All our pilgrimages are accompanied with tour chaplains. Private and concelebrated Masses are provided on a daily basis. All our tour escorts and local guides have a very thorough Christian and Catholic training and education."

Classic Pilgrimages is a division of Gate 1 Travel, and visits such destinations, according to Stoparic, as Jerusalem and other sites in the Holy Land; Rome; Marian shrines in Ireland, France, Portugal, Spain and Poland; sites of eucharistic miracles in Italy, France, Portugal, Germany and

Belgium; and "Saints' footsteps" tours in Turkey, Greece and Ireland.

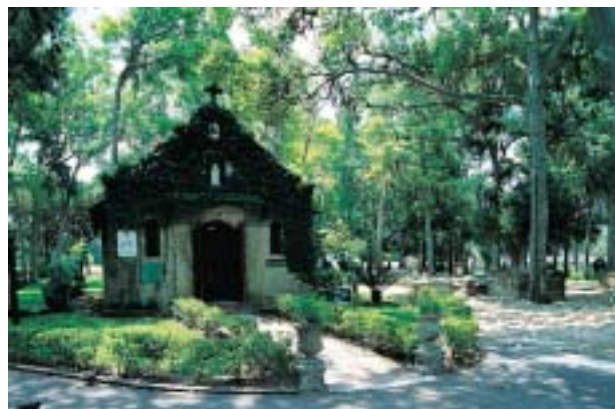
Not all destinations are international, though.

Eric Johnson, director of the Mission Nombre de Dios and Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche in St. Augustine, has coordinated a number of tours and pilgrimages to Catholic sites in St. Augustine, Fla.

The 1940s through the early 1960s were times of pilgrimage for parishes in Florida. Johnson said larger numbers of clergy, religious, and laity made their way to the mission and the shrine in St. Augustine. "Unfortunately, over the years parish pilgrimages have dwindled," he said.

The need for pilgrimage is, in fact, more critical and relevant now than in the past. "Our present age is fraught with escalating mobility. The dizzying pace of life leaves little room for quiet prayer and reflection," he said. Adding, "The journey and the spirituality afforded by a pilgrimage permits us to step off the roller coaster of every day life."

A pilgrimage to the Mission Nombre de Dios and the Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche allows us to be in touch with some of the earliest history of the Catholic Church in Florida," said Johnson.




FRANTIZEK ZVARDON

*The first Marian shrine in the United States, the Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche is at Mission Nombre de Dios in St. Augustine.*

To schedule tours or pilgrimages to the Mission Nombre de Dios and Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche, call the mission office at 1-800-342-6529. For more information and historical background visit their website at [www.missionandshrine.org](http://www.missionandshrine.org).

In short, there are tour destinations as far or near from home as you'd like or can afford.

"We have the greatest travel clients in the world! Period," Faucett said of Catholics. "Our folks are pilgrims. As long as we do our job properly and give them what we promised, they are cooperative and appreciative." 

*Willy Thorn is a features writer for Catholic News Service.*

## Popular Pilgrim Sites



### Fatima, Portugal

Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima dedicated to the revelations given to three young visionaries.



### Mexico City

Home to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas.



### Rome

Vatican City State, seat of the pontiff, St. Peter's Basilica, Roman Curia, library and museums.



### Lourdes, France

Marian shrine dedicated to the appearance of Mary to Bernadette Soubirous. A spring is associated with healings.



### Holy Land

Biblical sites in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Cana, Jericho.



### Assisi

Home of St. Francis, patron of peace, and founder of the Franciscan order.

The curiosity about nuns and their distinctive clothing is almost as old as Catholicism itself. The dress or habit of women religious in the Catholic Church is one of our most widely known and recognizable religious symbols. It's also a nostalgic image held dear by millions of people who remember the sisters in their habits.



# A Change of Habit

Today, not nearly as many sisters wear the habit, but the history of their habit and what inspired them is a fascinating subject.

Five women religious who serve in the Diocese of Saint Augustine and Elizabeth Kuhns, author of the book, *The Habit: A History of the Clothing of Catholic Nuns*, explain the traditions and transitions of the habit and why sisters dress the way they do today.

But first let's note, that while the words nuns and sisters are often used interchangeably, officially, a "nun" refers to a woman of a religious order who lives in a cloistered convent and who is engaged in monastic activities; a "sister" is a member of a religious congregation who works in active apostolates – working among the people of society.

"Nuns date to the very inception of the church, when women consecrated themselves to God and religion for its own sake," said Kuhns, referencing orders of widows that are mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles and in the Epistles of St. Paul.

By the end of the third century, Kuhns said celibate women or virgins grouped together to form the beginnings of the great medieval monasteries and religious orders of the Middle Ages. Notable monastic orders include the Benedictines, Dominicans, Franciscans and the Carmelites.

The wearing of specific clothing by men and women in monasteries was voluntary at first. It wasn't until "Holy Rules" were written and called for a formal plan for day-to-day living. A "rule" is a set of church-approved guidelines for an order. Augustine wrote one of the first rules, the "Rule of St. Augustine," for his small band of monks in Hippo, North Africa. "The Rule was later adapted by several communities of nuns in

BY KATHLEEN BAGG-MORGAN

southern Europe who added their own clarifications, such as the recommendation to avoid 'such delicate head coverings that your hairnets show through,'" said Kuhns.

The veil was the original article of clothing used by Christian consecrated women to distinguish themselves from secular society. Kuhns explained, "As a Bride of Christ, the wearer was not available for marriage, and (the veil) was a symbol of her consecration and constancy." Early records indicate a white veil was assigned



*Mary Kathleen Eorard was the first religious vocation to come from St. Paul Parish in Jacksonville. At 16, she joined the Sisters of St. Joseph in St. Augustine. At 21, (above) she professed her final vows and became Sister Marie Therese. Today, at the age of 79, (left) she continues to direct children and adult choirs and is known in the community as the "Singing Nun."*



*Founded in Paris in 1633 by St. Vincent de Paul, the Daughters of Charity adopted as their habit the dress of a French peasant girl of the time (left). Sister Helen Marie Kling (center) is wearing a modified version of their habit as adopted in the late 1960s after Vatican II. Their habit was modified again in 1996 with the option of wearing a veil.*

to novices followed by a black veil when they professed their final vows.

More significant changes in the style of habits occurred in the 17th century when orders of religious women were formed to be active apostolates. The new religious orders would be free from the cloister and work among the people. It began with the Order of Visitation, founded in 1610, followed by the Daughters of Charity and the Sisters of St. Joseph.

"Social conditions were deplorable in mid-17th-century France and there was so much sadness," said Marie Therese Evrard, a Sister of St. Joseph of St. Augustine. "There were crusades and wars leaving many women as widows. In addition, there were major famines and fever epidemics that resulted in thousands of homeless people in Paris alone. There was no public assistance and there was a great need for help in hospitals as well as people to provide care for orphaned children and to educate women."

