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Catholic

July/August 2004

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Catholic Politicians

**Bishop Galeone
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59	5.7%	68	6.3%	77	7.4%	86	9.9%
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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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Let Your Faith Guide Your Vote In 2004



At press time, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) had just approved a new statement titled *Catholics in Political Life*. In the statement, the bishops are clear:

Politicians who act "consistently to support abortion on demand" risk "cooperating in evil and sinning against the common good."

The statement was adopted by a vote of 183-6. It came after the Task Force on Catholic Bishops and Catholic Politicians made an extensive interim report at the USCCB's special assembly, held in Denver, June 14-19, 2004.

The statement supports bishops on both sides of what has become a very public debate set off by the Democratic presidential candidacy of John Kerry, who would be the first Catholic to obtain a major party nomination in 44 years. It lends support to both those who would sanction defiant politicians and those who draw the line at teaching and persuading.

The statement notes that "the question has been raised" whether it is necessary to deny Holy Communion to Catholics in public life who support abortion on demand.

"Given the wide range of circumstances involved in arriving at a prudential judgment" in this serious matter, the bishops state that they "recognize that such decisions rest with the individual bishop in accord with established canonical and pastoral principles."

Noting "bishops can legitimately make different judgments on the most prudent course of pastoral action," they express their shared "unequivocal commitment to protect human life and dignity."

The bishops conclude their statement by saying that respect for the Holy Eucharist "demands that it be received worthily and that it be seen as the source for our common mission in the world."

Washington archbishop, Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, chairman of the Task Force, said, on the release of the statement, that "it reflects the bishop's role as teacher, pastor and center of unity. We address the moral issues that our society faces without endorsing parties or candidates."

Last September, the USCCB's Administrative Committee outlined the principles for moral participation in political life and described the

USCCB positions on numerous issues in its statement *Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility*.

Our cover story addresses *Faithful Citizenship* – encouraging Catholics to contemplate on how basic values should shape political choices. We have also included "A Family Guide to Faithful Citizenship." To view the statement in its entirety and for parish resources, visit www.usccb.org/faithfulcitizenship/.

Bishop Victor Galeone brings the Catholic political debate all together in his column *Can A Catholic Politician Be Pro-Choice?* He reminds us that abortion is a moral, not political issue and "whoever tolerates evil becomes an accomplice in that evil."

Beginning with this issue of the *St. Augustine Catholic* we are launching a new department – *Parish Profiles*. Our first parish profile is St. Joseph Catholic Church, one of Jacksonville's oldest parishes located in the heart of Mandarin.

Also inside – Father Tom Willis, chair of the Liturgical Commission, provides insight for readers on the document, *The Sacrament of Redemption*, issued by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, April 23, 2004.

Kathy Horak, in her article *Smart Discipline*, interviews family therapist Larry Koenig, Ph.D., who outlines positive reward systems for parents to help their children to accept responsibility.

St. Luke and Christ the King parishes are highlighted in this issue as two good examples of how parish volunteers, doctors, nurses and pharmacists come together to help the medically underserved.

In closing, I want to leave you with this quote from the U.S. bishops' statement on *Faithful Citizenship* – "In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue; participation in the political process is a moral obligation. All believers are called to faithful citizenship, to become more informed, active and responsible participants in the political process."

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Withholding Communion to Pro-Choice Politicians

A schism has arisen within the Catholic Church regarding one's right to practice his or her faith while simultaneously advocating reproductive rights, euthanasia or stem-cell research. There is an element within the church that wishes to withhold communion from politicians who advocate the aforementioned practices.

I must express my great disappointment with these proposals. I am surprised by the church's ostensible position that in order to oppose a practice, one must favor its outlaw. Though I am pro-choice, I agree with the church's pro-life position. However, coercively silencing individuals who realize the complexities and dangers of such legislation is inherently wrong. I am submitting this letter of protest in the hopes that the bishops in question will be more receptive to progress. As a staunch Catholic, it pains me to pose the question: "Have we learned nothing since Copernicus?"

Safe positions such as pro-life have been the focus of the Catholic Church in the United States in recent years. However, despite the church's expressed disapproval of the war in Iraq, the death penalty and the mistreatment of migrant workers, communion has not been withheld from any Catholic politicians in the United States who have advocated or perpetuated these actions. I don't believe that anyone should be denied communion for his or her legislative positions, but if the church must do this, then it should at least be consistent.

I don't want to believe that the days of Caesar Chavez are gone. I want to believe that the church can once again take a stand in favor of other issues like workers' rights, peace, fair treatment of criminals and the impoverished.

*Sean Paul Selvig
Tallahassee, Fla.*

Can You Be Christian and Pro-Abortion?

Have you ever run an article on whether a person can truly be Christian and pro-abortion at the same time? A survey of major Christian religious denominational leaders on this topic shows there is political momentum during every election season.

If your answer is no, how can Christian religious leaders justify supporting a pro-abortion candidate without losing their moral authority? Such an article if reported objectively would make for interesting reading.

The abortion topic – a religious and moral

topic – has been politicized to the point that many people probably do not understand how political candidates pick a stance on the issue. How do religious leaders decide to endorse a candidate who has a pro or con stance on the issue? Religious leaders who endorse a candidate with a pro-life stance can provide a complete and cogent explanation of the issue versus brushing aside or deflecting the topic.

Interest in religion is at an all time high considering the turbulent world in which we live. Just look at the success of *The Passion of the Christ* movie and the increase in church service attendance.

*John Brunson
Irvine, Calif.*

The Scandal of Abortion

With pride in America and our Armed Forces, I salute the vast majority of the men and women who serve our country with honor in Iraq, Afghanistan and other parts of the world. May God bless them and their families.

To allow the few who dishonor our country to become a reflection of our entire nation and to place the blame for their actions on their Commander and Chief, is a form of treason. Our soldiers in Iraq are not at war with the people of Iraq, but rather, they are peacemakers who have become victims of revenge and hatred by an unseen enemy who will kill their own countrymen if necessary.

Without our military presence, mobs would rule a country which has lost the desire for peace. In comparison, allowing a political party that supports pro-choice to resume power at any level, is a disgrace to every American who believes in the right to life according to our constitution, which says we are all, created equal.

Scandal is all around us, but the scandal of deliberate willful abortion is the greatest scandal ever witnessed by any people – civilized or not.

*Vince Bemowski
Menasha, Wis.*


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@dosafll.com



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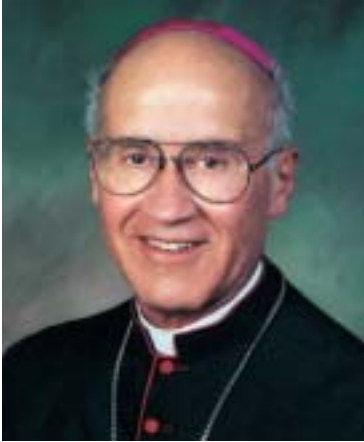
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Can A Catholic Politician Be Pro-Choice?

By Bishop Victor Galeone

In 1962 Archbishop Joseph Rummel of New Orleans excommunicated Judge Leander Perez for attempting to block the desegregation of the school system in the archdiocese. The mainstream and liberal media applauded the archbishop's action. Racists and segregationists attacked him vehemently. How dare he try to impose his sectarian views on those who held a different opinion on how the schools should be integrated?

In recent months, several Catholic bishops have issued directives forbidding the Eucharist to Catholic politicians who support abortion-on-demand. The media has been quick to respond with scurrilous editorial cartoons and commentaries, castigating those bishops for breaching the wall between church and state. How dare they try to impose their sectarian morality on the rest of the nation?

How does one respond to these charges? First, one should bear in mind that the right to life is not a sectarian Catholic issue – like celibacy for priests or meatless Fridays during Lent. It is a fundamental moral attribute of our humanity. We possess this right not from the state, not from the church, but from God himself. The founders of our nation acknowledged as much when they declared to the British monarch: “We hold these truths to be *self-evident*, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain *unalienable rights*, that among these are *Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.*” (*emphasis mine*)

Second, the right to life is the foundation of all our other rights. Just as a building without a foundation will ultimately collapse, so too, every other right we enjoy will crumble unless buttressed by this most basic right of all. So a politician of whatever or no religious persuasion at all is bound to respect the right to life of others, including incipient life in the womb.

“But the Supreme Court ruled in *Roe v. Wade* that one cannot be sure when human life begins.” That assertion was disingenuous on the part of Justice Harry Blackmun. It's embryology, not theology, that

asserts: “Development is a continuum that begins when an ovum is fertilized by a sperm and ends at death. All the genetic information of the human adult is already present in that single combined cell, the zygote, which definitely marks the beginning of a new individual.” All that is needed for development is time and nourishment, the same components needed by a newborn child.

“Can an avid proponent of abortion-on-demand be at the same time a Catholic in good standing with the church?” I answer that question by asking another: Can an avowed racist be a member in good standing of the NAACP? For similar reasons, there are some positions so extreme that they would bar one from being considered a good Catholic, not because a specifically Catholic teaching is being denied, but because a basic tenet of the natural law is being trashed. As members of the human family, we must obey the natural law, written on our hearts: “You shall not take an innocent life.”

“Are you implying that Holy Communion should be denied to Catholic candidates who espouse abortion-on-demand?” I would hope that those candidates who consistently vote in support of abortion have enough integrity to willingly exclude themselves from receiving the Eucharist. After all, they are supporting a procedure for which the church reserves the penalty of excommunication for those directly involved. Besides, consider what St. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 11:27: “Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in any unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord.”

“What about Catholic politicians who support the death penalty? Shouldn't they refrain from receiving Holy Communion too?” According to church teaching, the state has the right to protect its citizens from unjust aggressors through use of the death penalty. However, at present the church stresses that non-lethal means – namely life-imprisonment – are more in keeping with human dignity, thus making reasons for recourse to the death penalty almost


non-existent. Still, the church does not deny that the state continues to have the right to impose the death penalty. Furthermore, although the life issues are all interrelated, not all of them are of equal importance. In 1998, the bishops of the United States issued *Living the Gospel of Life*, a pastoral letter that stated categorically that the right to life carried more weight than other issues because it served as their moral foundation.

