

SOUTH PLAINS CATHOLIC

Uniting & informing Roman Catholics on the Llano Estacado & Rolling Plains of Texas

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF LUBBOCK • FEBRUARY 2019 • VOLUME 34, NUMBER 8

Memento mori - Why this religious sister wants you to think about your death

By Christine Rousselle
Catholic News Agency

WASHINGTON, D.C.- Sister Theresa Aletheia Noble, FSP, has had an interesting Twitter project for the last year and a half: she has kept a small (ceramic) skull on her desk, and has

See **MEMENTO**, page 17

Light of Christ Inspires Joy, Hope at SEEK2019

*More than 17,000 register for
FOCUS event in Indianapolis*

INDIANAPOLIS — More than 17,000 people signed up for SEEK2019: Encounter Something More, an event hosted by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) January 3 – 7, 2019, in Indianapolis.

All were encouraged to be missionary disciples by hearing, feeling and sharing the light of Christ and joy of the Gospel. The event filled many

See **SEEK**, page 6

Diocese of Lubbock publishes list of clergy members credibly accused of sexual abuse of a minor

LUBBOCK—The Roman Catholic Diocese of Lubbock published the names of clergy members credibly accused of sexual abuse of a minor on January 31, 2019 on the diocesan website.

The Diocese of Lubbock joins the 15 dioceses and archdioceses in the state to release names of clergy who have been credibly accused of sexually abusing a minor, going back at least to 1950 or to the year of the

establishment of the diocese.

The list in the Diocese of Lubbock goes back to 1983.

The 15 dioceses in Texas have disclosed to the Catholic faithful a total of 278 individuals who have credible allegations of abuse of a minor in Texas. The number removes duplication of people who appeared on multiple diocesan lists.

The bishops' decision to release the names concurrently was made in

the context of their ongoing work to protect children from sexual abuse, and their efforts to promote healing and a restoration of trust in the Catholic Church.

In a letter included with the publishing of the list, Most Rev. Robert Coerver, Bishop of Lubbock, wrote that the release of these names—which is occurring in all the dioceses

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Diocesan Pastoral Council discusses pastoral planning, finances, diocesan high school

LUBBOCK-In January, Most Rev. Robert Coerver, Bishop of Lubbock, and the Diocesan Pastoral Council met to discuss pastoral planning, diocesan finances, restructuring of the Catholic school and the Diocesan Catholic Appeal.

Pastoral Council Chairman Larry Rossi opened the meeting with prayer, and Bishop Coerver followed with a USCCB report. Bishop Coerver spoke about the November 2018 Fall Assembly and the January Retreat for U.S. Bishops.

He said that the Vatican's decision to delay decisions, in November, was providential and led to freer discussion on episcopal accountability.

"Victims and victim assistance



MEETING- Diocesan Pastoral Council Chairman Larry Rossi opens the council's first meeting of 2019 with prayer. During the meeting, the council discussed diocesan finances, the annual Diocesan Catholic Appeal and a diocesan high school. (Photo by Lucas Flores).

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SET THE DIOCESE OF LUBBOCK AS YOUR HOMEPAGE + CATHOLICLUBBOCK.ORG

Pope to parents: Faith must always be transmitted 'in dialect:' the dialect of the family, the dialect of the house...

By Hannah Brockhaus
Catholic News Agency

VATICAN CITY- At Mass in the Sistine Chapel on Sunday, January 13, Pope Francis baptized 27 babies, reminding their parents that the first space in which children learn and witness the faith is at home.



Pope Francis baptizes a baby in the Sistine Chapel January 13, 2019.
(Vatican Media photo, CNA)

"Yes, when they go to catechism class, they will study the faith well, they will learn catechesis," he said. "But before being studied, faith must be transmitted, and this is a job that is up to you."

Preparing to baptize the 27 babies –

15 girls and 12 boys – Pope Francis urged their parents to transmit the faith by example, by words, by teaching

them to make the Sign of the Cross.

"The important thing is to transmit the faith with your life of faith: that they see the love of the spouses, that they see the peace of the house, that they see that Jesus is there," he said.

Pope Francis gave the brief, impromptu homily during Mass for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which included the tradition of baptizing a group of babies in the Sistine Chapel, a custom started by Pope Saint John Paul II.

In his homily, he said that it is the parents' task to pass the faith along to their children, beginning at home.

"Faith must always be transmitted 'in dialect:' the dialect of the family, the dialect of the house, in the atmosphere of the home," he said.