In 1650, Jesuit Missionary Jean-Pierre Madialle founded the Sisters of St. Joseph – a community that would practice "all the spiritual and corporal works of mercy of which women are capable." He asked the sisters to dress like the widows of the day so that they could walk the streets without suspicion. They wore a crucifix and rosary, yet the dress was designed to be neither uniform or to resemble the habits of cloistered religious.

The Sisters of St. Joseph were brought to the Diocese of Saint Augustine in 1866 by our first bishop, Augustin Verot, who was originally from Le Puy, France. "He needed educators to teach the newly freed slaves," said Sister Marie Therese. They are the only religious order with a motherhouse in the diocese.

Today the Sisters of St. Joseph wear simple skirts with blouses or suits. "Our only distinguishing features are the cross – a replica of the 'Great Cross' in St. Augustine, and a pin with our coat-of-arms," said Sister Marie Therese.

Sister Marie Therese fondly remembers that Bishop

Tanner at one of their chapter meetings in the late 1960s grew tired of listening to the sisters debate the style of their new habit. He left for lunch, she said, and later that day sent one of his priest representatives to the convent to ask us if we would consider wearing the cross of St. Augustine. "We gratefully agreed to wear the silver cross that he had made for us."

In 1633, St. Vincent de Paul founded the Daughters of Charity in France to nurse the sick and to serve the "poorest of the poor." Their habit was to resemble the dress of a French peasant girl of the day. Their white, heavily starched cornette was easily identifiable.

"I wore the traditional habit for less than two years before it was modified after Vatican II," said Sister Helen Marie Kling, a Daughter of Charity and pastoral associate of Our Lady of Consolation Parish, Callahan. After Vatican II, Sister Helen said they "lost the wings and adopted a short veil." The habit was further modified in 1996.

The Daughters of Charity came to Jacksonville during the Spanish American War to nurse sick soldiers. They later were asked to take over the healthcare facilities of DeSoto Sanitarium in 1916. Two months later they renamed it St. Vincent's Hospital.

All five provinces of the Daughters of Charity in the United States adopted a blue skirt or simple blue dress with an optional veil. "We were called to blend in with the simplicity of the poor in society," said Sister Helen.

In the 1800s, a number of new orders were founded, however, the establishment of new rules were not permitted. Rules were one of the



*Sister Patricia Eileen Consier entered the novitiate for the Adrian Dominican Sisters in 1952 at the age of 17. She received the black veil for her habit when she professed her final vows six years later (right). Serving as the Music Director for the Cathedral-Basilica for 25 years, Sister Patricia is pictured here with Father Robert Baker, former pastor of the Cathedral and now the Bishop of Charleston. Today she says the Adrian Dominican's can "wear anything they can afford."*



Founded in Dublin, Ireland in 1831, the Sisters of Mercy is one of the largest congregations of women religious in the Catholic Church. When the late Msgr. Leo Danahey brought four Mercy Sisters to Florida from Ireland in 1961 (left), they wore the traditional habit, which was the style of a laywoman in 1831. After Vatican II their habit was modified becoming more comfortable for our Florida climate (center). Today Sister Josephine O'Leary (right), one of the original four sisters, is principal of Sacred Heart Parish School, Jacksonville.

ways religious orders could distinguished themselves from each other. "Orders began distinguishing themselves even more through the style of their habit – you began to see some really elaborate modifications taking place during this time period."

"Some of the headpieces became huge and stylized," explained Kuhns. Skirts had to have the right number of pleats and made from specific cloth.

By the 1950s, religious orders began taking a look at their habit because they were hard to clean and very costly for the orders to maintain.

"I remember spending an entire Saturday scrubbing the stains from my white habit," said Adrian Dominican Sister Patricia Eileen Consier, the director of Liturgical Music for the Cathedral-Basilica of St. Augustine. She said they had to make their own habits. "Our headpieces required a lot of starch and with it being so warm and humid in Florida, the starch in the headpiece would wilt and become very hot."

The Adrian Dominicans – up to the changes of the late 1960s – wore a long white tunic. "We had long sleeves that folded up and there was lots of room in them," Sister Eileen recalled. "The tunic was tailed and you wore a white scapular with a headpiece," she said. "The face was the only feature allowed to be seen." She remembers hearing the kids say, "They look like penguins from the back!"

Sister Eileen said although it's more comfortable wearing regular clothes in Florida, she does miss wearing the original habit. "There was a sense of dignity that came with wearing the full habit – people identified us immediately with the church. Today they have to talk to us to know," she said.

On Oct. 11, 1962, Pope John XXIII opened the Second Vatican Council. He stated, "We are going to shake off the dust that has collected on the throne of Saint Peter since the time of Constantine and let in some fresh air." This idea was often described with the Italian term *aggiornamento*, meaning, "updating." Kuhns in her book says another guiding concept of the Council was the idea of *ressourcement* (French for "return to the sources"), as the Council sought to recover the earliest roots of the faith from the teachings of Scripture and the Fathers of the Church.

"During this time, change was occurring in all aspects of our lives," said Sister Maureen Kelley, a Sinsinawa Dominican and Vicar for Religious for the Diocese of Saint Augustine.

The process of renewal called for by Vatican II was so important to religious orders that they spent nearly two years seriously considering how they could bring the life of Christ to the daily lives of people. "The change in our habits was only one of the many actions taken by religious to bring

the past and future into a cohesive whole for the spiritual lives of Catholics," said Sister Maureen.

In October 1965, the *Decree on the Appropriate Renewal of the Religious Life (Perfectae Caritatis)*, stated:

The religious habit, as a symbol of consecration, must be simple and modest, at once poor and becoming. In addition, it must be in keeping with the requirements of health and it must be suited to the times and place and to the needs of the apostolate. The habits, both of men and women, which are not in conformity with these norms ought to be changed.

A year later, the pope mandated that within three years, all major superiors must convene a special chapter, or committee, to recommend a path of renewal for their communities. Kuhns said, "His letter encouraged experimentation and made allowances for orders' Vatican-approved constitutions to be replaced by temporary bylaws drawn up by sisters."


The first American community of sisters to abandon the traditional habit was the Sisters of Loretto. They adopted suits in the spring of 1966. Their mother general was Sister Luke Tobin, the only American sister to be invited to audit sessions of the Second Vatican Council.

"From the standpoint of comfort – the change was welcome," said Sister Josephine O'Leary, an Irish Sister of Mercy and principal of Sacred Heart Catholic School in Jacksonville. "However, I had difficulty with the changes," she said. "I felt very proud to be a Sister of Mercy and people recognized you immediately as being with the church."