"I still feel that you bishops are meddling in politics." Abortion is a moral, not a political issue. The United States Constitution does not prohibit a member of the cloth from addressing moral issues. If it did, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. would never have achieved all the good that resulted in the area of civil rights. Besides, would not our silence be similar to that of the German clergy who looked the other way while millions of innocent citizens were being herded off to the ovens? And finally, God's word roundly condemns anyone who tolerates evil. God commands Samuel to inform Eli that his house will be punished "because although he knew that his sons were blaspheming God, he did not reprove them" (1 Sam 3:13). A very similar message is found in (33:7-9) from the prophet Ezekiel. The lesson from Scripture is clear: Whoever tolerates evil becomes an accomplice in that evil. 🐦

Diocese of Saint Augustine Clergy Appointments

Bishop Victor Galeone is pleased to announce the following clergy appointments:

- **Father Ralph Besendorfer, J.C.D.**, from Judicial Vicar to Promoter of Justice and Associate Judge in the Tribunal, effective June 2, 2004.
- **Father Alan Bower**, to Advocate in the Tribunal, effective June 2, 2004. Father Bower also has been named Director of Vocations, effective June 15, 2004.
- **Father Keith Brennan, J.C.D.**, from Chancellor and Pastor of Blessed Trinity Parish, Jacksonville, to the faculty of St. Vincent de Paul Seminary in Boynton Beach, effective Jan. 1, 2005, and to Rector of the seminary, effective at the beginning of the 2005-2006 academic year.
- **Father Dan Devore**, from Parochial Vicar at St. Matthew Parish, Jacksonville, to Parochial Vicar at Resurrection Parish, Jacksonville, effective May 7, 2004.
- **Father Rouville Fisher**, from Parochial Vicar at Christ the King Parish, Jacksonville, to Parochial Vicar at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Palm Coast, effective June 15.
- **Father William Kelly**, to Vicar General, effective June 15, 2004.
- **Father Timothy Lindenfesler, J.C.L.**, from Adjutant Judicial Vicar to Judicial Vicar, effective June 2, 2004.
- **Father Joseph McDonnell**, to Parochial Vicar, St. Matthew Parish, Jacksonville, effective June 15, 2004.
- **Father Michael Morgan, J.C.L.**, from Promoter of Justice to Associate Judge in the Tribunal, effective June 2, 2004. Father Morgan has also been named Vice Chancellor, effective June 15, 2004.
- **Father Richard Perko**, to Parochial Vicar, Christ the King Parish, Jacksonville, effective June 15, 2004.
- **Father John Phillips**, to chairperson of the Priests' Spirituality Committee, Presbyteral Council, effective May 18, 2004.
- **Father Heriberto Vergara, cm**, to Parochial Vicar at St. John the Baptist Parish, Crescent City, effective June 2, 2004.



Making a Difference

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This is the story of how a grant from the Catholic Foundation *is* changing the lives of others.

The Women's Help Center in Jacksonville counsels women about pregnancy options and the importance of healthy lifestyles, with the goal of influencing their decision to respect life. The center received an \$11,000 grant from the Catholic Foundation in 2002 to aid in the purchase of much needed ultrasound equipment. Statistics have shown that the miracle of life that expectant mothers see through their ultrasound examination influences their decision to choose life!

In 2003, the Women's Help Center educated 512 women regarding pregnancy and lifestyle changes; assisted 401 women with clothing, furniture and supplies; counseled 120 women who were considering abortion; and saved 41 unborn children.

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News From Around The World

Bishops Approve Audits

The U.S. bishops have approved on-site audits this year of all U.S. dioceses and Eastern-rite eparchies to monitor compliance with child sex abuse prevention policies. The vote was 207-14 in favor with one abstention, according to a June 15 news release issued in Denver by the communications department of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The approval came after controversy as to whether some bishops wanted to postpone the 2004 audits. The vote was taken during the bishops' June 14-19 closed-door spring meeting, held this year in the Denver suburb of Englewood. Kathleen McChesney, executive director of the bishops' Office of Child and Youth Protection, which conducts the audits, told Catholic News Service June 16 that the vote leaves enough time to do the 2004 audits. "Last year's audits began at the end of June. This leaves us approximately the same amount of time," she said.

U.S. Debate Over Communion Heard In Rome

The debate in the United States over Communion and Catholic politicians is echoing loud and clear in the Vatican this summer, raising concerns about episcopal unity. But despite the divergent policies adopted by several U.S. bishops, the Vatican has been slow to intervene, and it may choose not to do so publicly. One reason is that the Vatican does not want to be seen as telling the U.S. bishops what to do. Another is that Vatican officials do not have easy answers to the questions raised by the debate. Many at the Vatican would agree that a Catholic politician who supports legal abortion could be denied Communion under church law. But on the question of whether this should be done, Vatican opinion is far from uniform. And while some say the more aggressive stand by some bishops is a

necessary tactic, others draw a different lesson. "Some of the people at the highest levels (of the Vatican) are quick to point out that this points to the failure on the part of the church to convince people of the truth. Some of them see it almost as an embarrassment that you need to do this," said one Vatican official.

Pope Announces Year Of The Eucharist

Pope John Paul II announced a special year dedicated to the Eucharist, saying the church needs to highlight its importance for spiritual life and missionary tasks of the 21st century. The eucharistic year will begin with the International Eucharistic Congress in Guadalajara, Mexico, Oct. 10-17, 2004, and will end with the Synod of Bishops on the Eucharist in Rome, Oct. 2-29, 2005, the pope said. The pope made the announcement June 10, the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, during a Mass at the Rome Basilica of St. John Lateran. The pope last year wrote an encyclical on the Eucharist, emphasizing its centrality for every aspect of church life.

Senate Panel Hears Testimony On Religious Intolerance

A subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee heard testimony June 8 describing actions of religious intolerance in the United States. Among those testifying at the hearing were a Muslim girl who had been suspended from school for wearing a head covering, as required by her Islamic faith, and a Jewish man who was harassed after complaining about the recitation of the Lord's Prayer to begin a school board meeting. Also testifying was former Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore, who was removed from office after he refused to remove a granite monument to the Ten Commandments he had installed inside the Alabama Supreme Court

building. The hearing was titled *Beyond the Pledge of Allegiance: Hostility to Religious Expression in the Public Square*.

Vatican Official On Reaching Inactive Catholics

The time has come for the U.S. Catholic Church "to launch a special effort of evangelization through media, including and perhaps especially through the Internet," the top Vatican communications official said during a visit to Washington. U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley, president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications and former editor of the Philadelphia archdiocesan newspaper, said the moment was signaled by the end of two years of "virtual siege conditions" because of the clergy sex abuse scandal and the "tremendous response" to Mel Gibson's film, *The Passion of the Christ*. The movie "has reawakened interest in our redemption through the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ," the archbishop said in a May 26 talk to members of the U.S. bishops' communications committee, meeting in Washington. He suggested the U.S. church "reach out to inactive Catholics, especially those who might have used recent scandals as a type of justification for their own inactivity or alienation." With approximately 20 million inactive Catholics in the United States, they are the nation's second largest "religious group" after the 65 million active Catholics, he said.

Women Make Progress In Church Leadership Positions


Women now hold nearly half of U.S. diocesan administrative and professional positions, says a survey report released in June by the U.S. bishops' Committee on Women in Society and in the Church. The 2003 figure was 49.1 percent – a 2.5 percent increase since 1998, when the committee issued a document calling for greater efforts to recruit, retain and

advance women in church leadership roles that do not require ordination. Based on annual surveys of dioceses by the National Association of Church Personnel Administrators, the report said the growth occurred mainly in level 3 and level 4 positions – middle management and professionals. The ratio of women in level 1 and level 2 posts increased only marginally over the five-year period.

Center For Youth Sports Established

The National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry in Washington has announced the creation of a new center to advocate for the needs of the more than 1 million children and youths involved in Catholic-sponsored sports activities. The National Center for Catholic Youth Sports will create training resources, provide direct educational materials to coaches, and seek to build a bridge between the character development of sports and the Christian goal of teaching Gospel values. The center also will serve as a national advocate for a safe environment in the arena of youth sports. "The creation of the center will allow Catholic dioceses around the country to more effectively minister to the large numbers of children participating in Catholic youth sports programs," said Bob McCarty, executive director of the federation.

Vatican Counters New Age

People craving deeper meaning or greater fulfillment in their lives should look to what the Catholic faith has to offer rather than turn to the spiritual promises of the New Age movement, a Vatican official said. "We live in an age in which people go to the spiritual supermarket. We have to remember that within the Catholic Church there is such a variety of mystical traditions, such a variety of religious charisms," said Richard Rouse, an official of the Pontifical Council for Culture. "You think of all the religious orders, each one is slightly different, but they're all pointing to the same thing, which is your life in communion with God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit," he told Catholic News Service June 16. Rouse was part of a Vatican working group organized to offer practical tips and help promote a 2003 Vatican provisional report on the New Age movement, *Jesus: The Bearer of the Water of Life*. 

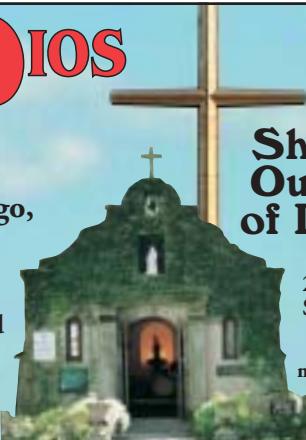
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“O, Buona ventura!”

BY CHELLE DELANEY

It’s “Good Fortune” When A Medieval And A Contemporary Writer Meet



SPECIAL

Alongside the home where St. Bonaventure of Bagnoregio, Italy, lived as a boy is Timothy J. Johnson, S.T.D. (Doctorate of Sacred Theology).

Even before Timothy J. Johnson began studying theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, he had discovered the writings of a superb theologian, the medieval mystic St. Bonaventure, a Franciscan friar who was elected, at age 36, to be the Minister General of the 30,000-member Franciscan order.

Johnson’s study of St. Bonaventure left him with the feeling that Bonaventure’s writings on prayer had not been sufficiently recognized. Bonaventure had often written about prayer, but had never brought all that he had written about prayer into one volume.

So Johnson dedicated his doctoral dissertation to what he called “an exploration and elaboration of St. Bonaventure’s theology of prayer.”

That dissertation emerged as *The Soul in Ascent: Bonaventure on Poverty, Prayer, and Union With God* published in 2000 by the Franciscan Press, Quincy University.

Johnson also produced another book on and by his favorite theologian, *Bonaventure: Mystic of God’s Word* (New City Press, 1999). Almost 10 years earlier, he authored *Iste Pauper Clamavit: St. Bonaventure’s Mendicant Theology of Prayer*, (Peter Lang, 1999).

At this writing, Johnson is in Germany where he will be researching “Institutions and Religious Orders in the Middle Ages” on a Fulbright Scholarship. The research will be helpful in his new book *Sunday Sermons of St. Bonaventure*, which Johnson has been translating, and which will be published by the Franciscan Institute (Johnson is an editorial board member) of Saint Bonaventure University. His wife, Agnieszka, is studying

at Middlebury College in Vermont this summer to complete her master’s in Spanish. The couple are members of the Cathedral-Basilica Parish in St. Augustine.