Asking if he could give a little advice, he went on to urge the couples not to fight in front of their children. He noted that it is perfectly normal for a

See **POPE**, page 19

DIOCESE OF LUBBOCK **SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM**

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More information: **Belinda Aguirre, Chancellor's Office**
(806) 792-3943 • baguirre@catholiclubbock.org

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DIOCESE OF LUBBOCK VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR

Oscar Reyes

(806) 543-9178 • OReyes_lubbock@yahoo.com

The Victim Assistance Coordinator is an integral part of the Diocese of Lubbock Policy for Response to Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors. The Victim Assistance Coordinator is to coordinate assistance for the immediate pastoral care of persons who claim to have been sexually abused when they were minors by a cleric (i.e., bishop, priest or deacon). The Victim Assistance Coordinator responds promptly to persons who contact the diocese concerning sexual abuse of a minor and will offer to meet with him or her. The purpose of the meeting is to acknowledge the accusation, empathetically listen to and inform him/her of any assistance that may be appropriate.

This support may include arranging for counseling or spiritual direction and referrals to support groups. It is the policy of the Diocese of Lubbock to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Lubbock, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Lubbock has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement. It is also the policy of the diocese to adhere to civil and state regulations.

To this end, the diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of Code of Canon Law and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator, Oscar Reyes at (806) 543-9178 or to diocesan officials, including the *Vicar General, Rev. Msgr. David Cruz* at (806) 792-3943.

SOUTH PLAINS
CATHOLIC

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Bishop Coerver reflects on January Retreat for U.S. Bishops



Bishop Robert
@BishopLubbock

Following

Insight from retreat this morning: in the world's thinking justice and mercy are incompatible; in God's thinking true justice includes mercy.
Amen!

11:12 AM - 3 Jan 2019



Most Rev. Robert M. Coerver
Bishop of Lubbock
@BishopLubbock

Most Rev. Robert Coerver, Bishop of Lubbock, shares the following reflection on the January 2 - 8, 2019 retreat for United States bishops at Mundelein Seminary in Chicago.

It was a blessing to be on retreat with my brother bishops of the United States January 2-8 at Mundelein Seminary in Chicago. I believe there were about 250 bishops in attendance.

The staff and students of Mundelein Seminary who were on hand to assist us were incredibly hospitable, and

the liturgical celebrations were most appropriate and moving at times.

The administrative staff of the USCCB should also be commended for all that they did in preparing for the retreat, providing more than adequate security, and for their ready and willing assistance throughout the course of the retreat – and in a totally nonobtrusive way.

The preacher for the retreat was the Preacher of the Papal Household, Father Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM,

personally selected by Pope Francis to lead the retreat.

Father Cantalamessa proved to be very competent, interesting, wise, and at times preciously humorous. His talks were both intriguing and thought provoking. I know for me, personally, they provided much opportunity for prayerful reflection.

Almost every retreat talk began with a reflection on the verses of the traditional Christian hymn *Veni Creator Spiritus*.

That held the Holy Spirit as the guiding principle for the entire retreat. It was in that light that we bishops were guided in reflecting on the call “to stay with Jesus” and then to be “sent out to proclaim the Good News.”

Some of the specific insights I personally gained from the retreat would include:

- In the world's thinking justice and mercy are incompatible; in God's thinking true justice includes mercy.
- The Holy Spirit is open to new ideas for the Church. Why do we ask the Holy Spirit to come? Because we need and want to keep breathing. But when the Spirit comes we need to expect change.
- “To stay with Jesus” means to share in his poverty. Poverty is much deeper than money and possessions. It demands a detachment from materialism, consumerism, and power. Worldly riches must be replaced with the richness of being with Christ.
- The Spirit is the animating and unifying principle for ecclesial communion; and that communion must be with God, with the Church, and with the Successor of Peter. Christ

See **RETRTEAT**, page 15

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

Father Raj Arokiasamy, OFM
February 20, 1995
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Snyder

Msgr. Ben Kasteel
February 22, 1964
Retired

Bishop Robert Coerver's CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 1-10 Out of office
- 11 Office, Catholic Pastoral Center (CPC); Administrative Team meeting 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
- 13 Office, CPC; Lubbock Deanery 9 a.m.; Presbyteral Executive Committee 10 a.m.
Deans Executive Committee 10:30 a.m.; Catholic Foundation Meeting 5:30 p.m.