When the changes were first made, Sister Josephine said she remembers how excited the school children were to see the sisters without their habit. "The children had never seen our hair exposed and they often wondered what color our hair was!"

"Of the changes to religious life, the habit was the most dramatic because it was so visible," said Kuhns. "Lay people have reacted dramatically." She adds, however, "Their work is not about the habit. They are doing the work that no one else wants to do."

Vatican II and Pope John XXIII called upon religious men and women to embrace the process of renewal as exactly that – a process.

"We began our renewal efforts within the context of Vatican II and have learned that renewal is always an ongoing process," said Sister Maureen. "We strive to fulfill the mandates of Vatican II to be immersed in the world. We hope we can be a catalyst that leads each one of us as individuals in community to continue to deepen our own lives and to continue to walk with the people of God on our shared journey to God." 

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**S**teve Veth was happily married, involved in his church and worked as general counsel for various financial institutions in the Jacksonville area when he got the news: Both he and his wife had cancer.

"I survived, she did not," said Veth, 55, who still gets choked up recalling his marriage of 22 years, which produced three children and more than a few difficulties in the wake of his wife's passing. "My wife was incredibly spiritual and a wonderful woman."

The Cursillo community in the Diocese of Saint Augustine (Veth is a team member), his parish and other friends rallied around the Veth family to offer their love and compassion, and that helped them through the initial shock and dismay. But then Veth realized he was among the ranks of Catholic single parents who are all trying to cope with the many challenges of bringing up happy, healthy kids.

Veth's children are in college and high school now, and most of the adolescent acting out, anger and resentment following his wife's sudden death has run their course, he said, although there are still some scars and doubts left from the experience.

# SINGLE PARENTS:

## *Challenges, Struggles*

BY TOM TRACY

"It is difficult as a single parent to fill the role of the deceased parent," said Veth, who is a member of Holy Family Parish in Jacksonville and a native of Kentucky. "It was difficult to be a mother to the children, and I couldn't be that anyway so I was just a father, giving the best fatherly advice I could, and that could be difficult with teenage daughters."

Above all, youngsters need to be reassured after divorce or a death; they need constant reminders that they are loved, according to Veth, who said he always told his children that disappointment and tragedy don't come from God; these things just happen and that you must simply keep the faith and surround yourself with Christian friends.

"My advice to single parents is find every way you can to love your children, especially where there is a divorce – and don't let that affect the children's relationship because then the disappointment can become multi-generational. "Don't blame, just love and practice Christian compassion. And pray."

No one is even sure exactly how many children in church pews across the United States are growing up in single-parent families, but if it's true that Catholics divorce at about the same rate as the general population, then perhaps as many as 50 percent of all Catholic households are run by a single parent.

Irene Varley, director of a support group called the North American Conference of Separated and Divorced Catholics, believes it is most important that the church know how many Catholic children are living in single parent homes. "After all they are our future church and we need to know something about them if we are to minister to them," Varley said.

Liz Tenorio, a systems project manager at Citibank, a member of San Jose Parish in Jacksonville and a mother of two daughters, said her strategy for dealing with single parenting was to surround her children with friends and caring people who provide community, support and good role models.

Because her former husband had different religious beliefs, Tenorio said getting her daughters to church each Sunday and through sacramental preparation wasn't easy or always consistent. But she believed that being a good example and providing the kids with good religious education would ultimately pay off even if they wander somewhat along the way.

"It is tough with kids, because when they are little you simply



pick them up and you go to church, but when they get older they wander," said Tenorio, who is involved in her parish eighth-grade religious education program. "I believe I had to show them the right way, what my expectations are and what God's expectations are for them."

There are good church-affiliated programs for both parents and children going through the loss of a parent due to divorce or mortality, according to Peggy Redding, a single mother in Orlando and a southern regional director for the North American Conference of Separated and Divorced Catholics. Her advice to parents: Get yourself together first; the children can usually hold it together until you collect yourself.

"The first thing is to acknowledge that there is a need and to become educated about that need," Redding said. "Parents themselves who need (support) tend to get into a group – it could be as simple as a monthly outing – they often get settled and then they want to help other folks."

The next step that Redding talks about is a realization that maybe it's not going to be a perfect life, a perfect world or a perfect family with two parents, and that is hard to accept. "If you can accept the fact that God is present and that He won't abandon you because someone else abandoned you, then you can accept life will be different and it could be a good kind of different," she said. "It is a re-adjustment process."

There are a number of national programs for single-parent families experiencing transition or difficulty that are sponsored by the church, including: "The Beginning Experience" – a weekend retreat for men and women who have experienced the death of a spouse, divorce or separation. They also provide retreats for children. And "Rainbows" – a nonprofit organization with programs for children grieving the loss of parent due to death, separation or divorce.

Father Tony Palazzolo, a consultant to the Diocesan Center for Family Life for the Diocese of Saint Augustine, helps organize a local program called "Rebuilding" for those who have been divorced two or three years and need help moving on; and "Divorce and Beyond," a 10-week program focused on forgiveness for newly divorced and separated Catholics. He also provides workshops for the blended family.

Changes in the American culture have presented some tough obstacles that single parents have to contend with, according to Father Palazzolo. He's concerned about the challenges single parents have in a climate that is sometimes contrary to Christian principles. "The difficulty of maintaining a

household and earning a living is a complicated juggling act – add to that dating and life can be very difficult," he said. "This is a ministry that deeply needs spiritual and educational support from our parish and diocesan community. It's a ministry that has not been a priority in our church."

If the United States bishops are looking for a proactive way to deal with single parents, Father Palazzolo thinks they should begin by opening church-affiliated day-care centers in parishes. "There are millions of women working today and many existing daycare centers are nothing more than storage facilities. We have a responsibility to help children in spiritually-based day care centers," he said, adding, "The church can never offer enough parenting workshops or better marriage preparation."

Attorney Steve Veth, who tried dating after his wife's passing away, said he is settled into his role now as a single father fortunate enough to have good financial stability. "I had (faith) questions myself and couldn't understand why this was happening and why all this came crashing down out of nowhere in a swift period of time," he said. "But Jesus is the one we need to look to when things get tough." ➤

## Online Resources for Catholic Single Parents

- **The Beginning Experience** – A peer grief resolution ministry for the widowed, separated and divorced and their children. Visit [www.beginningexperience.org/](http://www.beginningexperience.org/)
- **Rainbows** – A program for parents to help children recover after experiencing loss of a parent due to death, separation or divorce. Visit [www.rainbows.org](http://www.rainbows.org).
- **Ministry of Mothers Sharing (M.O.M.S.)** – An outreach ministry developed by the Sisters of St. Benedict, MOMS awakens in women an awareness of their inner sacred self and teaches them new ways to inspire and affirm each other. Through this personal and spiritual growth, women claim their own giftedness and bring these gifts to the Christian Community. Visit [www.osb.org/spm/moms.html](http://www.osb.org/spm/moms.html)
- **The Christian Family Movement** – Promotes Christ-centered marriage and family life and helps individuals and their families to live the Christian faith in everyday life. Visit [www.cfm.org](http://www.cfm.org).