Being abroad is nothing new to Timothy J. Johnson, S.T.D. In addition to his studies at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, which earned him a doctorate in theology, he has also studied for five years in Munich, Germany.

Even his work as associate professor of religion and chair of the liberal studies department at Flagler College in St. Augustine takes Johnson abroad. His students go with him to experience what he teaches. On one trip students visited the hill-top city of Bagnoregio, Italy where Bonaventure was born in 1217.

Bonaventure’s birth name was Giovanni de Fidanza, but when, according to legend, he had the Good Fortune (*O Buona ventura!*) to be cured of a serious illness by prayers to St. Francis of Assisi, he found a new name.

Educated, perhaps, by the Franciscans in Bagnoregio, in 1235, Bonaventure was sent to the University of Paris where he entered the Franciscan order. He continued his studies but the secular professors at the university refused to grant the “mendicant friars” or religious who had begging privileges – Bonaventure and Thomas Aquinas – their doctorates in theology. Bonaventure defended the mendicant idea, writing *Concerning the Poverty of Christ*, but it took Pope Alexander IV to see that Bonaventure was finally accepted as Master of Theology in the School of the Friars Minor at the University of Paris.

And after spending 22 years studying and teaching at the University of Paris, in 1257 Bonaventure was elected minister general of the Order of Friars Minor. As minister general, Bonaventure traveled extensively through Europe. “His itinerary,” Johnson says, “must have been as exhausting as it was exhaustive.” Johnson adds, “It would have taken him roughly two months to journey from Paris to his home in Bagnoregio.”

Bonaventure needed to travel to reduce the dissension among the Franciscans. One group, later called the Spirituals, wanted a return to the simplicity of the early order. The other group, later known as the Conventuals, saw the need to provide the

order with books and buildings. During his lifetime, Bonaventure was able to bring peace to the order. For that, as well as for the changes he made, Bonaventure has been called by some “the second founder” of the Franciscans.

In truth, Bonaventure did behave like a simple friar. According to one story, Johnson says, when Bonaventure was made a cardinal and Bishop of Albano (against his will) the pope’s representatives brought him his cardinal’s hat. But Bonaventure was washing dishes and told them to hang the hat on a nearby tree until he finished and could dry his hands.

And even though he frequently met with princes and kings, Bonaventure was open to everyone who wished to speak to him, even a simple lay brother, explaining, “I am at the same time both prelate and master, that poor brother is both my brother and my master.”

He made little of his intellectual accomplishments, saying, “For in truth, a poor and unlearned woman can love God better than a doctor of theology.”

Bonaventure’s disciple, Timothy Johnson was raised in Minnetonka, Minn. He graduated from St. Louis University. He completed his graduate studies in Rome and Gregorian University. He continued to travel and study. He also, before becoming a professor at Flagler College, taught in the summer graduate program and offered workshops on St. Bonaventure at Saint Bonaventure University in St. Bonaventure, N.Y.

Bonaventure and Johnson, though separated by eight centuries, have a lot in common. Johnson says that he finds parallels in his own life. St. Bonaventure, as master of the Franciscan School in Paris and minister general of the Franciscan Order was clearly an able administrator — but that didn’t stop him from writing. Johnson says that Bonaventure is a tremendous example of how to combine roles in life. “He never gave up teaching — even though he was working with kings and princes.” And the pope.

Johnson shares Bonaventure’s admiration for the Franciscan tradition. “It’s where men and women are passionately interested in the experience of Jesus Christ and what that meant to the world. They had a worldview of service to the poor.”

During St. Bonaventure’s term as minister general, Johnson says, “He keeps the charism of St. Francis alive. He took church teaching and tied it into the living experience of Christ.”

Bonaventure was canonized in 1482. His feast day is July 15. 🍷

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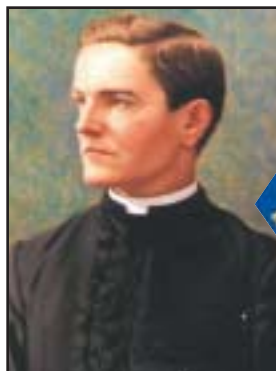
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The temperature hovered around 16 degrees. Only the hardy or those who had a child scheduled to serve the 7 a.m. Mass were out that morning.

An elderly parishioner in his 80s was setting up a card table on an icy patch, selling a music CD created by another parishioner before having to leave to drive an elderly couple to 11 a.m. Mass.

And while he could have eschewed any involvement in the parish after the death of his wife last year, he was plunging in and helping out, spreading sunshine on this cold day.

What kept this man active and interested in life soon after dealing with the death of a loved one?

Franciscan Sister of Allegany Cindy Matthews, a pastoral minister at Holy Cross Parish in Springfield, Mass., has worked with hundreds of elderly people. She said that there are some definite qualities that keep older people involved and happy.

"One thing I've noticed is that happy older people maintain an attitude of gratitude," she said, adding they focus on what they can do and not what they can't do.

"They are welcoming people," she added. "Some have lost a lot of friends, but they make new ones. They are always interested in others without being busybodies."

She noted that such seniors are the "change" they want to see in the world. If they come to church and think it's not friendly, then they will be friendly and try to make church a warmer place."



CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

An Attitude of Gratitude

BY PEGGY WEBER

KEY TO SENIOR'S HAPPINESS

Sister Matthews recalled, when she worked as a social worker, visiting a high-rise apartment building for seniors. "One woman would tell me the place was not friendly. Another in the same building would tell me how everyone helps each other out and gets together for potluck dinners. It was the same building with two

totally different outlooks," she said.

"It really is what you focus on."

Another positive quality that helps older people stay involved is being open to change, she added.

"It also helps as we're aging to change expectations to preferences. Instead of expecting your daughter to visit each week

it would help if you just preferred she come," she said.

She told of one elderly woman who was wheelchair-bound but the teenage confirmation students in the parish enjoyed visiting with her. She focused on the good of each young person, said Sister Matthews.

"And who doesn't want to be with

someone who makes them feel good?" she said.

Happy seniors also seem to be those who are of service to others, she said, pointing to a severely handicapped woman who regularly called 18 elderly people each day to check on them.

As Sister Matthews described the qualities of positive elderly people, I realized how blessed I was to have parents who never got "old."

Even though my mother bore me when she was 42, she always seemed young. She got her ears pierced when she was more than 50. Instead of complaining that there weren't many clip-on earrings at the jewelry counter, she adjusted.

She and my father never complained about the changes in the church. I watched many older people grumble about the addition of the sign of peace at Mass and lay eucharistic ministers. My father became one and served as a lector.

Most importantly, they had an incredible sense of hospitality. Everyone was welcome in our house and treated well. They asked questions and learned about my friends and their lives.

I remember after my mother had died, I ran into a young person from my parish. He had known her as a boy and asked about her. He expressed sorrow at her passing, but then said, "She was one of the nicest people. She always offered you some food and talked with you. She made you feel good."

My father always wanted to see my children's report cards and offer them a few dollars in reward – no matter what the grades.

He went to their games, even when he was battling cancer. He learned the names of their friends, their favorite books and television shows.

He would talk baseball with my son and art with my daughters.

As I head down the path toward being a senior citizen – after all, I am now called "ma'am" in the stores and can get a senior discount in some places in less than a decade – I know that to be involved with young people will be a goal.

And while I wince when I see some young people with piercing all over their body and I am not a big fan of tattoos, I know that under the earrings and the markings are goodhearted people with stories to tell.

I look forward to listening. 

Peggy Weber is a reporter for The Catholic Observer, newspaper of the Diocese of Springfield, Mass., and the author of Weaving A Family. She wrote this article for Catholic News Service.

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*Mark this date on your calendar
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for the next Retrouvaille Weekend.*

Bob and Maureen Morales had three good reasons for going to church on a cold, wet Wednesday night: their 8-, 3- and 1-year-old sons.

"We're somewhat effective in disciplining them, but other opinions always help," Morales said. "The oldest is getting to an age where some of what we used to do doesn't work anymore — like, 'because I said so.'"

Looking for alternatives, the couple joined about 100 people at Holy Family Parish in Jacksonville for an introduction to *Smart Discipline* by the Ph.D. who wrote the book on it: Larry Koenig.

A family therapist and father of five from Baton Rouge, La., Koenig (pronounced kay'-nig) had his audience chuckling throughout a 90-minute sketch of the system he details in his book. Published in 2002 by HarperCollins in New York, the 190-page hard cover is now in six languages. Koenig said he gives 300 community presentations a year. This one was a return visit to Holy Family at the request of Father Greg Fay, the pastor.

Smart Discipline:

Rules and Rewards You and Your Kids Can Live By

BY KATHY HORAK

Koenig dedicated the book to his wife, Nydia, and said he based it in part on their experience raising a son and four daughters, now ages 24 to 33.

"When you have five children, you have to have something to get the kids' attention and motivate them to behave," he said with a laugh as his audience filed in.

Parishioner Cecelia Stanley said she came in part because her 14-year-old daughter has attention deficit disorder (ADD). While Stanley's husband is a psychologist, "it's interesting to compare this program with what we're already doing," she said.

Bill and Susan Daly, parents of an 8- and a 5-year-old, do not belong to the parish but came with friends to hear Koenig. "It puts things in perspective," Daly said. "It's a more formal way of doing what we're already trying to do."

Susan Daly said she liked Koenig's perspective on children's individuality. "Each child has things that are important to them, but we tend to reward them all with the same thing, like TV privileges."

Koenig told the assembly, "This system of discipline created a little miracle in my family. The kids didn't used to take responsibility for their behavior. There was a lot of 'it's not my fault.' With smart discipline, the kids stopped themselves from



misbehaving. And that's a sweet and wonderful moment in a parent's life.

"For the first week in our house," he added, "the kids ignored the whole thing."

Smart Discipline is applicable for 4- to 16-year-olds, including children with ADD and hyperactivity, Koenig said. Essentially it involves a clear presentation of expectations and consequences: written down, prominently displayed and steadfastly enforced without yelling.

Koenig suggested starting by "brainstorming things that are bugging you about your kids' behavior — they don't clean up their room, they leave dirty dishes around the house, too much TV, bad manners, they won't get up. Even common, everyday misbehavior can drive you crazy when it's repeated.

"Smart discipline is patterned on our adult society where rules like speed limits are written down instead of forever arguing over them."

"Take that list of things that are bugging you and turn it into rules," Koenig advised — five or so rules for children under 8, as many as 10 for older children.

Next, create a list of privileges. The child will forfeit one for each broken rule. It should be a one-day loss for a young

child and a week's forfeiture for those over 10. Longer than that and the effect is counterproductive, according to Koenig. Kids won't behave because they'll feel "I'm always being punished anyway."

