

## News

- Bishop releases more names of priests accused of sexual abuse
- Update on sexual abuse of minors by priests
- Names of 20 priests accused of sexual abuse of minors
- Reasons for giving thanks
  - For her children, 'one on Earth, one in heaven'
  - For a life guarded by the Holy Spirit
  - For a family that helps her through illness
  - For a crisis survived and a faith embraced
- Final assembly of Parks' statue of Mary nears

## Opinion

- Editorial: A grave and necessary step
- Editorial: National holy day
- Letter to the editor

## Sports

- No pain, big gain: Upset win over Ursuline in volleyball leaves St. Mark's feeling good all over
- Sals continue reign, Spartans end Padua's

## National/International

- Bishops OK statements on Iraq, contraception, sex abuse study funding
- Congress has more pro-life Democrats; may raise wages, aid immigrants
- Pope takes on hard questions in new chapter of dialogue with Muslims
- Global conference yields practical ways Catholics can address poverty
- Pope calls Curia to address married priests, Archbishop Milingo
- News briefs
- Movie reviews

## Bishop releases more names of priests accused of sexual abuse



‘The first obligation of the church is to assist in the healing of the victims.’

[Statement from Bishop Saltarelli](#)  
[List of priests' names](#)

## Dialog report

Bishop Saltarelli has released the names of 18 diocesan priests — eight still living — about whom the diocese has received “admitted, corroborated or otherwise substantiated” allegations of sexual abuse of minors.

In a list accompanying a letter to the faithful of the Diocese of Wilmington in today's Dialog, the bishop also includes the names of two living priests from other dioceses who ministered here and were accused of sexual abuse elsewhere.

[Read the full story.](#)

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## Dialog report

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In a list accompanying a letter to the faithful of the Diocese of Wilmington in today’s Dialog, the bishop also includes the names of two living priests from other dioceses who ministered here and were accused of sexual abuse elsewhere.

The list does not include when or where the abuse occurred or how many minors were involved.

Of the 20 priests listed, the names of 10 had previously been released publicly, either by the diocese or by media outlets, as The Dialog went to press Tuesday. The list does not include names of any accused religious-order priests who worked in the diocese.

In his letter, Bishop Saltarelli says he is disclosing the names after “extensive consultation” with the Diocesan Review Board, the largely lay panel formed to comply with the U.S. bishops’ Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People issued in 2002.

The bishop cites the recent arrest in Syracuse, N.Y., of Francis G. DeLuca, a priest who formerly served in this diocese, as one reason he decided to publish the names. DeLuca, 77, was arrested last month and charged with sexually abus-

ing a Syracuse boy, now 18, for several years from when the boy was 12 or 13 until he was 17. DeLuca was removed from public ministry in 1993 and was allowed to retire to Syracuse, his hometown. The diocese said Oct. 26 that it has asked the Vatican to permanently remove DeLuca from the priesthood, a process known as laicization.

“I am deeply troubled, and profoundly regret, that a priest of this diocese, removed from ministry so many years ago, has once again sexually abused a minor,” the bishop writes. “I am deeply sorry for this, and apologize to the victim and his family for their suffering.” By disclosing the names and locations of other living priests with substantiated allegations against them, the bishop adds, “we perhaps in some way may help prevent or deter any further incidents.”

His second reason for releasing the names, the bishop writes, “is to continue the efforts of our diocese to encourage victims of clerical sexual abuse to come forward and seek help. The first obligation of the church is to assist in the healing of these victims.”

Information about the eight living diocesan priests on the list was previously disclosed to law enforcement agencies in Delaware and Maryland, “depending on where the alleged abuse occurred,” the bishop writes. “All of these living priests were removed from ministry between 1985-2003, and the names of all but two of them

were previously disclosed publicly by the diocese or others.”

The diocese also previously informed civil authorities in Delaware or Maryland of the allegations against all of the deceased priests.

Last year the diocese reported that it had received credible or substantiated allegations involving 20 diocesan priests. The bishop said he is not releasing the names of two of those priests, both deceased, because “although the allegation against each of these priests was credible, in the judgment of the Diocesan Review Board neither of these complaints has yet been substantiated.”

The bishop says “it is with some hesitancy” that he is disclosing the names of the deceased priests. “The priests can no longer harm anyone, and several of them died before they were accused. I regret any further suffering that their victims may endure as a result of this disclosure and any sorrow or embarrassment that their families and friends may experience.” By identifying those priests, the bishop writes, “[perhaps] some of their victims may be motivated to seek help.”