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College planning can be a daunting sea of acronyms and applications, requirements, deadlines and that brutal bottom line: paying for it.

Take heart. Every year millions of families negotiate the process, and Dick or Jane successfully sails from high school to college. Those who graduate with a four-year degree have a 70 percent higher lifetime earning potential than a high school graduate, according to research for the Early College High School Initiative.

So when should a young person start preparing for college? On their first day of

school, its 162 students are either freshmen or sophomores this year. So Price has yet to counsel a class all the way through the school's college preparatory curriculum. But she's ready.

"In our library there are Internet-connected computers so students can research colleges and scholarships," Price says. "We'll be starting the planning process more intensely next year, but there's so much out there. It's just a matter of taking the time, and patience."

Jerry Buckley agrees. As director of Guidance Services at Bishop Kenny High School in Jacksonville, he's proud of its 99 percent college acceptance rate. Seventy-one percent of the Class of 2003 went on to a four-year institution; 28 percent enrolled at two-year schools. "The earlier you get started, the less overwhelming it can become," says



# COLLEGE PREP 101

PARENTS AND STUDENTS NEED TO DO THEIR HOMEWORK

ninth grade, high school and college admissions counselors advise.

"The minute they walk through the door, I start telling them that freshman year is not their get-acclimated year. From the first day you're already under surveillance, so to speak," laughs Mariana Price, director of Guidance Services at Bishop John J. Snyder High School.

Opened in 2002 as Jacksonville's second Catholic secondary

Buckley, a 1993 graduate of The Catholic University in Washington, D.C. "Right off the bat – in ninth grade – we stress that the courses they take really count in terms of the transcripts" that college admissions staff eventually will evaluate.

Eventually isn't long. "There are only eight semesters in their high school career," Price notes, "but colleges really only see six" if students begin applying before they're seniors.



BY KATHY HORAK

Athletic prowess, artistic ability, a parent's alumni status and the student's peer network all may influence decisions about where to apply. Regardless of starting points, Buckley refers students to guidance office resources and the Internet.

He considers the site run by the College Board, which sponsors the Scholastic Aptitude Test or SAT as a good independent source. Most colleges require SAT or ACT scores as a consideration of admission, and most will consider the best score a high school student achieves.

At collegeboard.com, fastweb.com and wiredscholar.com, teens can create personal profiles that yield potentially suitable schools from at least 4,000 options. They can search by admission criteria, popular majors, location and size, and obtain insight into the school's student mix, dormitory information and financial aid. Those with less than stellar SAT or ACT scores can find 700 colleges that don't require the exams for admission at [www.fairtest.org/univ/optional.htm](http://www.fairtest.org/univ/optional.htm).

"A lot of my sophomores are still talking University of Florida and FSU. They're definitely part of the competition circle," Price says. "A lot of them want to stay local but still want to go to a good school, so they look at Jacksonville University or the University of North Florida. And there are plenty who want to go to Notre Dame even though it's extremely competitive."

Indeed. The University of Notre Dame in Indiana admitted about 29 percent of 12,500 applicants last year, and among freshmen the rate was about 16 percent, says Bob Mundy, director of Admissions Operations and a 20-year veteran of one of America's legendary Catholic institutions.

"Eighty percent of the students who apply are qualified. They've taken the best courses, done very well, rank right at the top of their graduating class. And a lot aren't going to be admitted simply because there are other students we view as stronger," Mundy says.

SAT scores from the low 1300s to the mid 1400s (1600 is perfect) are only middle-range at Notre Dame. Its freshman admission rate used to be as high as 40 percent of applicants, "but last year there was a big change," Mundy said. "The applicant pool jumped. There are simply more high school graduates out there (offspring of the tail end of the Baby Boom generation), and we're being more effective in attracting very strong applicants."

The competition even surprises parents who already have a son or daughter enrolled, Mundy notes. "That number two child might not make it."

So what does it take to get in?

Recommended high school coursework is four years each of English and literature, mathematics, science, foreign language and history or social science. The school notes, "Most admitted students take honors and/or advanced placement courses where available."

Extended extracurricular activities count too. "What are you doing beyond the classroom?" Mundy asks. "That doesn't mean go out and join things for the sake of joining. Do things you really like, persist and become a leader: vice president of the student council, captain of the volleyball team."

Like most universities and many colleges, Notre Dame requires a personal essay and one teacher recommendation.

"We want a nice, thoughtful two pages instead of something that wanders," Mundy says. "And if you get the right teacher recommendation, you don't need more than one. I always ask students, 'What will a second or third person add that I don't already know?' We believe them (mentors) the first time."

As for mistakes applicants make, Mundy cites few. "Sometimes they omit things, but that's usually an oversight. Our application tends to be very long, so it's not something you do after football practice. It takes several days. And sometimes they'll work on it for weeks until they're happy with it."

Once a high school student has narrowed their targets, all advisors stress campus visits. "Until you're there you can't get a true feel for the place," Buckley says.

Tips from wiredscholar.com: Make a list of questions and use it on every visit for fair comparisons. Visit while the school is in session; call in advance about attending a class or two. Call the admissions office two weeks ahead of time to schedule interviews with staff and professors. See about spending a night in a dorm and take advantage of campus tours. Many schools schedule these activities during get-acquainted sessions for prospects; call or check the web. And give some thought to off-campus surroundings and the weather.

Then there's the bottom line: money. According to the College Board's Trends in College Pricing 2003, the average yearly cost of public and private schools nationwide for 2003-2004 were \$10,636 and \$26,854, respectively. Tuition often accounts for less than 30 percent of the tab before room, board, books, fees and important extras such as a personal computer.

Yet according to Angela Scott, assistant vice provost for Enrollment Services at

Barry University in Miami, "it's a mistake to exclude a particular college strictly on sticker price."

The private school, affiliated with the Adrian Dominican religious order, cost \$27,700 this year for undergraduate tuition, room and board, but "that's not an amount the family would have to pay because almost all students receive federal, state or college assistance. If they apply for everything as soon as possible, it could be comparable to going to a state university."

Scott notes that the state of Florida's Bright Futures Scholarship for academic merit and the Florida Prepaid Tuition Plan work at private schools. Altogether, she notes, Barry administers about \$90 million in annual financial aid from all sources – everything from federal grants, loans and work-study to the college's own assistance.