"At a seminar I gave in Birmingham, Ala., one mom had a great idea. Ask your kids what are their favorite things to do, then rank them from least to most important."

Koenig said possibilities for young children include staying up until their regular bedtime, enjoying snacks and watching TV. Older children might favor computer time or socializing with friends on the phone, at the mall or overnight.

"Some people say taking away privileges is so negative. We ought to teach children to do the right thing because it's the right thing to do. Well, we do – but kids also need to know there are rules, and consequences for breaking them."

Koenig likened a parent's failure to enforce rules to "a cop telling a bank robber to apologize, go home and sit in his room. We run the risk of teaching children they can do whatever they want with no consequences.

"When I was growing up, the number one rule in our house was that disrespectful language was not allowed," Koenig said. Today, teachers and principals all over the country say the number one problem is disrespect.

"What's giving our kids the idea that they can talk to us like that? Our kids are bombarded with hundreds of messages that say it's okay to be disrespectful. Disrespect is comedy in television and films. The mother of a 3-year-old told me, 'She tells me, shut up!' and 'you're an idiot!'"

Where did that come from? Sheriff Woody in the hugely successful *Toy Story* animated movies, Koenig said.

A chapter in his book discusses "Smart Discipline Solutions to Homework and School Problems," and Koenig offers a separate seminar for educators. But he brought a new parenting tool to the parish meeting: a one-page form anyone can download from his website, www.smartdiscipline.com.

Intended for a child's teacher, it states, "You have my full respect," and "contact me if you ever have any concerns about respect, misbehavior or homework." There are five spaces for the parent to fill in his email and telephone information.

Koenig advised telling a child that the form is in the works, and added, "Teachers are human beings, and they give more positive attention to kids whose parents show they care."

While most of the presentation focused

SEVEN KEY MISTAKES PARENTS CAN AVOID

1. Not learning from your mistakes.
2. Saying no and then changing your mind.
3. Leaving teen-agers alone when you go out of town.
4. Not listening effectively.
5. Not insisting on involvement in school, community and church activities.
6. Not checking on your children.
7. Getting into power struggles.

From Part Four of "Smart Discipline"©, ©2002 by Dr. Larry Koenig, HarperResource, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers Inc., New York, NY.

on discipline, Koenig also addressed self-esteem. He founded the *Up with Youth* program for adolescents and its counterpart, *Up with Parents*.

"We as parents are giving our kids information about themselves all the time, and we're not even aware of it" – such as

when a parent introduces a child to another adult and highlights the child's successes or problems, Koenig said.

"One of the scariest things I know about being a parent is you tell a child a negative thing or two about themselves, with enough emotion, and he'll believe you for a lifetime.

"It's a negative theory of parenting we picked up from our parents' generation: I want my kids to grow up to be good people, so I'll point out all their faults."

Koenig asked his listeners: "The last time somebody got up in your face, did you plan to get up the next morning and write them a thank-you note? Probably not."

"Criticism destroys relationships," Koenig said. Instead, he suggested that parents decide on a few positive traits, "look for even a little indication that these things are true," then praise your child one-on-one, before others and in the occasional written note.

"This is magic," he promised. "Young people are going to go out in the world and prove these things about themselves. And every time you do it, it will be a blessing on your relationship." 🌸

Kathy Horak is a freelance writer based in St. Augustine, Fla.

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NEW HIGH SCHOOL TO FULFILL DREAM

Freshman Class Is Blazing Trail



BY TOM TRACY

They haven't had a single day of classes yet, but the incoming freshman, graduation

class of 2008 at St. Francis Catholic High School in Gainesville has, nevertheless, been making its presence felt.

"Even though the buildings aren't ready, we have been building community through social gatherings and service projects," said Ernest Herrington, founding principal at St. Francis, which begins its first academic year this fall.

With support from the diocesan *Opportunity of a Lifetime* capital campaign and \$2 million in major gifts from about 37 major donors (and \$6 million in pledges overall), St. Francis is attracting students from the greater Gainesville region, including four parishes in Gainesville as well as parishes in High Springs and Lake City.

Located west of Interstate 75 on 39th Avenue, the campus will



*Aerial view of St. Francis High School taken in April.
Above, rendering of the new high school.*

feature classrooms, an administration building, chapel, library, computer, science labs and a gymnasium.

The new school buildings will be ready to open on Oct. 4, which is also the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Until then, classes for the new students will be held at Holy Faith Parish in Gainesville.

"They are very excited; they recognize that they are trailblazers, that this is something unique," said Herrington, who was a member of the faculty at Melbourne Central Catholic for 13 years, serving the last five years as assistant principal. He was tapped for the new position at St.

Francis over a year ago and has been working to boost enrollment of the first class.

"They have a very positive outlook on the experience they will have and the opportunities they will have with no upperclassmen.

They will be the leaders for all four years," Herrington said of the incoming freshmen.

The idea for a Catholic high school in Gainesville has been discussed in earnest for the last 30 years, supporters say. Planning for the high school came into serious focus prior to the retirement of former Diocese of Saint Augustine Bishop John J. Snyder, who helped promote and advance the concept.

Fifteen local fund raising receptions and eight volunteer committees, made up mostly of local parents, have driven the plan to its current status, according to Mary Hughes, chair of the interim advisory board for St. Francis Catholic High School and the Gainesville chair of the *Opportunity of a Lifetime* capital campaign.

"For 30 years – although there had been some initiatives – we never had a Catholic high school," Hughes said. "I am in Gainesville nine years and we knew we couldn't do it unless it was part of a major campaign."

Hughes predicts the new high school will have a tremendous impact on the Gainesville Catholic community. It will become a rallying point for a lot of activities in the community. It is also a great alternative: an option for parents who want to send their children to a school that will offer excellent academic and athletic programs, and is founded in our Catholic faith and tradition.

"Because community service will not be optional, the school will be a blessing to the community," she said.

Officials with the Educational Services Office for the Diocese of Saint Augustine said St. Francis will offer quality programs comparable to public magnet schools in the area, and comparable to the honors programs in the other area public and private schools. The Catholic school curriculum is a time-honored system that, according to Patricia Tierney, superintendent of Catholic Schools, sends more than 90 percent of its graduates to college.

"We have wanted a high school in the western part of the diocese for well over 20 years, though we anticipated more students than are currently enrolled," Tierney said, adding that the first class of freshmen will set the tone for the school and provide leadership for the classes that will follow.

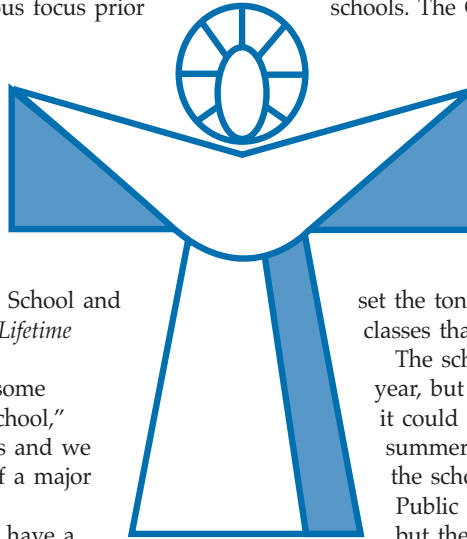
The school was hoping to cap enrollment at 150 this year, but the number is currently at 50. Officials believe it could realistically go as high as 60 or 70 by the end of summer. Tierney said that with more students enrolled, the school can offer more and expanded programs.

Public schools in Gainesville have a good reputation, but the diocesan schools office is hoping a faith-based, small educational environment, providing extra

attention, will help St. Francis carve out its niche in the community.

Principal Herrington said, "I am anxious to get going. It is a little too quiet right now; you miss that teenage perspective which keeps you grounded and smiling." 🍷

For information about St. Francis High School call (352) 376-6545 or visit www.stfranciscatholichighschool.org



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The U.S. bishops offered guidance to the committees drafting election-year platforms for the Democratic and Republican parties in the form of their 2003 document, *Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility*.

The document, approved by the Administrative Committee of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), “summarizes the Catholic Church’s teaching on public policy issues that have important moral and ethical dimensions,” said Msgr. William P. Fay, USCCB general secretary, in nearly identical letters to party leaders.

The letters were addressed to Bill Harris, convention chairman and CEO for the Republican National Committee, and Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn., who chairs the platform drafting committee for the Democratic National Committee.

Msgr. Fay said the church teachings summarized in *Faithful Citizenship* are “rooted in a commitment to defend the life and dignity of every human being and to further the common good.”

“We believe they can inform the choices of all people who share our commitment to justice and peace in our nation and world,” he added. “We ask that you review the statement, including the final section which focuses on specific issues, and take these ideas into consideration as you carry out your work.”

The 8,500-word document, designed to offer a blueprint for electoral decisions based on Catholic social teaching, calls on American Catholics to “participate now and in the future in the

debates and choices over the values, vision and leaders that will guide our nation.”

A similar document has been issued before every presidential election for the last 28 years.

In his letter, Msgr. Fay said “hundreds of thousands of copies” of *Faithful Citizenship* have been distributed in Catholic parishes and organizations and downloaded from the USCCB website since last fall.

“Through the introduction of *Faithful Citizenship* in classrooms, workshops and other events across the country, we are prompting Catholics and non-Catholics alike to contemplate how basic values should shape political choices,” he added.

In the document, approved unanimously by the 47-member Administrative Committee, the bishops said the U.S. Catholic Church must be “engaged but not used.”

“We welcome dialogue with political leaders and candidates, seeking to engage and persuade public officials,” they said. “But we must be sure that events and ‘photo ops’ are not substitutes for work on policies that reflect our values.”

The Administrative Committee – made up of the executive officers of the USCCB, elected committee chairmen and elected regional representatives – is the highest policy – and decision-making body of the bishops apart from the entire body when it meets twice a year in general assembly.

Continued on page 19

The Catholic Vote

Bishops Provide Guide For Faithful Citizenship

“A Catholic moral framework does not easily fit the ideologies of “right” or “left,” nor the platforms of any party. Our values are often not “politically correct.” Believers are called to be a community of conscience within the larger society and to test public life by the values of Scripture and the principles of Catholic social teaching. Our responsibility is to measure all candidates, policies, parties and platforms by how they protect or undermine the life, dignity and rights of the human person, whether they protect the poor and vulnerable and advance the common good.”



*USCCB Administrative Committee
Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic
Call to Political Responsibility, p. 7*

A Family Guide to Faithful Citizenship

In the statement *Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility*, the bishops of the United States remind us, “In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue; participation in the political process is a moral obligation” (p.8). The decisions we make as citizens about who leads us and what policies are enacted have important moral and ethical dimensions. The values of our faith should be our guide to public life.