In his letter the bishop reports that the diocese spent \$112,697 in settlements, victims’ assistance and legal fees between October 2005 and October 2006.

Since the U.S. bishops addressed the clergy sex-abuse scandal at a meeting in Dallas in 2002, only a handful of U.S. dioceses have released the names of

priests and other church workers charged with sexual abuse or found to have had credible accusations against them.

Since the bishops formulated the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People four years ago, four annual audits have found the Diocese of Wilmington to be in full compliance with the charter.

In his letter, Bishop Saltarelli discusses the steps the diocese has taken to protect children, including: background checks of all employees and volunteers who have regular contact with minors; strengthened standards of ethical behavior for church personnel and volunteers; implementation of a Safe Environments programs with training of parish, school and other institutional staff in recognizing and preventing child abuse.

“The abuse of children by priests and other clergy is shocking and reprehensible,” Bishop Saltarelli writes. “Victims and their families have suffered devastating harm. The faithful of the Church and the overwhelming number of good priests who serve them also have suffered through this crisis. I reaffirm my commitment to deal effectively and appropriately with complaints of sexual abuse of minors by priests, deacons and other Church personnel. I commit myself to care for the emotional, pastoral and spiritual well-being of those who have suffered, and to take all appropriate steps to prevent any further abuse of children and young people.”

# Update on sexual abuse of minors by priests

My Dear People,

In January 2004 and again in October of last year, I issued statements to you in which I detailed our findings regarding the sexual abuse of minors by priests in our diocese. In this statement, I would like to give you an update.

In 2006 our diocese again was examined by independent auditors retained by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to determine our compliance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. Our diocese was the subject of similar audits in 2003 and 2004, and a self-audit, with oversight by outside auditors, was conducted in 2005. All four audits found our diocese in full compliance with the charter.

In my prior reports I outlined the steps we have taken as a diocese in all our parishes and institutions to protect our children, including systematic background checks of all clergy, employees and volunteers who have regular contact with minors; strengthening standards of ethical behavior for all church personnel and volunteers; and implementation of a safe-environments program, including the training of staff in parishes, schools and other institutions to recognize and prevent child abuse. Last year our safe-environments committee implemented a curriculum designed to instruct children, in an age-appropriate manner, about the dangers of child abuse, and what to do if they are approached inappropriately. We continue to address the problem of sexual abuse aggressively, and we continue to take all prudent steps to prevent it.

Between October 2005 and October 2006, we received five reports of sexual abuse of minors involving three priests of this diocese. Two of these reports were made by third parties who did not identify a victim. Two of the accused priests have died; the one who is living is no longer

in ministry. The diocese had received earlier complaints about all three priests identified in the reports.

Between October 2005 and October 2006, the diocese spent \$6,000 for counseling and other support for victims and their families, \$60,000 was paid in settlements, and \$46,697 was paid in legal expenses.

Now, I must address the recent tragic news that Father Francis G. DeLuca, a priest of our diocese who was removed from ministry in 1993, was recently arrested in Syracuse, N.Y., on criminal charges of sexually abusing a minor. In light of this tragedy, after extensive consultation with the Diocesan Review Board, and at their recommendation, I have decided to disclose the names of 18 of the 20 priests of our diocese, both living and deceased, about whom we have received admitted, corroborated or otherwise substantiated allegations of sexual abuse of minors.

Eight of these priests are living, and information concerning all of them was previously disclosed to the appropriate law enforcement agencies in Delaware and Maryland, depending on where the alleged abuse occurred. All of these living priests were removed from ministry between 1985 and 2003, and the names of all but two of them were previously disclosed publicly by the diocese or by others. The names of the 18 priests and their assignments are listed below.

## Reasons for disclosure

I have decided to disclose the names of these priests for two reasons. First, I am deeply troubled, and profoundly regret, that a priest of this diocese, removed from ministry so many years ago, has once again sexually abused a minor. I am deeply sorry for this and apologize to the victim and his family for their suffering. I pledge to them whatever consolation and support we can offer to aid them in their healing. By disclosing the

names and locations of those living priests about whom we have received admitted, corroborated or otherwise substantiated allegations of sexual abuse, we perhaps in some way may help prevent or deter any further incidents.