The first step toward any of it is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. FAFSA information and applications should be available in any high school guidance office. If not, call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4FED-AID or go to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov), which is linked to the U.S. Department of Education's website, [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov).

Many colleges and universities make FAFSA the foundation of their financial aid considerations. It's based on family income as detailed by the most current federal income tax returns, and should be turned into the government for forwarding to schools as soon as possible after January 1 (not before). First-time FAFSA filers note: get your taxes done as early in the year as possible. January 2 is not too soon, as some aid is administered on a first-come, first-served basis.

As for scholarships, high school counselor Price says the primary source for Catholics is school-based aid from colleges such as Seton Hall University, founded in 1856 in South Orange, N.J. Price also recommends checking with local parish and community groups. And college planning websites such as fastweb let students search for money by religious affiliation.

Whatever you do, counselors advise, don't pay for help.

"Stay with the free information," Buckley says. "There's plenty out there. There's no reason to pay any money for services like that, and the financial aid ones can be scams." 🦋

*Kathy Horak is a St. Augustine-based freelance writer. Visit our website at [www.staugcatholic.org](http://www.staugcatholic.org) for comments from students who have been on the frontline and a complete timetable for students who want to go to college.*

## DID U KNOW?



SPECIAL

Spitznagel

Gainesville's Elizabeth Spitznagel has been awarded a Trustee Scholarship by Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio. Elizabeth, who will graduate from Eastside High School in the spring of 2004, plans to enter the honors program of Philosophy, Politics and the Public. Xavier is a co-educational, Roman Catholic, Jesuit University. In 2004, Xavier ranks sixth in the list of best colleges and universities prepared by *U.S. New & World Report* magazine.

Katie Boyle, a student at Oak Hill High School in Gainesville, was crowned Florida Junior Miss earlier this year. The Junior Miss title comes with a \$1,250 cash award and in June Katie is eligible to compete in the national competition. She has been accepted at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and hopes to have a career as a political analyst or adviser.

Katie is a member of St. Patrick Parish and Elizabeth is a member of St. Augustine Catholic Church and Student Center.



Boyle

SPECIAL

## Robots from Bishop Kenny Battle in Botball Tournament

What is a Botball Tournament?

It's a tournament between robots. They are built and programmed by high school teens. But in the tournament, it's hands-off for the teens. The robots must play the game on their own. While botball is not nearly as vicious as robot battles seen on some television programs, these tournaments can get gnarly as robots become entangled, lose a limb or dive over the edge of the game board.

Weeks before the competition each team is given a kit that includes, among other things, Legos and computer chips. Each team must design, build and program their robots to certain standards. Remote controls are not allowed. The robots must start, stop and maneuver on the tournament game board by themselves.

## Teens 'Witness' The Crucifixion

Six teens helped provide an "eyewitness account" of the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday at St. Catherine Parish in Orange Park. In fact, the teens were among the 15 members of the parish community, from age 13 to 73, who gave witness to the solemn 3 p.m. liturgy.

C.J. Lawson, 18, who portrayed Pilate's wife, said, "You get a different point of view from playing the character. It really makes you think about the crucifixion in a different way."



CHELLE DELANEY

In the front row (l-r) are: Pilate's wife - C.J. Lawson; woman on journey to crucifixion - Rebecca Porzig; and Maid Servant - Katie Coates. Back row: Judas - Ned Fulmer; Soldier - Bryant Mosley; and Soldier at cross - Ryan Murphy.

At each station, the characters delivered a monologue based on their roles and what that character might have experienced or thought as Jesus made his journey to be crucified.

The parish relied on an adaptation of the Stations of the Cross, "We Were There - A Way of Cross" that is drawn from Pope John Paul II's 1991 scriptural stations.

Ned Fulmer, 16, who was Judas, said, "You look at the crucifixion on a whole different level. I really got into why Judas did what he did - betray Jesus. I think above all, he's really frustrated. He expected a military rebellion instead of a spiritual rebellion."

As the soldier beneath the cross who cast lots for Jesus' garments, Bryant Mosley, 16, said that playing his character makes you think more intently on Christ's suffering.

Rehearsals, Bryant said, provided the opportunity "to be with and get to know more experienced Catholics in the parish. The adults are really young kids at heart."



CHELLE DELANEY

BK Robotics Team member Serge Bonmechzek with judges at the Jacksonville area Botball Tournament in early March.

Several years ago, a former BK Robotics Team was honored when its html computer code for robots was included on a NASA satellite launch, says Larry Akin, robotics team coach and computer instructor at BK.

This year, in honor of their hostess, Sue Roberts, whose family garage was used for practice, the team called one of their robots "A Bot Named Sue."

While the BK team did not win the regional tournament, it can go on to California this summer to compete in the national tournament.

For more about Botball see [www.botball.org](http://www.botball.org)

# Summer CALENDAR

## Camp Risk

Space is still available for boys entering 7th grade and for 8th and 9th grade boys at Camp Risk at Camp St. Johns, Marywood. It's a week-long, residential, co-ed, Christian camp experience with sports, games, music, and FUN! Dates: June 27-July 2, July 4-9, and July 11-16. Call (904) 287-2525 for more information and registration.



## SPLUNGE

For youth age 16 to 21. June 7-12. Home base at Most Holy Redeemer Parish, Jacksonville.

SPLUNGE is a retreat that gives young people a chance to live an inner-city lifestyle. It offers spiritual reflection, the chance to learn you can make a difference and one day at one of Florida's natural springs.

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CATHOLIC CHARITIES AWARDS DINNER

# Good Samaritans Honored

Six community volunteers were recognized at the 10th annual Good Samaritan Dinner on Feb. 17 sponsored by Catholic Charities St. Augustine Regional Office.

Receiving the awards were: Peter Fontanta, who five years ago built Fontanta Village, an orphanage in Haiti; Glenn Shrader, who since the early 1990s has been a volunteer and key leader for the United Way of St. Johns County; St. Johns County Sheriff Office Sgt. Mike Dillhyon, who in 1992 started a chapter of PAL (Police Athletic League); and Bob and Alice Compton, who have been serving at Habitat for Humanity since it started in 1993. The Bishop John J. Snyder Faith in Action award was presented to Fran Farrell who has been involved in the Special Olympics for 24 years.

Lyle Harbin, St. Augustine Catholic Charities board chairman, said the dinner raised almost \$18,000 for the regional office.



Good Samaritans with Bishop John J. Snyder, William J. Tierney, diocesan director of Catholic Charities, and Bishop Victor Galeone, are: back row (l-r), Bishop Snyder, Peter Fontanta, Glenn Shrader, Tierney, Sgt. Mike Dillhyon and Bishop Galeone; and in front are Fran Farrell, and Bob and Alice Compton.