The most important place to share and reflect on this message is in our families. While it’s always a challenge to use a statement like *Faithful Citizenship* – so obviously written to an adult audience – within a family context, it’s worth the challenge! Civic responsibility starts with the adults of the family.

Some Do’s And Don’ts

- **Do show your children that you are concerned about the issues and questions raised in the statement.** Express your opinions or beliefs about these issues, and share questions you have about issues or candidates. Look for opportunities to state where you stand on a certain issue or why you favor a certain candidate. Don’t push your children to adopt your stance or to support your candidate. Don’t preach or try to convert them.
 - **Do ask for their opinions, questions, or concerns.** Be genuine with your interest, and really listen to whatever they have to say. Don’t worry if they don’t agree with your position or even with the positions expressed in the statement. (Most of the issues addressed in the statement are very complex, even for adults.) The most important thing is that your children are aware and concerned and that they are thinking about the issues in moral terms.
 - **Do show that you truly respect different points of view on the issues or candidates** – that good people can disagree on specific matters without rancor.
 - **Do get involved yourself.** If you believe strongly in an issue or candidate – and hopefully you do – take an active role. It’s a cliché, but actions do speak louder than words, especially to our children. Do look for activities that your children or your whole family could get involved in with you (e.g., pro-life marches, environmental cleanup projects, designing posters for a campaign, canvassing or leafleting for a candidate, attending rallies, or writing letters to elected officials). Don’t coerce or shame them into involvement, but invite and encourage it, leaving them free to participate or not.
 - **Do vote and let your children know that you see voting as a priority.** Bring your children with you to the polls. Watch the election returns together and discuss their implications.
 - **Do learn more about Catholic teaching** on faithful citizenship at www.usccb.org/faithfulcitizenship.
- check out the show ahead of time and then to watch the show together. The most important thing is to talk about the show’s topic. As mentioned above, share your thoughts and listen to their thoughts without being judgmental. Sometimes the only talking you can do is at the TV, but that’s okay. They’ll hear it.
 - Question, question, question. The bishops’ statement and the brochure that summarizes it (*The Challenge of Faithful Citizenship*) list “Questions for the Campaign.” Rephrase these questions so that young people can relate to them. The following examples: “I wonder how much money the person who sews the clothes we buy earns, or how much the farmer who grows the food we eat receives of the price we pay?” “Why are some people poor when so many people are rich?” “I wonder where we would go for health care if we didn’t have insurance?” If the questions lead to further discussion, you or your children may need to do a little research.
 - Look at billboards and television advertisements for various candidates, and critique the advertisements as a family. Do the candidates address any of the issues mentioned in the statement? How well?
 - Pick out a few short excerpts from the statement, rephrase them for children, and post them on your refrigerator. Here are some possibilities: “The answer to violence is not more violence.” “Every child should feel welcomed.” “Make the needs of the poor our first priority.” “Safe and affordable housing should be available for all.” Try to find candidates or elected officials who support these positions by their policies and actions.
 - As a dinner prayer in the days leading up to election day (usually the first Tuesday in November), read one of the scriptural passages reference in the statement.
 - Contact your library to get good children’s books that deal with the issues. Some of the Dr. Seuss books are excellent for this.
 - Have a family night on “citizenship.” Choose one or two issues from the statement that are of particular interest to your family. For example, if you have an aging relative in a nursing home, you may want to pick health care or Medicare reform as your issue to discuss. If you know someone who has been a victim of crime, you might focus on handgun legislation. Make a list of how this issue does or could affect your family. Develop a family statement that summarizes your view on the issue. Write this statement in a letter you send to one of the candidates, inviting their comments.
 - Identify some heroes – people who have taken a stand on these issues – who your family can learn more about. Cesar Chavez, Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, Archbishop Oscar Romero, and Gandhi are some well know examples of heroes, but you can probably find a number of local heroes as well.

Raising Family Awareness

Using *Faithful Citizenship* with your family involves thinking creatively; planning interesting family activities, and taking advantage of opportunities that present themselves. Here are some suggestions:

- Use TV as a resource. Look for shows that in some way address one of the issues mentioned in the statement. An example may be a news show or a documentary; it might also be a sitcom that is treating some current political or social topic. The key is to

Resources

The Kid’s Guide to Social Action, by Barbara Lewis (Minneapolis: Free Spirit Publishing Co., 1991). This guide contains many suggestions and resources for getting your young people involved in social issues. Available by calling 800-735-7323.

Just Family Nights, edited by Susan Vogt (Elgin, Ill.: Brethren Press, 1994). This resource contains 60 family night activities, including themes on justice/social action, the environment, global awareness, racism, media and peacemaking. Available from the Institute for Peace and Justice, 314-533-4445.

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Much of the document is devoted to a discussion of issues that church leaders would like to see taken up in the presidential campaigns.

"As bishops, we do not wish to instruct persons on how they should vote by endorsing or opposing candidates," it said. "We hope that voters will examine the position of candidates on a full range of issues, as well as on their personal integrity, philosophy and performance."

The document described "a consistent ethic of life" as the "moral framework" from which Catholic voters should address all issues in the political arena. It quoted extensively from the *Doctrinal Note on Some Questions Regarding the Participation of Catholics in Political Life*, issued in January 2003 by the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

"For Catholics, the defense of human life and dignity is not a narrow cause, but a way of life and a framework for action," the bishops said. "As Catholics, we need to share our values, raise our voices and use our votes to shape a society that protects human life, promotes family life, pursues social justice and practices solidarity. These efforts can strengthen our nation and renew our church."

The bishops asked Catholics to look at the political arena in light of the question: "Who has a place at the table of life?"

"Where is the place at the table for a million of our nation's children who are destroyed every year before they are born?" they asked. "How can we secure a place at the table for the hungry and those who lack health care in our own land and around the world? Where is the place at the table for those in our world who lack the freedom to practice their faith or stand up for what they believe?"

The document reviewed Catholic social teaching on a wide range of topics – abortion and assisted suicide, same-sex marriages and school vouchers, affordable housing and foreign aid, workers' rights and the Middle East.

The bishops said some Catholics, looking at the array of issues, "may feel politically homeless, sensing that no political party and too few candidates share a consistent concern for human life and dignity."

"However, this is not a time for retreat or discouragement," they said. "We need more, not less, engagement in political life. We urge Catholics to become more involved – by running for office; by working within political parties; by contributing money or time to campaigns; and by joining diocesan legislative networks, community organizations and other efforts to apply Catholic principles in the public square."

Visit www.usccb.org for a copy of *Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility*. 



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MISSION NEWS

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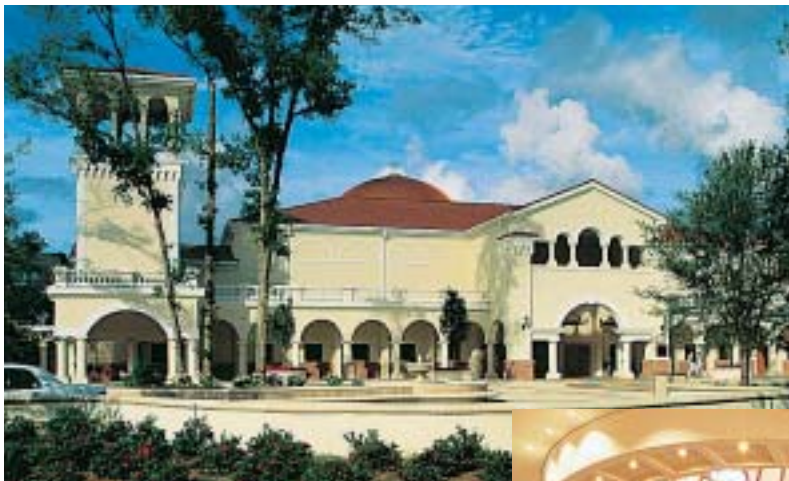
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FRANTISEK ZVARDON

An exciting new chapter in the history of St. Joseph Parish began in 1999 with the dedication of its new church. Designed in a contemporary Spanish or Mediterranean style, the 26,000-square-foot structure stands on 17 acres of land.



BILL AND SUZANNE POLAND

Under the dome, the congregation gathers for worship. Arched windows were created by J. Piercey Studios in Orlando. Behind the altar, intricate wrought iron gates lead to the Marian Center, where seven large windows depict events in Mary's life.

A familiar presence in the gathering area on Sundays, Pastor Father Dan Cody greets parishioners.



FRANTISEK ZVARDON

By Shannon Scruby Henderson

St. Joseph's A Parish at the Heart of Mandarin

With the diocesan Catholic Center on one corner and the far-flung campus of St. Joseph Parish – crowned by its domed, basilica-sized “New Church” – sprawled across the other three points of the intersection, the juncture of Old St. Augustine and Greenland/Loretto roads in Mandarin is known in the area as “Catholic Corners.” Surveying the scope of its holdings, a newcomer might conclude that the parish has been building its community for many decades.

But that’s only partially correct. “It’s true that we’re probably the oldest parish in the city,” comments St. Joseph’s pastor, Father Dan Cody. “At the same time, we’re one of the newest.”

How to explain this paradox? “The area’s unique geography provides the key,” says Parish Historian Beth Meyer. “Until the Buckman Bridge connected us to Orange Park back in 1971, Mandarin was essentially marooned. St. Joseph’s existed from at least 1850 – with close ties to St. Augustine, a 27-mile trip by oxcart. Our history is colorful and provides a wonderful record of the early Catholic community in Florida. But it wasn’t until the last 25 years that Mandarin, and the parish as we know it today, began to take shape.”

Arriving on the scene in May of 1982, Father Dan discovered a debt in excess of \$770,000, a bank balance of less than \$1,000, and a community that had grown almost overnight from 200 families to 637. There was a long list of pressing needs. “We took it in steps,” says Father Dan. “I’m grateful that God has blessed me from the start with the right people in leadership roles.” Together, they forged a fundraising philosophy that has seen the parish through six ambitious capital projects. “We don’t do hard-sell,” says longtime parish financial advisor John Alexander. “There’s never been pressure, or follow-ups, or for that matter, a building drive in the traditional sense. Father Dan’s approach is to invite participation and trust the community to respond. And it has always worked.”