The second reason for disclosing the names of these 18 accused priests is to continue the efforts of our diocese to encourage victims of clerical sexual abuse to come forward and seek help. The first obligation of the church is to assist in the healing of these victims. As previously reported, we have in place a Victim Assistance Coordinator who will help any victim and his or her family in securing the appropriate treatment and pastoral care.

It is with some hesitancy that I have decided to disclose the names of deceased priests about whom we have received admitted, corroborated or substantiated allegations of sexual abuse of minors. These priests no longer can harm anyone, and several of them died before they were accused. I regret any further suffering that their victims may endure as a result of this disclosure, and any sorrow or embarrassment that their families and friends may experience. It is painful for many victims to be reminded publicly about their abusers.

However, it is our obligation to encourage any and all victims of clergy abuse to come forward so that they can be helped. Perhaps by identifying deceased priests, some of their victims may be motivated to seek help. As the Holy Father recently said to the Irish bishops, "it is important to establish the truth of what happened in the past [and] to take whatever steps are necessary to prevent it from occurring again."

Last year I reported that there were 20 diocesan priests found to have credible or substantiated allegations against them of sexual abuse of minors. That number has not changed, but today we are disclosing the names of 18 of these priests. In the cases of two of the deceased priests, the diocese received a single



**Bishop Saltarelli**

report of abuse, many years after their deaths. Although the allegation against each of these priests was credible, in the judgment of the Diocesan Review Board neither of these complaints has yet been substantiated.

In addition to the 20 diocesan priests found to have credible or substantiated complaints of sexual abuse of minors, there were two priests from other dioceses who ministered in the Diocese of Wilmington who were accused of sexual abuse elsewhere. In both cases, the alleged abuse occurred many years ago, in another diocese, and in one case prior to the

priest's ordination. After the alleged sexual abuse in these cases was reported to our diocese, and following an investigation of the circumstances, the priests were removed from ministry here. The names of these priests and their ministerial assignments in this diocese are provided below.

#### 'Shocking and reprehensible'

The abuse of children by priests and other clergy is shocking and reprehensible. Victims and their families have suffered devastating harm. The faithful of the church, and the overwhelming number of good priests who serve them, also have suffered through this crisis. I reaffirm my com-

mitment to deal effectively and appropriately with complaints of sexual abuse of minors by priests, deacons and other church personnel. I recommit myself to care for the emotional, pastoral, and spiritual well-being of those who have suffered, and to take all appropriate steps to prevent any further abuse of children and young people.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



**Most Rev. Michael A. Saltarelli**  
**Bishop of Wilmington**

[Back to top](#)

## Names of 20 priests accused of sexual abuse of minors

### PRIESTS OF DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

**Edward B. Carley** — Born 1917, ordained 1948, died 1998. *Assignments:* St. Mary Refuge of Sinners, Cambridge, Md., 1948; St. Ann, Wilmington, 1954; St. Paul, Wilmington, 1962; St. Peter's Cathedral, Wilmington, 1964 and 1970; Church of the Good Shepherd, Perryville, Md., 1967; Our Mother of Sorrows, Centreville, Md., 1972; St. Dennis, Galena, Md., 1982; retired 1993.

**Eugene F. Clarahan** — Born 1925, ordained 1952, died 1999. *Assignments:* Corpus Christi, Elsmere, 1952; chaplain of (Del.) state institutions, 1960; Holy Spirit (residence), New Castle, 1967; St. Peter, New Castle, 1968; Holy Cross, Dover, 1978; Church of the Good Shepherd, Perryville, Md., 1983; St. Benedict, Ridgely, Md., 1987; removed from ministry 1993.

**Francis P. Cornely** — Born 1924, ordained 1949, died 1975. *Assignments:* St. Francis de Sales, Salisbury, Md., 1949; St. John the Baptist, Newark, 1950; St. Edmond, Rehoboth Beach, 1958; chaplain, University of Delaware, 1962; St. Mary Refuge of Sinners,

Cambridge, Md., 1964; Christ Our King, Wilmington, 1969; St. Edmond, Rehoboth Beach, 1974.

**Francis G. DeLuca** — Born 1929, ordained 1958. *Assignments:* St. Francis de Sales, Salisbury, Md., 1958; St. John the Beloved, Wilmington, 1961; St. Elizabeth, Wilmington, 1966; Holy Spirit, New Castle, 1969; St. Matthew, Wilmington, 1976, St. Joseph on the Brandywine, Greenville, 1989; removed from ministry 1993; resides in Syracuse, N.Y.