SPECIAL

GROWING NEED IN JACKSONVILLE

## New Mission Established

A new mission church, St. Paul Mission, is being established by the Diocese of Saint Augustine to meet the growing number of Catholics in Jacksonville's Arlington and Jacksonville Beaches areas. The 17.06-acre site of the new mission is on Girvin Road, north of Atlantic Boulevard.

With the current and projected growth in these areas, St. Paul Mission is expected to take some of the pressure off Holy Spirit Parish in Arlington and St. Paul Parish in Jacksonville Beach.

It is being called St. Paul Mission because it will be served by priests from St. Paul Parish. The name could be changed later.

Construction on a new \$1 million multipurpose building, which will serve as the church for Masses as well as other mission functions, is expected to begin later this year. Eventually, it is expected to have a church and a parish hall.

The mission has been under consideration by the diocese since the mid-1990s.

STUDENTS RECEIVE RESPECT LIFE AWARDS

## Artwork and Essays



David Armas, seventh-grade student artist, of Holy Faith Parish in Gainesville was just one of 87 students from parish and school religious education programs in the diocese who entered their artwork (above) and essays in the competition, sponsored by the Respect Life Office. The awards were presented by Bishop Victor Galeone at the Cathedral-Basilica on March 21 at the Annual Respect Life Pilgrimage Mass in St. Augustine. The process of creating artwork and writing essays enriches and deepens their understanding of the church's teaching on respect for life. For a list of other participating students and their awards, see this issue of the *St. Augustine Catholic* at [www.staugcatholicd.org](http://www.staugcatholicd.org)

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL CONFERENCE

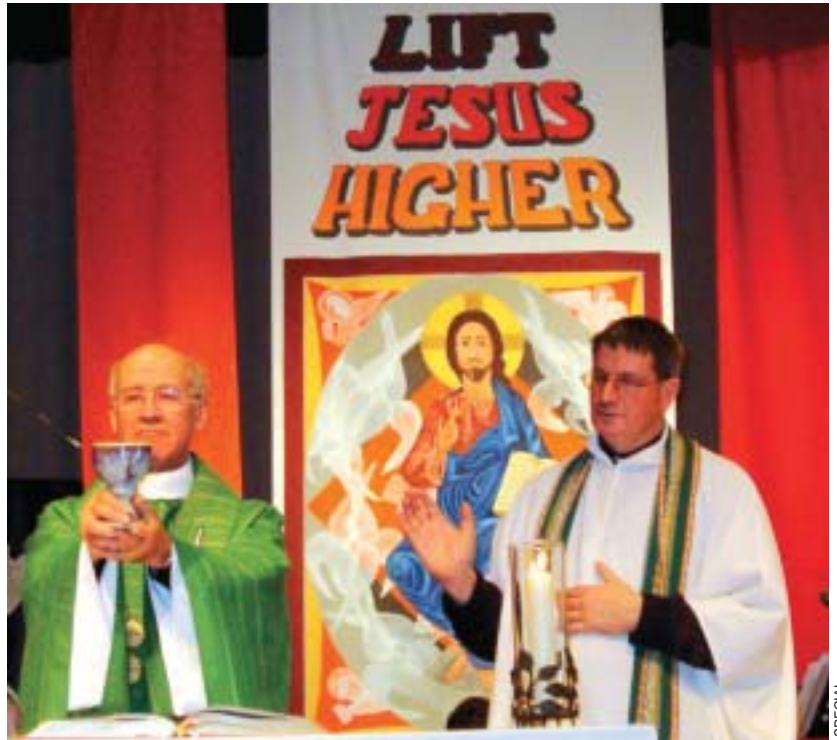
# Lift Jesus Higher

Hundreds attended the annual diocesan Charismatic Renewal Conference on Feb. 13-16 at Bishop John J. Snyder High School in Jacksonville. The keynoter, Father Bob Poole of Ottawa, Canada, spoke on the conference theme "Lift Jesus Higher." Dennis Holm, of Cathedral Parish in St. Augustine, said, "Father Poole's words challenged me to open my heart and let the Holy Spirit set my 'lukewarm' faith on fire."



CHELLE DELANEY

Floral designer Barbara Chadwick of Holy Family Parish in Williston prepares braided palms for Palm Sunday liturgy. Chadwick and another parishioner, Veronica "Ronnie" Jordan, will be offering classes next year in Williston or the Jacksonville area on the art of palm braiding. For more information call (352) 528-2893.



SPECIAL

Bishop Victor Galeone and Father Bob Poole concelebrated Mass at the conference.



CHELLE DELANEY

Jubilarians in our diocese, celebrating 25 and 50 years of priestly ministry this year, were recognized at the Chrism Mass on April 7. From left are: Bishop Victor Galeone; Fr. Philip Gagan, chaplain at St. Vincent's Medical Center, 25 years; Fr. Michael Houle, president of Bishop Kenny High School, 25 years; Fr. Bernard Ahern, retired, 50 years; Fr. Dan Devore, parochial vicar at St. Matthew Parish, 25 years; Msgr. James Heslin, pastor of Holy Spirit Parish, 50 years; and Retired Bishop of Saint Augustine, John J. Snyder. All are from Jacksonville.

DELICATE CRAFT OF BOBBIN LACE MAKING

# Sisters Reclaiming Their Lost Heritage

When the Sisters of St. Joseph came to Florida in 1866 from Le Puy, France, they also brought with them their expert skills in bobbin lace making. In fact, the first sisters earned their livelihood in St. Augustine from selling lace collars, edgings, trims and other lace decorations in the delicate patterns. Over the years, that craft had been lost, but, today, two sisters are reclaiming their lace-making heritage.

"It hasn't been done by anyone in our community since the 1950s," says Sister Kathleen Power, who with Sister Mary Josepha Butterfield, is relearning the craft.

The two sisters also demonstrate their newly recovered art at the congregation's new museum, the Father Miguel O'Reilly House Museum in St. Augustine. Both serve as docents at the museum. Sister Kathleen is program coordinator at Marywood Retreat Center in Jacksonville and Sister Josepha is assistant administrator of the congregation's motherhouse in St. Augustine.

"Visitors are fascinated," says Sister Kathleen. "Some will say, 'Oh, my grandmother used to do that.' The visitors who seem to be most familiar with this type of lace making are from South America, Europe."

What makes this craft so intriguing is that it's done with numerous wooden bobbins, each with its own linen thread, which are intricately woven back-and-forth and to-and-fro in an exact pattern. "The delicacy of the

patterns is a rare art. We are using the original bobbins that the first sisters brought with them to Florida," Sister Kathleen says.