- 14 Office, CPC; Priest Pension Committee 12 p.m.
- 15 Office; Finance Committee 1 p.m.
- 16 Deacon Continuing Education 50th Anniversary Celebration, Hamlin Holy Trinity, 5 p.m.
- 17 Mass, Anson, 11:00 a.m.
- 18 Office closed – Presidents Day
- 20 Presbyteral Council 10 a.m.; Priest Personnel Board 1 p.m.

- 21 Office, CPC
- 22 Office Closed-- Staff Retreat
- 25 Office CPC; staff meeting; Catholic Charities Board Meeting 6 p.m.
- 27 Office CPC; DCA Steering Committee 12 p.m.; South Plains College Campus Ministry Mass 4:30 p.m.
- 28 Office, CPC
- 29 Priests' Workshop

MARCH

- 1-3 Youth Rally, Christ the King 5 p.m.
- 2 DCCW Plainview Deanery Mass 11 a.m.
- 3 Mass, Saint Elizabeth, 5:30 p.m.
- 4 Administrative Team meeting
- 6 Ash Wednesday Mass, Christ the King Cathedral (CTK), 7 p.m.
- 7-8 Office, CPC
- 10 Rite of Election, CTK

LIST, from page 1

of Texas— is a good-faith effort on the part of the Bishops of Texas to increase transparency and help to restore some confidence among the ranks of the Faithful, that the administrations of the dioceses are serious about ending the cycle of abuse in the Church and in society at large, which has been allowed to exist for decades.

“I realize that this release of names will be a source of pain for victims, survivors, and their families,” Bishop Coerver wrote. “I realize that this might also be occasion for more victims to come forward and to be appropriately ministered to. We continue to pray for victims and survivors of abuse of any kind and especially for those families whose trust in the Church has been broken.”

Bishop Coerver’s full letter to the people of the Diocese of Lubbock and the full list are available on the diocesan website at www.catholicclubbock.org.

“Let us approach the future filled with hope, maintaining principles of reparation, justice, mercy, and compassion,” Bishop Coerver wrote. “Christ the Healer is walking this journey with us; we are not abandoned!”

In the letter, Bishop Coerver also encouraged anyone who has been abused by anyone acting in the name of the Catholic Church, especially by members of the clergy, to report that abuse to local law enforcement authorities and call the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services at 1-800-252-5400.

Those persons reporting abuse in the Diocese of Lubbock— after contacting local law enforcement— should also contact Victims Assistance Coordinator Mr. Oscar Reyes, at (806) 543-9178.

DIOCESE OF LUBBOCK VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR**Oscar Reyes****(806) 543-9178 • OReyes_lubbock@yahoo.com**

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Editor’s note: The above information can also be found on page 2 of editions of the South Plains Catholic.

Prayer + Fasting + Almsgiving

LENT **ASH**
WEDNESDAY
MARCH 6

Lent begins on March 6. Send your parish’s Lenten event information to catholiclubbock@gmail.com or call Debbie or Pat at (806) 792-3943 to share the information.

Check catholiclubbock.org/Lent19 to stay updated on Lent activities in parishes in the diocese.

SAINT FRANCIS MISSION SISTERS Retreats Schedule

(Events are \$15 and open to men and women unless otherwise indicated)

FEBRUARY

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>9 Discernment for Girls 18 & older
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
<i>Sister Olivia & Sisters</i></p> <p>16 Confirmation Retreat for First Year Candidates
9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
<i>Sister Martha Jane and Team</i></p> <p>23 "I'm Catholic...Does It Show"
New Evangelization Retreat
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
<i>Deacon Max Perea & Team</i></p> | <p>9 Sisters' Stroll
for Young Ladies age 13 & older
<i>Sister Olivia & Sisters</i></p> <p>16 Lenten Healing Retreat
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
<i>Deacon Max Perea & Team</i></p> <p>22-24 Confirmation Retreat
at CTK for Second Year Students
<i>Sister Martha Jane and Team</i></p> <p>22 Knights of Columbus Retreat
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
<i>Sister Celine and Team</i></p> |
|--|--|

MARCH

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>2 RCIA Retreat in English
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
<i>Sister Martha Jane & team</i></p> | <p>30 RCIA Retreat
Holy Spirit candidates & sponsors
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
<i>Sister Martha Jane and team</i></p> |
|--|--|

For more information contact Sister Jane Venhaus
at (806) 863-4904 or rebuildchurch@gmail.com.