**Douglas W. Dempster** — Born 1937, ordained 1962. *Assignments:* St. Michael the Archangel, Georgetown, 1962; St. John the Beloved, Wilmington, 1962; Immaculate Conception, Elkton, Md., 1966; St. Mary Refuge of Sinners, Cambridge, Md., 1967; St. John-Holy Angels, Newark, 1969; Church of the Good Shepherd, Perryville, Md., 1970; diocesan chaplain of Boy and Girl Scouts, 1971; Church of the Holy Child, Wilmington, 1978; Immaculate Conception, Marydel, Md., 1979; Our Lady of Good Counsel, Secretary, Md., 1992; removed from ministry 1993; resides in Marydel, Md.

**Henry J. Dreyer** — Born

1903, ordained 1930, died 1969. *Assignments:* St. Paul, Wilmington, 1930; St. Teresa, Port Deposit, Md., 1931; St. Ann, Wilmington, 1933; St. Charles, Cape Charles, Va., 1937; St. Teresa, Port Deposit, 1941; St. Joseph on the Brandywine, Greenville, 1950; retired 1966; St. Ann, Wilmington (residence), 1967.

**Edward F. Dudzinski** — Born 1950, ordained 1978. *Assignments:* St. Joseph on the Brandywine, Greenville (deacon), 1977; St. Mary Magdalen, Wilmington, 1978; St. Francis de Sales, Salisbury, Md., 1983; removed from ministry 1985; resides in northern Virginia.

**Richard F. Gardiner** — Born 1916, ordained 1968, died 1989. *Assignments:* St. Edmond, Rehoboth Beach, May 1968; Holy Cross, Dover, Nov. 1968; St. Ann, Bethany Beach, and St. Michael, Georgetown, 1972; St. John the Beloved, Wilmington, 1974; St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Bear, 1978; St. Luke/St. Andrew, Ocean City, Md., 1985.

**William E. Irwin** — Born 1938, ordained 1964, died 2005. *Assignments:* St. Edmond, Rehoboth Beach, 1964; Immaculate Conception,

Elkton, 1964; Holy Cross, Dover, 1966; St. Mary of the Assumption, Hockessin, 1968; Immaculate Heart of Mary (residence), Wilmington, 1970; Our Lady of Fatima (residence), New Castle, 1972; St. Francis de Sales, Salisbury, Md., 1976; St. Mary of the Assumption, 1986; Holy Family, Newark, 1990; St. Mary Magdalen, Wilmington, 2001; removed from ministry 2002.

**John A. Lind** — Born 1931, ordained 1960, died 1997. *Assignments:* St. Francis de Sales, Salisbury, Md., 1960; St. Catherine of Siena, Wilmington, 1962; St. Elizabeth, Wilmington, 1965; removed from ministry 1966.

**Leonard J. Mackiewicz** — Born 1931, ordained 1957, died 1994. *Assignments:* St. Edmond, Rehoboth Beach, 1957; chaplain for Boy Scouts, 1957; Immaculate Conception, Marydel, Md., 1958; St. Thomas, Wilmington, 1960; St. Hedwig, Wilmington, 1961; Holy Rosary, Claymont, 1964; St. Thomas, 1967; St. Francis de Sales, Salisbury, Md., 1970; St. Michael the Archangel, Georgetown, 1971; St. Edmond, 1972; St. Mary Refuge of Sinners, Cambridge, Md., 1972; Holy Cross, Dover,

1975; chaplain, Delaware Correctional Institution, 1976; St. Polycarp, Smyrna, 1985; removed from ministry 1987.

**Kenneth J. Martin** — Born 1945, ordained 1989. *Assignments:* Holy Cross, Dover, 1989; Immaculate Heart of Mary, Wilmington, 1990; St. Paul, Wilmington, 1991; St. Mary Magdalen, Wilmington, 1991; Holy Family (residence), Newark, 1997; Church of the Holy Child (residence), Wilmington, 1998; removed from ministry 2001; resides in New Jersey.

**Joseph A. McGovern** — Born 1949, ordained 1979. *Assignments:* St. Francis de Sales, 1978; St. Mary Refuge of Sinners, Cambridge, Md., 1979; St. Catherine of Siena, Wilmington, 1980; St. John the Baptist/Holy Angels, Newark, 1983; removed from ministry 1986; resides in Philadelphia.