The process of parish building hasn’t lacked for dramatic moments. “In 1992, we were finishing Phase II of the school when news got out that they were going to split the parish and build a new church on Orange Picker Road,” recalls Father Dan. “Those were the days when we had outgrown both our churches (the 254-seat “Old Church,” dating from 1912, and the “Middle Church,” consecrated in 1980). Parishioner Kathy Teichert

Between the Revolution and Civil War, St. Joseph's was part of a 400-square-mile circuit known as the Mandarin Mission. Priests from St. Augustine visited once or twice a year to say Mass in private homes. The first parish church was built in 1858 on land donated by Mandarin pioneer George Hartley. To read Natalie Tomola's fascinating chronicle of St. Joseph's past, visit www.stjosephsjax.org and click on "Parish History."

remembers the mob scene, "We had seven masses at two sites on the weekends, and still there were people spilling out the doors," she says. "For years, father ran around most of the morning on Sundays finding parking spaces and seats." All the time, he knew that the diocese was watching the situation. "We were at a crossroads," he says. "It could have gone either way."

Aware that many key supporters would be lost in a split, the pastor fought for his parish. "People may think it was finances that drove me to challenge the decision, and it was – in part," he admits. "But it was much more than that. It would have been like splitting up a family. I had a vision for the parish. I just felt in my heart that it was the wrong thing to do."

In the end, St. Joseph's stayed together. Today, almost 4,000 families strong, the faith community celebrates Mass in the 2,250-seat church it erected on Greenland Road in 1999. Parking spaces are so plentiful that trams transport churchgoers to and from their cars. Across the street, the Cody Family Enrichment Center will open this summer with an ecumenical Prayer Center for the Mandarin community, the 400-seat Tally Auditorium, and offices and meeting spaces for parish employees and 74 ministries. An ultra-modern parish school – legacy of an educational heritage that stretches all the way to back to 1868 – was completed in 1993. Other parish facilities include a rectory and administration building, the Mandarin Food Bank, and the landmark Old Church, recently restored, which is a favorite site for some 100 weddings that take place at St. Joseph's each year.

The buildings are a testament to the parish's vitality. But these signs of progress don't tell the whole story, asserts Associate Pastor Father Bernie Ahern, who had been "all around the world as a Navy chaplain" before "retiring to the best parish I've been associated with in my whole life."

"This community has grown by way of small groups and because of faith," he says. "It's happened through CRHP (Christ Renews His Parish), through RCIA, the Men's Club, CCW, Respect Life, Knights of Columbus, Youth Ministry and all the other wonderful ministries that not only get things accomplished, but also bring people closer to each other and to their spirituality."

School Principal Rhonda Rose, herself a St. Joseph's graduate and parishioner, agrees, "The spirit that so many believers bring to Mass on Sundays and then share with so many every other day of the week certainly makes it easy to be proud to be a Catholic in this community. Not snobby proud, but the kind of feeling that makes you confident that St. Joseph's is truly like 'home' and the people sitting around you at Mass are family."

High up in the dome that rises 70 feet above the sanctuary floor in St. Joseph's Church, images of a dove in flight captured in a dozen stained glass panels represent the eternal soaring of the Holy Spirit above the congregation. "It's an inspiration," says Missionary of St. Francis de Sales Father Ananda Prasad Maddineini, who is also associate pastor. "We sense that the Spirit is hovering, uniting us as one family so that we can grow together in faith."

Father Dan seconds his assessment. "Finally, the building



SPECIAL

projects are finished. But there's still a lot more we want to accomplish."

The parish has recently taken the first steps toward enlarging its historic cemetery and renovating the empty convent that stands to the west of the Old Church. The latter will become the permanent home of Divine Mercy House, a facility parishioners founded for pregnant teenagers. "We're delighted to find a solution to their needs," says the pastor. "After all, St. Joseph's began as a center for the Mandarin community. With God's help, we'll continue to use our many blessings to reach out to each other and everyone around us." 🌹

Shannon Scruby Henderson has been a member of St. Joseph Parish since 1979. She is a freelance writer based in Jacksonville. Henderson wrote about the L'Arche Community in the March/April issue.

St. Joseph Parish
11730 Old St. Augustine Road
Jacksonville, FL 32258
Parish: (904) 268-5422
School: (904) 268-6688

Founded: Bishop Augustine Verot, the first bishop of the Diocese of Saint Augustine, had a small chapel built in 1850 to accommodate visiting priests in Mandarin. In 1858, the first church was built very close to the site of the present Old Church. Construction began in 1883 and the church was completed in 1912.

Pastor: Father Daniel Cody

Parishioners: About 4,000 families.

School: St. Joseph's School has an enrollment of 601.

Father Ed Rooney, pastor of St. Luke Parish in Middleburg, which sponsors a free health care clinic, says, "They line up at 6:30 a.m." "They" are the people who can't afford to pay for the health care they need. The clinic opens at 8 a.m.

APPROVED
By kbaggmorgan at 1:03 pm, 6/19/04

Clinic — located at the South Jacksonville Health Clinic, 1736 University Boulevard South. It is open on the mornings of the 4th Saturday of the month (except November and December when the clinic is open on the third Saturday). The St. Luke's Clinic — which is located at the Clay County Health Department Clinic on Bear Creek Boulevard — is open in the mornings of the second Saturday of each month.

The story is the same at the free clinic sponsored by Christ the King Parish in Jacksonville. "They" come early. When the doors open at 8 a.m., the patients, many who have come before, sign in. So that by the time the doctors arrive at nine, interviews by parish volunteers have established the person's need — income at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty level.

Christ the King's Clinic has been operating since 1993. St. Luke's came on board about five years ago. Today they, and about a dozen other such clinics, are under the umbrella of We Care Jacksonville, Inc.

Daughter of Charity Sister DeSales Wisniewski is the president and

SERVING THE UNDER-SERVED

BY CHELLE DELANEY

Needy and homeless find health care at parish-sponsored clinics.

The two dozen or so doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and other licensed professionals who serve at the St. Luke and Christ the King clinics one day a month are donating their time. Their services are free. So also — in most cases — are the prescriptions, filled by the pharmacist on duty, using drugs that were donated to the clinic. What if the clinic doesn't have the prescribed drug? Willie B. Blaquiére who is the administrator/coordinator of the Christ the King Clinic has arranged it so that the patient can take his or her prescriptions to a certain pharmacy ... and the clinic will pay for it.

Of course, the clinics aren't open for business every day of the week. And they really don't own the premises that they operate out of. The Christ the King

board chairwoman of We Care Jacksonville, Inc.

"It's all free," says Sister DeSales. "The clients are not recipients of Medicaid or Medicare or can't afford insurance. Some can't afford the co-payments. And there are many small businesses that can't afford to offer insurance.



Dr. Grace Sagcao, a volunteer, checks out a young patient at the Christ the King Parish sponsored clinic.

Volunteer and nurse Joan Hubal, coordinator of the Clay County Volunteer Medical Clinic, sponsored by St. Luke Parish, takes a blood pressure reading.

"We Care gives access to that population. It also helps the homeless, who (unless they have a residence for a required time) are not eligible at Shands," she says.

Sister DeSales explains that We Care provides a two-prong approach, providing primary care at the clinics, and if a specialist is

CHELLE DELANEY


CHELLE DELANEY

needed, for example, for surgery, or ophthalmological care. We Care coordinates the specialist's care. We Care also provides supplies and medications when a new clinic is opened, and works to secure grants for the We Care clinics, Sister DeSales says.

She said that what has made these free clinics possible is an act passed by the Florida Legislature that established the Volunteer Health Care Provider Program. The state took on the responsibility for the treatment of patients under this program. So the doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other medical professionals can volunteer with no fear of being attacked by malpractice suits.

The act was passed in 1992 and in 1993 Msgr. Mortimer Danaher, former pastor of Christ the King, saw both the need and the opportunity and asked parishioner Janice Polsenski to organize a Christ the King Clinic. She did.

The value of the free clinics was underlined last year when the Reinhold Corporation made its Reinhold Community Service Awards. The biggest award, \$10,000, went to the clinic that St. Luke's sponsors, the Clay County Volunteer Free Medical Clinic. This year the clinic received a \$1,000 grant.

Father Rooney says, "It's another way for the parish to help those in need. The Lord himself healed the sick. We can do the same, or, at least, try. It's a very important ministry." 

You might consider that the clinics, which are caring for the poor, aren't rich. They appreciate the contributions made by the volunteer doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other medical specialists. But they suggest that you could target your United Way pledge by writing in the name, We Care Jacksonville Clinics. Or even contribute to the clinics directly.

To learn other ways you can help, call one of the clinics below.

St. Luke Clinic at
Clay County Volunteer Medical Clinic
3229 Bear Run Blvd.
Orange Park, FL 32065
(904) 282-0439

Christ the King Clinic at
South Jacksonville Family Health Clinic
1736 University Blvd. S.
Jacksonville, FL 32216
(904) 724-0080

To see all of the We Care Clinics visit Duval County Medical Society website: <http://www.dcmsonline.org/wecare.htm>

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5/2004 SA, FL

For more than a decade, part of the graduation experience of many eighth graders at St. Paul Parish School in Jacksonville Beach has been a trip to Jamaica.

"I remember the eighth graders ahead of me talking about it, and I knew I wanted to go," says Rebecca Buczkowski, 14.

"I heard a lot about it, too, and I wanted to go," says Alison Williams, 14.

Where they go is to St. Anthony's Children's Home in Kingston, Jamaica. Founded by Father Paul Walsh, it's home for up to 50 children whose parents didn't have the means to care for them.

On this trip, 28 eighth graders from St.



SPECIAL



SPECIAL

Left: Sprucing up St. Anthony's fence are St. Paul's eighth graders (l-r) Katie Galligan, Rebecca Buczkowski, Jade Santiago and Alison Williams and girlfriends from St. Anthony's.

Right: With a little help from a St. Anthony's resident, Sidney King (top) and Kelli Thurson are set to begin their painting project.

Trip to Jamaica

It's An Eighth-Grade Tradition

Paul's spent three days, during their spring break, at St. Anthony's, pitching in to help out wherever they could.

But the eighth graders and the entire parish has been pitching in for a long time. For example, Kelli Thurson, 14, remembers that when she was in elementary school she searched for change in her family's sofa cushions to collect money for St. Anthony's.

"We have a program called 'Pennies from Heaven' and we collect coins each year," Kelli says.

Between Pennies from Heaven and other parish fundraisers, Mike Krivensky, one of the recent trip organizers and chaperones, says St. Paul's is a major benefactor of St. Anthony's.

So going to Jamaica was a chance for teens to see first-hand how their collections were helping children.

They also contributed their sweat equity. Among other things, the men and boys on the trip dug holes and put up fencing and carpeted the base for the altar in the chapel; the girls painted fences and several stair railings in the home.

St. Anthony's children also have their own gardens and grow all of their food. But getting water to the vegetables is a daily exercise. Kelli says, "We helped them carry coffee tins filled with water up from this little stream and watered the plants."