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Diocesan youth invited to join "Creating on the Margins" art contest *CCHD contest entries due by March 8*

LUBBOCK-The Diocese of Lubbock Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) Board invites students in grades 7-12 to create and submit artwork for the 2019 "Creating on the Margins" art contest. The local entry deadline is March 8.

The Creating on the Margins contest is a tool for schools and parishes to engage young people in the Gospel call of Luke 4:18 to bring good news to the poor, liberty to captives, sight to the blind, and freedom to the oppressed.

Through the contest, youth will learn about the efforts of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development to address the root causes of poverty in the United States. CCHD is the domestic anti-poverty program of the United States Conference of Catholic

Bishops.

Since 1970, CCHD has worked to encourage empowerment and participation of poor and low-income persons to address the causes of poverty in the United States., and encourage education and involvement of Catholics in this effort. More information about CCHD may be found at www.usccb.org/cchd.

CCHD contest entries are due by March 8 to the Catholic Pastoral Center of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lubbock. A local panel of judges will choose a winner from each group of entries from grades 7-9 and 10 - 12.

Then, the two entries will be sent to be judged at the national level. Contest rules can be found at: www.usccb.org/cchd.

See **CREATING**, page 7

JAMAICA CENTRAL

Box 98700, Lubbock, Texas 79499-8700

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JUNE 2, 2019
Saint Patrick
Lubbock

JUNE 2, 2019
Saint Peter
Olton

JUNE 2, 2019
Saint Theresa
Lubbock

JUNE 9, 2019
Saint Theresa
Hale Center

JUNE 30, 2019
San Ramon
Woodrow
12 - 8 p.m.

JULY 13, 2019
Saint Michael
Ralls

JULY 28, 2019
Our Lady of Guadalupe
Lubbock
10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

JULY 28, 2019
Our Lady of Grace
Lubbock

Pastor or parish leaders: Notify Jamaica Central as soon as your date is set. (Jamaica dates are set by parishes, NOT "Jamaica Central.")

SEEK, from page 1

hearts with hope for a dynamic future of the Church.

Livestreamed videos of SEEK2019 keynotes and daily Masses are posted along with event photos at facebook.com/focuscatholic.

Nearly 12,000 college students from 626 campuses and several international locations attended the Collegiate Track, which discussed topics relevant to young adults. University of Nebraska-Lincoln brought the largest campus group with 325 students. Benedictine College had the second-largest group with 323 students.

Priests heard more than 6,500 confessions during the five-day event, with 4,700 of those heard in just two hours during Adoration and Confession Night on Saturday evening. Nearly 500 chaplains and campus ministers registered for the Campus Ministry Track, sharing insights on creating vibrant campus ministries.

FOCUS presented the 2019 St. Pope John Paul II Award to Dr. Scott Hahn, in recognition of how he has helped guide FOCUS since its founding in 1998. The award honors leaders in the New Evangelization whose impact is multiplied by their extraordinary investment in others.

FOCUS benefactors Jim and Molly Perry received the 2019 St. Joseph Award, which honors individuals who promote and reinvigorate the Church with their extraordinary generosity and focus on evangelization.

FOCUS Greek partnered with Catholic Charities Indianapolis and

St. John's Garden Door Ministry for the SEEK2019 Donation Drive. Attendees filled 25 50-gallon bins with clothing and hygiene items.

The event included a Festival of Nations dance hosted by FOCUS Missions, celebrating unique cultures from around the world. Several speakers throughout the event discussed sharing the faith with diverse audiences, including Father Agustino Torres, C.F.R. in the bilingual session, "Mi cultura, mi fe | My Culture, My Faith."

Entertainment included Christian rock band NEEDTOBREATHE, comedian Michael Jr. and eight-time Grammy nominee Matt Maher. Special guests at Varsity Catholic events included Pittsburgh Pirates starting pitcher Trevor Williams and former Super Bowl Champion Matt Birk.

Keynote speakers for SEEK2019 included Sister Bethany Madonna, S.V., Sister Miriam James Heidland, SOLT, Father Mike Schmitz, Leah Darrow, Jason Evert, Jennifer Fulwiler, Dr. Scott Hahn, Curtis Martin, Dr. Edward Sri and Chris Stefanick.

Sponsors for SEEK2019 included the Augustine Institute, Benedictine College, Franciscan University of Steubenville, Knights of Columbus, Our Sunday Visitor, Servants of Christ Jesus, The Catholic University of America Office of Graduate Studies and Word on Fire.

The next national FOCUS event, SLS20, is scheduled for December 20 – January 3, 2020, in Phoenix, Arizona. More information is available at www.SLS20.org.