**Walter D. Power** — Born 1918, ordained 1952, died 1998. *Assignments:* St.

Francis de Sales, Salisbury, 1952; St. Helena, Bellefonte, 1954; director of Boy Scouts, 1956; St. Mary Refuge of Sinners, Cambridge, Md., 1957; Immaculate Conception, Marydel, Md., 1960; chaplain, St. Gertrude Convent, Ridgely, Md., 1960; Sacred Heart, Chestertown, Md., 1964; Holy Name of Jesus, Pocomoke City, Md., 1968; St. Mary Refuge of Sinners, 1969; Immaculate Conception, Elkton, 1979; retired 1983, with residence at Good Shepherd, Perryville.

**Francis J. Rogers** — Born 1954, ordained 1981. *Assignments:* Corpus Christi (deacon), 1980; Immaculate Heart of Mary, Wilmington, 1981; St. Matthew, Wilmington, 1986; Holy Rosary, Claymont, 1989; St. Mary Magdalen, Wilmington, 1992; Corpus Christi, Elsmere, 1995; removed from ministry 2003; last known address, Wilmington, Del.

**John A. Sarro** — Born 1941, ordained 1979. *Assignments:* Worked in missions as religious-order priest until 1983; St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Bear, 1983; St. Helena, Bellefonte, 1990; removed from ministry 1998; resides in a monitored religious community in Maryland.

**Carmen D. Vignola** — Born 1946, ordained 1972, died 1989. *Assignments:* Holy Cross, Dover (deacon), 1972; St. Ann, Wilmington, 1972; St. Elizabeth, Wilmington, 1978; Our Lady of Fatima, New Castle, 1983; St. Joseph, Middletown, 1984; Holy Cross, Dover, 1987.

**Charles W. Wiggins** — Born 1957, ordained 1985. *Assignments:* Our Lady of Fatima, New Castle, 1985; Parish of the Resurrection, Wilmington, and chaplain at St. Mark's High School, 1986; St. Francis de Sales, Salisbury, 1987; St. John, Milford, 1991; St. John the

Baptist/Holy Angels, Newark, 1992; Our Lady of Good Counsel, Secretary, Md., 1993; Holy Family, Newark, 1994; Holy Spirit, New Castle, 1997; removed from ministry 2003; resides in Norwood, Pa.

#### PRIESTS OF OTHER DIOCESES

**Paul Calamari** — Born 1944, ordained 1980 for Archdiocese of New Orleans. *Assignments in Diocese of Wilmington:* St. Mary of the Assumption, Hockessin, 1997; Holy Cross, Dover, 1999; chaplain in hospital ministry with residence at St. Peter, New Castle, 2000; removed from ministry 2003; last known address, Pennsylvania.

**Gerard C. Smit** — Born 1924, ordained 1950 for Diocese of Lake Charles, La. *Assignments in Diocese of Wilmington:* Immaculate Conception, Elkton, 1987; removed from ministry 1996; last known address, Bear, Del.

[Back to top](#)



said.

Tom believes his recovery began after a conversation with Father Giuliano, in which Tom said he wanted to talk about becoming Catholic. Besides his familiarity with the church through his wife of 24

years, Tom's two stepsons — Joanne's sons — and four grandchildren are Catholic.

"He was the icebreaker for me," Tom said of Father Giuliano. "He said, 'Listen, you just let me know when.' The first thing I did when I

got out of the hospital was call him."

Since Tom's immune system was still weak, his doctors did not want him in crowds, so on April 2 — Tom's birthday — Father Giuliano celebrated Mass at the Russells' Middletown

home and initiated Tom into the church.

Tom's conversion to the Catholic faith gives Joanne her second reason to give special thanks this Thanksgiving. "To me," she said, "that's the other miracle."

[Back to top](#)

## Final assembly of Parks' statue of Mary nears

### By Dialog staff

The pieces are finally coming together. Within the month, the work of an artist, the fund-raising of the faithful and the landmark hopes of Catholics will meet when huge steel sections of Charles Parks' Our Lady Queen of Peace sculpture will be welded together at a New Castle warehouse to form the 32-foot tall statue.

The pieces of the statue were scheduled to be moved this week from Parks' Wilmington studio to

the warehouse.

Bishop Saltarelli will dedicate the statue May 26. "But she will be up before then," said John Watson, co-chairman of the committee that for six years has organized the effort to build the \$450,000 memorial. Our Lady Queen of Peace will stand on the south side of Holy Spirit Church, New Castle, where the statue will be visible to people driving from New Jersey over the Delaware Memorial Bridge.