Some patterns require as many as a 100 bobbins. "The most we've been able to work with, so far, is 24. It takes good eyesight and a lot of patience," says Sister Kathleen. But the sisters are intent in perfecting the craft. They have the original patterns used by the first sisters and hope to duplicate their efforts.

Railroad magnate Henry Flagler thought so much of the sisters' lacework, he allowed them to sell their lace to the stylish guests in the lobby of his posh Ponce de Leon Hotel, now Flagler College.

The sisters have relearned their craft from master craftswoman Paula Koza of Vilano Beach who is president of the St. Augustine Textile Guild. They began taking classes in April of last year. And, eventually, the sisters hope to sell some of the lace items they have made in the museum.

Sister Kathleen says, "The exciting thing is that we're bringing back a



SISTER OF ST. JOSEPH MARIE THERESE EVRARD

craft that was lost; selling is secondary."

*The Father Miguel O'Reilly House Museum, 32 Aviles Street, St. Augustine, is open Wednesday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please call ahead to learn if Sisters Kathleen or Mary Josepha will be demonstrating the art of bobbin lace making. To arrange a tour, call (904) 823-8707. Website: [www.oreillyhouse.org](http://www.oreillyhouse.org)*



TOM JUDD

Golden Jubilarians were celebrated at a Mass at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Orange Park on March 6.

Sinsinawa Dominican Sister Elizabeth Fiorite read the Prayers of the Faithful from Braille, while lectors Notre Dame Sister Margaret Harig and Sister of St. Joseph Josephine Marie Melican read the readings from Scripture. All the religious present renewed their vows led by the jubilarians. The annual Mass honors men and women who have consecrated their lives to the church as religious and their service to people in the faith through education, health care, affirming peace and justice and works of social justice. With Bishop Victor Galeone are Sister Margaret of Gainesville, Sister Elizabeth of Jacksonville and Sister Josephine Marie of St. Augustine.



Leonie Cooper, a parish council member of St. Philip Neri Mission in Hawthorne, gets an autographed copy of a book by Mark Fischer, Ph.D. Fischer led a workshop on "The Role of the Pastoral Council in a Parish" in early March at Marywood Retreat Center that was attended by about 100 members of different parish councils from throughout the diocese. Fischer said the threefold task of the parish pastoral council is to study, reflect, and recommend conclusions. Fischer also conducted workshops for clergy and the Diocesan Pastoral Council. For more information see [www.west.net/~fischer](http://www.west.net/~fischer)

## Peter's Pence

On June 27  
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and give  
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Holy Father.



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The Honorable Stephen M. Oelrich, sheriff of Alachua County, presents the Mother Teresa of Calcutta Humanitarian Award to Ari Rodriguez, who works on behalf of immigrants in the greater Alachua County area. Oelrich was the honorary chairman of the 18th Annual Bishop's Dinner on Feb. 28, a fundraiser for Catholic Charities in Gainesville. It was a fun evening for all with live and silent auctions, sounds from the Queen of Peace Barbershop Quartet, the Heavenly Harmonies, and the lively banter of Father Al Esposito of Queen of Peace Parish, who was dubbed "auctioneer extraordinaire."

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## calendar of events

### May

**5 Will Seminar** – Wednesday, 7 p.m., Queen of Peace Parish, Gainesville. Speaker: Attorney John Donohoe, Jr. For information call Nancy Geary (904) 262-3200, ext. 166. Email: ngeary@dosafll.com.

**8 Mass in Honor of Our Lady and Her Avocations** – Saturday, 7 p.m., Sacred Heart Parish, Jacksonville. Reception follows Mass. For information call Chiqui Maldonado at (904) 772-0870. Email: amorozco@ccbjax.org

**9 Mother's Day Brunch** – Sunday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Marywood Retreat Center, Jacksonville. Cost: \$15. Bring Mom and the whole family. For reservations call (904) 287-2525 or (888) 287-2539.

**10 Catholic Women's Club** – Monthly luncheon meeting, 11 a.m. to Noon, Radisson Riverwalk Hotel, Jacksonville. Program: Foundation Grants. To join call Peggy at (904) 646-9417.

**13 Bishop John J. Snyder 3rd Annual Charity Golf Tournament** – Join Bishop Snyder for an afternoon of fun. Thursday, Noon at Fleming Island Golf Club. For information call (904) 771-1029, ext. 8978.

**13 Retreat for Homeschoolers: Mary, the Mother of Families** – Leader: Father Edward Murphy. Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Marywood Retreat Center, Jacksonville. Cost: \$27. To register call (904) 287-2525 or (888) 287-2539.

**14 Marian Morning** – This day of reflection will encourage women of all ages to gain in spiritual growth through their "trying and blessed times." Friday, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Marywood Retreat Center, Jacksonville. To register call (904) 262-3200, ext. 127.

**14-16 "Be Still and Know that I Am..." Retreat** – Leaders: Christian Community Sisters Mary Sferre and Mary Steves. Friday, 6:30 p.m. to Sunday, 10 a.m., Marywood Retreat Center, Jacksonville. Cost: \$75-\$156. To register call (904) 287-2525 or (888) 287-2539.

**14-18 Engaged Encounter** – A marriage preparation program sponsored by the Diocesan Center for Family Life. Friday, 7:30 p.m. to Sunday, 3 p.m., Marywood Retreat Center, Jacksonville. To register call (904) 308-7474 or register online at www.dcfll.org

**15 Ordination to Priesthood** – Deacons Richard Perko and Joseph McDonnell. Saturday, 10:30 a.m., Cathedral-Basilica, St. Augustine. All are welcome.

**20 Ascension of the Lord**

**20 Celebrating the Feast of the Ascension** – Leader: Father Tim Lindenfelser. Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Marywood Retreat Center, Jacksonville. Cost: \$27. To register call (904) 287-2525 or (888) 287-2539.

**22 Pre-Cana** – A marriage preparation program sponsored by the Diocesan Center for Family Life. Saturday, 8:15 a.m.-5:30 p.m., St. Vincent's Medical Center, Jacksonville. To register call (904) 308-7474 or register online at www.dcfll.org

**21 Diocesan Marriage Renewal** – A retreat weekend for couples that want to enrich their marriage. Friday, 7 p.m. to Sunday, 3 p.m., Marywood Retreat Center, Jacksonville. To register call Bill or Susan, (904) 268-4997 or online at www.dcfll.org

**31 Pre-Cana** – A marriage preparation program sponsored by the Diocesan Center for Family Life. Saturday, 8:15 a.m.-5:30 p.m., St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Palm Coast. To register call (904) 308-7474 or register online www.dcfll.org

### June

**4-6 Forgiveness: Finding the Serenity In a Time of Anxiety Retreat** – Leader: Father Darius Sleszynski. Friday, 6:30 p.m. to Sunday, 10 a.m., Marywood Retreat Center, Jacksonville. Cost: \$75-\$156. To register call (904) 287-2525 or (888) 287-2539.