CURSILLO MOVEMENT SCHEDULE

Catholic Renewal Center + 4620 Fourth Street, Lubbock

Retreat for All Cursillistas

February 16
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Cursillo #209
for Men (English)**
April 25-28

Fat Sunday Festival

March 3
11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Cursillo #210
for Women (Spanish)**
May 16-19

More information at cursillomovementdol.org

Planning a parish event?

Check the diocesan calendar at
CATHOLICLUBBOCK.ORG

Is your date set? e-mail your information to pbehnke@catholiclubbock.org

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CREATING, from page 5

usccb.org/youthcontest. Contest materials are also available in Spanish at: www.usccb.org/concurso-juvenil.

The contest is designed to be used across artistic disciplines. Each entry will be evaluated on creativity and by essay answers submitted with the work. The answers will demonstrate the young person's understanding of how we, as disciples of Jesus, are called to address poverty in our communities.

Artwork may be any medium—for example a video, a PowerPoint presentation, a short story, painting, poetry, drama, song, or photography. The work must be original and must illustrate the 2019 theme, "A Time to Heal Racism," which was selected to correspond with the "Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love, A Pastoral Letter Against Racism," pastoral letter against racism released by the U.S. Bishops in November 2018.

Ideas to explore include issues such as racial justice, affordable housing, hunger, or migration in the context of the Catholic faith. Students will also learn what empowered people, who are low-income, are doing in their communities to make positive changes. Recognizing this connection with local anti-poverty efforts is vital to creating meaningful understanding of poverty and engaging youth in actions to address it.

Guided by what they have learned, youth utilize their own creative skills to educate peers, family, friends and others about the root causes of poverty, racism or another important issue highlighted in this year's theme.

A national grand prize of \$500 will be awarded to a single entry, along with a \$500 matching grant to a CCHD funded group working to fight poverty, plus a trip to a national awards event for the winner.

On the national level, one prize per grade level category—7-9 and 10-12—will be awarded for national second, \$375, and third, \$250, place winners, along with matching grants.

For contest information, contact Diocese of Lubbock Catholic Campaign for Human Development Director Rob Hogan at Rob@Hogan.pro. The local deadline is March 8, 2019. Entries may be submitted to the Catholic Pastoral Center for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lubbock at 4620 Fourth Street in Lubbock.

Raiders Defending Life plan first-ever scholarship

LUBBOCK - A group of committed Texas Tech students, Raiders Defending Life, recently announced an exciting new aspect of their organization.

"We'll be awarding our first-ever scholarship to a pregnant or parenting student at Texas Tech, someone in need of some extra help," explained Campbell Williams, president of the group. "We've had a few inquiries and already have four applications in hand." The application deadline is Friday, February 11, at 11:59 p.m.

The scholarship requirements are simple: the student must be a full-time (minimum of 12 hours) undergrad or graduate student at Texas Tech; child must be living with the applicant; and, applicants must have a copy of their unofficial transcript to send along with their application.

Raiders Defending Life has been meeting for more than four years. They meet bi-weekly, usually on Mondays. On off weeks, they engage in volunteerism, socials, and table events in the free speech area of the university—giving information to other students.

The offertory collection taken up during the Roe v Wade Memorial Mass January 22nd at Saint Elizabeth Church was donated to the Raiders Defending Life scholarship fund.

Other donations include a Go Fund Me account online, donations from their home churches, family, and other organizations. A t-shirt fundraiser begins soon.

"We're always interested in another fundraising opportunity," said Williams.

For more information or for an application, please contact Campbell Williams, (940) 284-2790 or raidersdefendinglife@gmail.com.

Donations can be mailed to Raiders Defending Life, PO Box 42031-272, Lubbock, Texas 79409 on the Tech campus.

GET FREE HELP WITH YOUR 2018 TAX RETURNS

AARP TAX-AIDE, the nation's largest volunteer-run tax counseling and preparation service, will begin work on Wednesday, February 6, 2019, in Lubbock.

Check-in starts at 8:15 a.m. The service is offered on a first come first serve basis and is dependent on the number of volunteers available.

The group will work Wednesdays and Thursdays through April 11th at the Lubbock Adult Activity Center, 2001 19th Street.

Social Security cards are required for all persons listed on the tax return. Photo IDs are required for primary persons on the return. Please bring a copy of last year's return. Also bring all 2018 W-2s, 1099s, 1095 A, B or C, end-of-the year Social Security statement, and any other pertinent forms.