Last June, when all but

the statue's upper torso was completed, the bishop blessed the site on which the statue will stand.

The statue, created by Parks in his studio overlooking the Brandywine, is similar to one he made in 1982 that was displayed in Rodney Square, Wilmington, before it was shipped to the California church that commissioned it. At the time, crowds flocked from neighboring states to see the statue and pray before it.

An effort to raise money

for a replica in Delaware was launched almost immediately but failed; the second fund drive, launched in August 2000, has proceeded slowly, and even the organizing committee has had moments of doubt, Watson said last week. "But we've done it," he said, although some funds are still needed.

Tax-deductible contributions can be sent in the form of checks, payable to Our Lady of Peace Statue, to P.O. Box 2849, Wilmington, DE 19805-0849.

[Back to top](#)

# Editorial

## A grave and necessary step

Only a handful of dioceses in the United States have published extensive lists of names of priests and other church workers with substantiated allegations of the sexual abuse of minors against them.

Bishop Saltarelli took that grave and necessary step this week in light of last month's news that a priest of the Diocese of Wilmington

who was removed from ministry in 1993 was arrested and charged with sexually abusing a minor in Syracuse, N.Y., within the past six years. In that case, removal from priestly duties didn't stop the alleged criminal actions, so the bishop's hope is that by releasing the names the diocese might help prevent or deter similar tragic incidents and encourage

victims of clerical sexual abuse to come forward and seek help.

Disclosing the names of these priests — living and deceased — will bring pain to many Catholics in the diocese. But publishing them is the right thing to do as the church continues its pledge to help protect children and help victims heal.

Penance, says the Catechism of the

Catholic Church, requires "the sinner to endure all things willingly, be contrite of heart, confess with the lips, and practice complete humility and fruitful satisfaction."

The Catholic Church's contrition has been publicly pronounced by hundreds of bishops and other church leaders. It is exemplified in the Charter for the

Protection of Children and Young People and in the reporting of incidents, initiation of background checks and revised security policies here and across the nation during the last four years.

“Raised up from sin,” the catechism states, “the sinner must still recover his full spiritual

health by doing something more to make amends for the sin: he must ‘make satisfaction for’ or ‘expiate’ his sins. This satisfaction is also called ‘penance.’”

Sometimes the medicine must be as onerous as the malady. Cancer patients are familiar with the toxic nature of the chemotherapy they

endure to get well. So, too, must the church undergo this detailed examination of its past failures and fallen fathers, to do penance and amend its life.

Those whose lives were broken by sexual abusers remain irrevocably scarred and will always need our prayers, but the names published

by Bishop Saltarelli this week are an important part of the medicine Pope Benedict XVI has prescribed to fight the infection of the sex abuse scandals — “to establish the truth of what happened in the past [and] to take whatever steps are necessary to prevent it from happening again.”

[Back to top](#)

## National holy day

Readers of The Dialog who wrote to the newspaper about what they would be grateful for on Thanksgiving weren’t just counting their blessings. Their stories on pages 10-12 recount their experiences with a terminal illness, the loss of a child, a struggle with anorexia and recovery from lymphoma.

People who are thankful for good health, good jobs, happy families and prosperity weren’t as inclined to proclaim their gratitude with the paper as readers whose lives have been tested by trials. That’s a human response, and a journalistic one, too. Stories of ordinary happiness wouldn’t have had as much of a chance to

get printed, because gratitude in the face of adversity is more surprising and a gift from which everyone can learn.

Next Thursday, thank God for all your blessings, ordinary and miraculous. Be grateful for God’s abundant graces in your life and share them with others who are at the table and those

far away.

And make the day a national holy day as well as holiday by first visiting the eucharistic table at your parish. Eucharist means thanksgiving, so start the day at Mass and carry the graces of that sacred banquet home to add to the abundance of your Thanksgiving feast.

[Back to top](#)

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### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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#### Story on torture raises questions

A front page story in your Nov. 9 edition deals with Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., and his signing of a document

opposed to torture. It is obvious from its position in your publication that you feel that this is an important event.

The document’s statement, “Let America abolish torture now — without exception,” leads me to wonder:

■ What evidence does the good bishop have concerning the torture by America that he condemns?

■ Why does he not condemn torture on the part of others, such as the beheadings that are documented in the media?

Surely he does not feel that these are perpetrated by America.

■ What is The Dialog’s level of journalistic integrity in publishing this factually unsupported article?

**R.L. Griffin  
Fenwick Island**

[Back to top](#)