Father Paul Walsh, in the yellow shirt, is founder of St. Anthony's Children's Home.

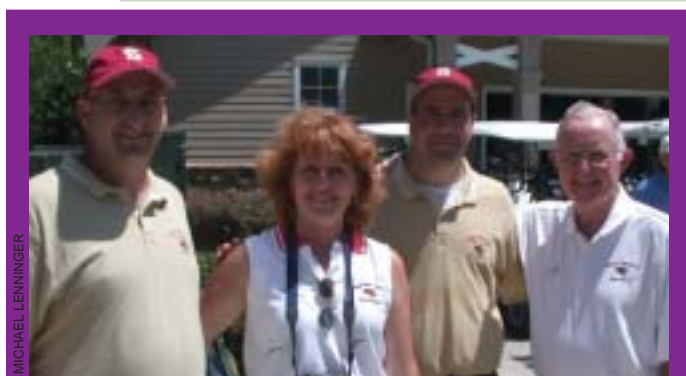


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Kelli says, "It makes you realize how good we have it."

Rebecca says, "I expected to see a lot of little kids who needed a lot of help." What she found was that: "They don't have a lot of material things ... They are like one big family. I never heard any of the kids fighting. They all love each and take care of each other."

On July 31, at 6:30 p.m. St. Paul's will be hosting a fundraising dinner for St. Anthony's Children's Home. For more information, call (904) 945-3759.



MICHAEL LENNINGER

A full field of 144 golfers teed off May 13 at the Golf Club at Fleming Island and raised more than \$30,000 to continue to fund softball and baseball programs at Bishop John J. Snyder High School in Jacksonville. This was the 3rd annual charity golf tournament. From left are: David Yazdiya, principal; Shelley Gudzak, director of development and admissions; Lou Pereira, director of athletics; and Bishop John J. Snyder, retired bishop of Saint Augustine.

Did You Know...

WHAT THEY'RE DOING AT ST. JOE'S ?

It's been a great season for St. Joseph's Academy in St. Augustine. We're talking:

Baseball: St. Joseph Academy's senior but smallish catcher, Monica Meyer, gets knocked to the ground. But Monica hangs on to the ball and gets two, three outs. Coach Allen Wages said, "That may be the best play I've ever seen."

Justin Taylor. This runner is in the final leg of the 800 meter run at the Class 1A track and field championships at Gainesville. He's just hoping to turn in a respectable time. After all, he won the 1600 meter state title earlier in the evening. But Justin hears the announcer



SPECIAL

saying, "Justin Taylor's coming up on the inside." That did it. Justin crossed the finish line .06 of a second ahead. St. Joe coach John Owens said, "It was amazing." Justin now has two state titles.

Steven Binninger. He plays tennis well. That was demonstrated by his 12 regular-season victories, his 6-0, 6-1 district semi-final victory, and his 6-1, 6-2 district final victory. Result: he's the only boy to represent St. Johns County in the state championship.

Afortunado? How many students represented the academy at the Florida State Spanish Conference in April? Thirteen! Bad luck? No. The St. Joe team placed 3rd in the state for 2-A schools; received a perfect score for their play in Spanish; and won numerous individual trophies, including a \$100 scholarship for an essay by senior Claudia Medina!

St. Joe's Blood Drive Saves Lives. The Blood Center of the St. Johns recognized St. Joseph's Bryan Ott as the high-school "Blood Drive Chairperson of the Year" and the academy for the high school with the "Highest Percentage of Lifesaving Blood Donations."



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—Tom Waite

American Reverse Mortgage, Ocala



CATHOLIC CHARITIES ELECTS A NEW COMMITTEE

New Elections



SPECIAL

The Catholic Charities Bureau of Gainesville, Inc. welcomes the new executive committee elected and confirmed at the annual meeting in May. From left are: front row, Carrie Lee, chair, Dr. Joe Kemker (seated), secretary; back row, Bill Tierney, diocesan executive director, Gwain Davis, Gainesville executive director, Prentice Cooper, vice chair, John Ward, treasurer, and R.F. “Bob” Rose, chair emeritus. Other board members are Lisa Adel, Ridwan Ali, Donna Boyle, Steve Brown, Dr. Chuck Cunningham, Chuck DeBolt, Dr. Thomas Hess, David Hruska, Tom Jaworski, Judy Locascio, Giselle Moore-Higgs, James Riley, Ron Spitznagel, Tom Umlauf, Juanita Nelson and Jackie Christiansen.

The mission of Catholic Charities is to build hopeful futures for families by helping people take control of their lives. The Board of Directors helps the agency in its efforts to build a more compassionate society by reducing poverty, supporting families and empowering communities. Catholic Charities of Gainesville serves a 10-county area. With an addition of the FAITHH mobile office, Catholic Charities is able to bring help to its outlying communities in these counties. Visit www.ccbgainesville.org



CHELLE DELANEY

GLADYS PRIOR AWARD FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Teacher Honored

Mike Tetlow, a social studies teacher at St. Paul’s Parish School in Jacksonville Beach, was one of four Jacksonville area teachers to win the Gladys Prior Award for Career Teaching Excellence. A plaque and cash award of \$12,000 were presented to him in May—with a round of applause from students at the school. Philanthropist Gilchrist Berg named the award in honor of his fourth grade teacher. Pictured with Tetlow is a former student, Savannah Miller, who nominated Tetlow for the award. Congratulations Mike!

DRAWING ATTENTION TO NEED FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE

Walkers Go The Miles

Bernie Welch, past chair of the diocesan Commission for Peace and Justice, takes the lead on a stretch of Blanding Boulevard near Middleburg. The small band of women and men, members of the Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice, were the core group making the 140-mile “Walk for Global Justice.” They began their trek in Hampton, Fla., and arrived in Brunswick, Ga., to make their concerns about the poor and disenfranchised in the world known to those attending last month’s G-8 Summit. On this particular day, they were taken in by St. Luke Parish in Middleburg for lunch and respite and in the evening were welcomed by parishioners from St. Catherine Parish in Orange Park. Along the way, they were joined by other marchers and they were assisted and welcomed into many homes and churches of many faiths.



CHELLE DELANEY

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FLORIDA KNIGHTS

Bishop Galeone Honored



ROSE CAMPOS

Bishop Victor Galeone was installed as a Sir Knight of the Fourth Degree at the 100th anniversary meeting of the Knights of Columbus in Florida. The annual meeting of the Florida Council last May in Orlando attracted 1,600 knights and their families from across the Sunshine State. In celebration of their 100th year, the knights have been active in recruiting new members. Statewide the knights have 43,000 members.

OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA

Growth Leads to Expansion



MICHAEL LENNINGER

Since 1999 Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish in Ponte Vedra Beach has grown from 1,850 families to more than 2,400 families. To accommodate this growth, Pastor Msgr. Daniel B. Logan and his parishioners raised the money to expand the church to add 700 additional seats for a total of 1,250 plus an additional 40 seats in the choir section. A gathering area at the main entrance of the church and a bell tower were also added. The new additions were dedicated on April 18 by Bishop Galeone.

MINISTRY ROUNDUP

Staffing Changes

Nancy Valdivieso, director of Catholic Charities Legalization Program, retired April 26 and her position has been assumed by Chiqui Maldonado, former director of the Catholic Charities Farmworker Services Program. Maldonado has been succeeded by Julia Castro, effective May 16.

David O'Byrne, who has provided counseling services for the Jacksonville Regional Office for many years, has retired. The Jacksonville Office is currently conducting a search to find a successor.

Sister of St. Joseph Marlene Payette, who directed Catholic Charities Parish Social Ministry program for many years, has moved to the Gainesville Regional Office where she serves as a case worker in the Housing Opportunities Program.

NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR 250 CAMPERS

Summer Camps For Disabled Grow



SPECIAL

Dancing to the music at a Camp I Am Special program in June are, from left, campers Lauren Sheppard and Raquel Quinones and teen buddy Hanah Smith.

With the help of many teens and other volunteers, the diocesan Disabilities Ministry is offering a camp experience to 250 youth and adults with disabilities – the largest number ever in the ministry's 24-year history, said Patrick Kennedy, ministry director.

Committed teen volunteers, some 180, who serve as 24-hour buddies to many of the disabled campers, plus volunteer nurses, volunteer groups who serve and provide meals, and the generous donations for camp scholarships have allowed the ministry to offer another camp session and increase enrollment, Kennedy said.

The ministry's week-long camp programs are called Camp Care, Camp I Am Special and Camp Promise. They are held at St. Johns Camp at Marywood Retreat Center in Jacksonville. The camps give the disabled an opportunity to share in a summer camp experience and give their caregivers a change of pace.

TOM MONAGHAN KICKS OFF FOUNDERS CLUB

Group To Help Ave Maria



CHELLE DELANEY

Talking with Monaghan are members of the Henley family (l-r) Dennis and Mary of Jacksonville. Stephen Henley, 18, will be attending Ave Maria in the fall.

Headlining the first meeting of the Greater Jacksonville Founders Club of Ave Maria University were Tom Monaghan, founder of Ave Maria, and Nicholas Healy, president of the new university.

About 120 people attended the meeting at Assumption Parish in Jacksonville. It began with a celebration of the Mass by Pastor Father Fred Parke, who serves as the group's chaplain.

Monaghan, 67, who sold his Domino's Pizza enterprise in 1998 and is using his proceeds to start Ave Maria in Naples, Fla., said he's often asked why he's not out on a yacht instead of spending all his money and time on this university. "I've had all that stuff and it really doesn't mean a darn thing. The nuns told me that, but I had to find out for myself," he said.

After looking at the ways he could help as many people as he could with the limited means and time he has, Monaghan said, "I came to the conclusion that the best way to do that was through education ... and the most efficient way is through higher education."

Graduates from the university will then go to evangelize and live out the Catholic faith because they've had an authentic Catholic education, he said.

Although many think of him as a multi-billionaire, Monaghan said, "I can get the university started," but Ave Maria will need the help of others to thrive and reach its goal of up to 6,000 college and graduate students. Thus, the establishment of the Founders clubs, such as the one in Jacksonville. He asked each of the potential founders to donate \$120 annually and to say a Hail Mary once a day for the school.

The next meeting of the Founders Club is July 15: Begins at 6 p.m. with Mass followed by a dinner meeting and presentation at the Kohls Hall at Assumption Parish, 2403 Atlantic Blvd., Jacksonville. Cost: \$20. For more information call (813) 254-1680.



CHELLE DELANEY

On May 7 Bishop John J. Snyder blessed the statue of St. John the Baptist that he had given to the high school named after him. The Saint is one of the bishop's favorite intercessors. Installation of the statue and its garden setting were made possible by other benefactors. The statue is dedicated to the memory of his parents and his brother who died in World War II.