**Theology-on-Tap Summer Sessions** – Open to young adults 21 to 39. Come for an evening of refreshment for the body and soul. Join us on these Fridays at 6 p.m. at The Mudville Grille, 3105 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville. Please RSVP to (904) 262-3200, ext. 117, or (800) 775-4659, ext. 117.

**Prayer in a Fast-paced, Consumer-driven Culture**, presented by Pat Cook. June 25. RSVP by June 21.

**The Da Vinci Code: Fact or Fiction?** presented by Msgr. Vincent Haut. July 30. RSVP by July 26.

**Challenges to Living the Faith in the Workplace**, presented by Mark Nixon. Aug. 27. RSVP by Aug. 23.

**7-12 SPLUNGE** – A weeklong inner-city program for young adults 16-21. All participants will stay at Most Holy Redeemer Parish, Jacksonville. Registration deadline is May 5. Cost of the program is \$60. To register call Linda Knight at (904) 733-1630, ext. 19.

**8 Ave Maria University/First Coast Founders Club Mass/Reception** – Guests: Thomas Monaghan and Nicolas Healy. Tuesday, 6 p.m. Mass and reception, Assumption Parish, Jacksonville. Cost: \$20 per person or \$30 per family. All are invited.

**9 The Abiding Presence Retreat** – Leader: Cenacle Sister Elizabeth Hillmann. Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Marywood Retreat Center, Jacksonville. Cost: \$27. To register call (904) 287-2525 or (888) 287-2539.

**11-13 Retrouvaille/Rediscovery Weekend** – A retreat for couples with troubled marriages. Friday, 8 p.m. to Sunday, 5 p.m., in Jacksonville. To register call Bill or Trudy Hehn at (904) 992-0408.

**11-13 Engaged Encounter** – A marriage preparation program sponsored by the Diocesan Center for Family Life. Friday, 7:30 p.m. to Sunday, 3 p.m., Marywood Retreat Center, Jacksonville. To register call (904) 308-7474 or register online at [www.dcf.org](http://www.dcf.org)

**18-20 Who Do You Say That I Am?™ Silent Retreat** – Leader: Jesus Christ. Friday, 6:30 p.m. to Sunday, 10 a.m., Marywood Retreat Center, Jacksonville. Cost: \$96-\$120. To register call (904) 287-2525 or (888) 287-2539.

**20 Father's Day**

**24-7/2 Sisters' Directed Retreat** – Leaders: Passionist Father Vincent Boney and Franciscan Sister Regina Kane. Thursday, Noon to Friday, Noon, Marywood Retreat Center, Jacksonville. Cost: \$375-\$475. To register call (904) 287-2525 or (888) 287-2539.

**26-7/2 Six-Day Guided Retreat: Praying With the Women Mystics** – Leader: Mercy Sister Breta Gorman. Saturday, 1 p.m. to Noon, Friday, Marywood Retreat Center, Jacksonville. Cost: \$345-\$395. To register call (904) 287-2525 or (888) 287-2539.

**27-7/2 Camp Risk** – A summer co-ed camp experience for 7th-9th graders. To date, spots open for boys only. Sunday – Friday, Camp St. Johns-Marywood, Switzerland. To register call (904) 287-2525 or (888) 287-2539.

July

**4-9 Camp Risk** – A summer co-ed camp experience for 7th-9th graders. To date, spots open for boys only. Sunday – Friday, Camp St. Johns at Marywood, Switzerland. To register call (904) 287-2525 or (888) 287-2539.

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**T**he New York Athletic Club in New York City is an amazing place. It's loaded with sports history, and Olympic history in particular. I recently walked through its Hall of Fame. It contains awards won by great athletes for more than 100 years and the club supported many of these gifted athletes.

One winner struck me in particular. His name was Ray Ewry. He was a native of Lafayette, Ind., born in 1873. What grabbed my attention was his list of accomplishments. This here-to-fore unknown (by me) young man was the winner of ten Olympic Gold Medals. That's right, ten gold medals. Now this is what that achievement meant. Swimmer Mark Spitz is famous for winning five gold medals. Track and Field star Carl Lewis is rightly celebrated for winning nine gold medals. Bruce Jenner has one gold medal. The legendary Jim Thorpe received two gold medals.

Now honestly, have you ever even heard of Raymond Clarence Ewry of Tippecanoe County, Ind.? And yet this amazing athlete won Olympic gold ten times. His winning streak came after he graduated from Purdue University in 1897. He

moved to New York City and developed a keen interest in the Olympics (they'd only been restarted in 1896). Ewry then decided to try competing in the games. The result: at the 1900 Olympic Games in Paris, he won his first three gold medals. These were for the standing high jump, the standing long jump and the standing hop, step and jump.

Ray Ewry didn't stop here. At the 1904 Olympics in St. Louis, Mo. he won another three gold medals. Then he traveled to Athens, Greece in 1906 for the 10th anniversary Olympic Games in which he picked up two more gold medals. His final

# Never Give Up!

**By Msgr. Jim Lisante**

worldwide competition came at the 1908 games, held in London. You guessed it; he picked up two more gold medals!

These accomplishments in-and-of-themselves should be remarkable enough. In the context of his life, however, they are awe-inspiring. You see Ray Ewry was a world-class athlete who overcame overwhelming odds. As a young boy in Indiana, Ray had contracted polio. He was given a wheelchair and a heavy brace. Doctors told him that he would never be able to walk again. But Ewry didn't buy it. He was determined that he would beat the ravages of the disease.

Ray Ewry created for himself a series of exercises that rebuilt the strength in his weakened legs. Today, people would probably call these isometric exercises. By any name, they worked amazingly well. Undeterred by a grim medical diagnosis, Ray willed himself into an ability to accomplish goals beyond anyone's wildest imagination. His fitness strategy didn't just help him to walk; it turned him into the athlete that the French nicknamed "The Human Frog."

Ray Ewry passed away on Sept. 29, 1937. His name has faded from memory. But I think he teaches us so much. When people tell us that something "just can't be done," he teaches us the power of persistence. When people encourage us to "just give up," Ewry reminds us that great things are accomplished only by ignoring that kind of advice. And most importantly, this one-time polio patient teaches us that everything is possible with hope. He really was a hero, not because he won more gold medals than anyone else, but even more for the tenacity with which he lived.

May we be filled with the same determination to reach for the very best in ourselves. 🦊

*Msgr. James Lisante is a priest with The Christophers religious order. For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, Half Empty Or Half Full, It's All In Your Attitude, write: The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017; or e-mail: mail@christophers.org.*