MINISTRY FORMATION PROGRAM

Class of 2004

Bishop Victor Galeone, family and friends congratulated 23 participants of the Ministry Formation Program for successfully completing the three-year accredited program. The Class of 2004 celebrated their accomplishment at a ceremony at the Cathedral-Basilica June 13.



NICOLE DEPROFOSO

(front row) l-r: Kathleen Waller, St. Joseph Academy; Sarah Williams and Segudina Saga-Rumley of Holy Faith Parish, Gainesville; James Duffin and Martha Alers-Alers of St. Catherine Parish, Orange Park; Suzanne Dees and Patricia Huber of Holy Family Parish, Williston and Margaret McCully, coordinator of the program.

(second row) l-r: Bishop Galeone, Patrick Keane, St. Joseph Academy; Katharine Morse and Barbara Morvica of Epiphany Parish, Lake City; Patricia Aylward, St. Madeleine Parish, High Springs; Pilar Stevens and Christine Kelly of St. Joseph Parish, Jacksonville and Daughter of Wisdom Lucille Clynes, director of MFP.

(third row) l-r: Thomas Nasby, Robert McCann, Jr. and Jean Moore of St. William Parish, Keystone Heights; John and Jeannine Bretz and George Good, Jr. of St. Matthew Parish, Jacksonville; Maureen and John Meyers, San Juan Catholic Mission, Branford.

(not pictured) are Loretta Christian of St. Francis Xavier Parish, Live Oak and Reta Nyka Krecioch of Epiphany Parish, Lake City.

A Word About “Redemptionis Sacramentum”

By Father Tom Willis

At one point in my life I used to be a referee for high school basketball. Every year the group in Kansas that coordinates the sport would send out the new rulebook. It included not only the new rules but also what were termed “points of emphasis.” These points of emphasis were rules that had been on the books for a while. Some had been forgotten; others were just not followed correctly; still others were rules that referees needed a little reminder that they were supposed to enforce.

In many ways the document entitled *Redemptionis Sacramentum* (*The Sacrament of Redemption*), issued by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments on April 23, 2004, is one that involves “points of emphasis.” It serves as a reminder of the rules that surround the liturgical celebrations of the sacrament of the Eucharist. The document’s subtitle – “On certain matters to be observed or avoided regarding the Most Holy Eucharist” – is a telltale signal of the document’s purpose.

Pope John Paul II called for the preparation and publication of this Instruction in his encyclical *Ecclesia de Eucharistia* (promulgated on Holy Thursday 2003). He stated that the Mystery of the Eucharist “is too great for anyone to feel free to treat it lightly and with disregard for its sacredness and universality” (no. 52). The Holy Father also reminded us “liturgy is never anyone’s private property.” Therefore, *Redemptionis Sacramentum* is the church’s invitation for all of us, clergy and laity, to be faithful to that sacrament which we understand to be central to our faith.

Redemptionis Sacramentum generally speaks of two types of abuses. One can be classified as those, that come from “ignorance” of liturgical norms and laws. The other occurs when too much “liberty” is taken in the celebration of the Eucharist and other liturgies of the church. We need to have an appreciation that the sacred liturgy is one of the



CHELLE DELANEY

church’s greatest patrimonies. As such, it is a gift and heritage that must be cherished and safeguarded so that its fullness is celebrated each and every time the church assembles for worship. The instruction seeks to provide clarity on several issues of eucharistic worship so that the manner in which the celebration takes place becomes a reflection of what the universal church believes.

Another important aspect to understand about the instruction is that it is not a compendium of all the norms, rules and regulations regarding the sacrament of the Eucharist. Anyone who wants to use it as a tool that will judge or evaluate the celebration of Mass in his or her parish would be mistaken. *Redemptionis Sacramentum* has to be read in concert with the *General Instruction of*

the Roman Missal (3rd typical edition), *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside of Mass*, the *Directory for Masses with Children*, the *Introduction to the Lectionary for Mass* (2nd typical edition) as well as others. In addition, there are several documents that address the sacred liturgy and its celebration in the dioceses of the United States, which must be consulted, too. These include *Norms for the Distribution and Reception of Holy Communion Under Both Kinds in the Dioceses of the United States of America* and *Built as Living Stones*.

Finally, Cardinal Francis Arinze, prefect for the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, which issued *Redemptionis Sacramentum*, reminded us that these laws and norms are not just about the externals. In other words, the celebration of Mass and the sacraments goes deeper than the signs and words, gestures and symbols that are a part of every liturgical celebration. He quoted the instruction: “For this reason, external action must be illuminated by faith and charity which unite us with Christ and with one another and engender love for the poor and the abandoned.”

As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states, “The Eucharist commits us to the poor” (no. 1397). This was the same point that Pope John Paul II made in *Ecclesia de Eucharistia* (see paragraph 20). When the Eucharist is celebrated and revered for its power in the church and the world, it heightens the vocation each of us has to continue the mission of Christ in bringing peace and justice – the fruit of our salvation – to all. 🌸

Instruction on the Eucharist: ‘Redemptionis Sacramentum,’ is available for \$9.95 (84 pages) from USCCB Publishing. It can be ordered online at: www.usccb.org, or by phone at: (800) 235-8722.

Father Tom Willis is chair of the Liturgical Commission for the Diocese of Saint Augustine.

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calendar of events



Theology-on-Tap Summer Sessions – Open to young adults 21-39. Come join us 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. Cost: \$5

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

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

Marriage Preparation Programs

To register for Marriage Preparation Programs, call (904) 308-7474 or online at www.dcff.org

Pre-Cana is sponsored by the Diocesan Center for Family Life and is designed for engaged couples who believe they are ready for marriage in the church. Featured presentations provided by professionals and married couples include: natural family planning, finances, inter-faith marriage, and much more. Cost: \$69 per couple. Held Saturdays, 8:15 a.m.-5:30 p.m., St. Vincent's Medical Center in Jacksonville.

Saturday, July 17
Saturday, Aug. 28
Saturday, Sept. 25

Engaged Encounter
Although Catholic in origin, this program is open to any couple of faith, who desire a rich, full life together. This is a private experience in an informal setting. Emphasis is not on lectures or group discussions. Begins Friday at 7:30 p.m. to Sunday, 3 p.m. at Marywood Retreat

Center, Jacksonville. Cost: \$225 per couple.

Friday, Aug. 13 to Sunday, Aug. 15
Friday, Sept. 17 to Sunday, Sept. 19

Marriage Enrichment Programs

Diocesan Marriage Renewal Program

The emphasis of this program is on communication between husband and wife. It's not a retreat or a marriage clinic. Open to all. Weekend starts Friday, 8 p.m. to Sunday, 5:30 at various locations. Cost: \$35. To register, call Kim or Vic Newsome, (904) 260-3035 or you can register online at www.diocesanmarriagerenewal.org

Friday, Aug. 27 to Sunday, Aug. 29
Friday, Oct. 22 to Sunday, Oct. 24



Retrouvaille (Rediscovery)

This program is designed to help and renew troubled marriages and for those who are thinking about separation or divorce. This is only offered three times a year. For more information or to register, call Bill or Trudy Hehn, (904) 992-0408 or (904) 221-8383. Cost: \$50.

Friday, Oct. 15 to Sunday, Oct. 17

Mass Schedule at I.M. Sulzbacher

Second Monday of every month, 7-7:30 p.m. in the main dining hall at I.M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless, downtown Jacksonville. Mass is celebrated by different guest priest each month.

Monday, July 12
Monday, Aug. 9
Monday, Sept. 13

calendar of events

MARYWOOD RETREAT EVENTS

To register for retreats at Marywood Retreat Center at 1714-5 State Road 13 in Jacksonville, call (904) 287-2525 or (888) 287-2539.

July 7 Day of Reflection: Take a New Look! – Leader: Msgr. Simon Ignacio. Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Cost: \$27.

July 18 Christian Meditation: Monastic Prayer In Everyday Life – Leader: Gene Bebeau. Sunday, 1:30-4:30 p.m., Cost: Donation.

Aug. 7 In the Footsteps of the Spiritual Masters – Leader: Doris Edwards. Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Cost: \$27.

Aug. 7-11 A Brush With God: An Iconography Retreat – Leader: Peter Pearson. Saturday, 10 a.m. to Wednesday, 5 p.m. Cost: \$475-\$575.

Aug. 11 Day of Reflection: Praying With Jesus in the Gospel of John – Leader: Father Donal Sullivan. Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Cost: \$27.

Aug.13-15 That Curious Mental Twist: A 12-Step Retreat for Men and Women – Leader: Jesuit Father Robert Hanlon. Friday, 6:30 p.m. to Sunday, 10 a.m. Cost: \$75-\$156.

Sept. 8 Day of Reflection – Father Tom Willis, Wednesday 9:30 a.m. -3:30 p.m. (Mass at 2:30 p.m.)

Sept. 9 Human Growth and Spirituality – Leader: Sister of St. Joseph Carolyn Tucker. Thursday, Begins with dinner at 6 p.m. Closes at 8 pm.

Safe Sitter Program

Teens and pre-teens with a desire to work in childcare can get a head-start by learning safe and nurturing childcare, first-aid, rescue skills and more. Participants in the one-day class must be at least 11 years old. Classes will be held 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at St. Vincent's Terry Conference Center in the DePaul Building, Jacksonville. To pre-register, call (904) 308-6359. Cost: \$40 (lunch not included).

Saturday, July 10
Monday, July 12
Saturday, Aug. 14

UPCOMING EVENTS

July

24 L'Arche Harbor House Fashion Show & Luncheon – Hosted by Girl Scout Troop #941. Saturday, 11 a.m., Christ the King Community Center. Tickets are \$10. Proceeds benefit L'Arche, a community of adults living with developmental and physical challenges. Call Mimi or Anne at (904) 721-5992.

August

15 Feast of the Assumption of Mary

21 M.O.M.S. II: Leadership Training in Peer Ministry Workshop – Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., at the First Presbyterian Church, Gainesville. For more information or registration, call Donna Simons, (904) 745-4881 or email dms0224@comcast.net for registration. Cost: \$35 per person.

27 Augustinian Day Address – Keynote Speaker: Johnette Benkovic, from "Living His Life Abundantly International" ministry. Friday, 6:30 p.m. vespers at the Cathedral; 7:30 p.m. address at the Bishop Baker Parish Center. Call (904) 824-2806.

28 Diocesan Evangelization Conference — Keynote: Kathleen Hendricks, an internationally known speaker on catechesis and pastoral leadership. Saturday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Catholic Center, Jacksonville. Open to parish leaders and interested Catholics. Register by Aug. 7 at (904) 262-3200, ext. 118.

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