The volunteers are trained and have experience. There are some return scenarios which will be considered out-of-scope for the program. Examples are married filing separately, rental properties and farm income.

Stop in in February, and we'll answer any additional questions or call: (806) 269-0230 or (806) 407-2566.

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ACTS COMMUNITY
of the Diocese of Lubbock

WOMEN'S ACTS
June 6-9, 2019

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OBITUARY MEMORIALS

ANTON-Gilbert S. Castillo, 56, died December 26, 2018. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated December 31 at Saint Anthony Church.

Gilbert was born September 9, 1962 to Pablo and Maria (Sauceda) Castillo. He attended Anton High School. He worked as a plumber for Armstrong Mechanical for 15 years.



His survivors are his wife of 36 years, Vickie; Cynthia Castillo Ruiz (Lee), Staci Castillo (Adrian), Donnise Gutierrez (Ruben), Charisma Sias (Jesus); 12 grandchildren; siblings, Paul Castillo (Mary), Lupe Castillo (Gloria), Delores McWhirter (David), Juan Castillo (Edna), Adela Sosa, and Henry Castillo (Olga).

Gilbert was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Philip and Joe Castillo.

LUBBOCK- Eddie Acosta 54, died December 11, 2018. Funeral services were held December 19 at Our Lady of Grace Church.



Eddie was born October 13, 1964 in Lubbock, Texas to Edward and Stella Acosta. He joined the US Army at the age of 17, and served 12 years, reaching a rank of E5 Sargent, before being injured and honorably discharged.

He then worked several years as a General Manager for McWhorter Tire and Firestone.

Survivors include his daughter Crystal Acosta, and son Eddie Brian Acosta, wife Amanda, parents Edward and Stella, his sisters Deborah Guzman (Richard), Delia Martinez (Arthur), and Diane Vasquez (Boni), three nieces, three nephews, and three granddaughters.

He was preceded in death by his niece and nephew Marissa and Adam Hernandez.

Antonia DeLeon Carrizalez, 86, of Lubbock, died December 23, 2018. Funeral Mass was celebrated December 28, 2018, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church.

Antonia was preceded in death by her parents Cresencio and Sara DeLeon; husband Lupe, a son Robert, brothers Chris, Sebastian, and Juan DeLeon; sisters Trinidad DeLeon, and Ramona Chadis.

She is survived by daughters:



Alice Cardenas, Sylvia Trevino, Vivian Stinson, Regina, Angie, and Andrea Carrizalez; and sons, Luis, Gabriel, Guillermo, Gilbert, David, Danny, Eddie, Charlie, and Anthony Carrizalez, and adopted son Leroy Villarreal. She leaves behind 29 grandchildren; 59 great-grandchildren, and 4 great-great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of Lubbock.

Fidencio Martin Diaz, 48, died December 15, 2018. Funeral Mass was held December 21, 2018 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church.



He was born March 24, 1970 in Friona, Texas to Pedro and Ofelia (Rios) Diaz.

Fidencio earned his Associates Degree in Auto Collision from South Plains College and worked as an auto body repair specialist at Dooley and Sons, Scoggin Dickey, Westside Auto Body and Collision King.

He married Mary Christy (Casarez) Diaz June 5, 1999. Fidencio was a member of LULAC and of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church.

Survivors include his wife of 19 years, Mary; son, Marcos Fidencio Diaz; his parents; sister, Irma Diaz Morales; mother-in-law, Guadalupe Hernandez; and numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. He is preceded in death by a sister, Martina Diaz.

See **MEMORIALS**, page 12



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NECROLOGY

Please pray for the peaceful repose of the souls of priests, deacons, and commissioned pastoral ministers from the Diocese of Lubbock (and priests from the Diocese of Amarillo) who died in **FEBRUARY & MARCH**

FEBRUARY

Hammond, Father William M.
February 13, 1971

Gillis, Father Raymond, S.A.
February 20, 1988

McGorry, Father Bernard Cletus, S.A.
February 20, 1992

MARCH

Gerken, Most. Rev. Rudolph A.
March 2, 1943

Herkert, Father F. J.
March 9, 1947

Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Student Center serves South Plains College students

LEVELLAND - Across the street from a donut shop and west of the Dairy Queen, Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Student Center sits.

Keeping with the food theme, the Catholic Student ministry provides a monthly free lunch to students of any creed in the metal building. The original stucco 'campus house' on the property is too small to be used.

According to Father Jonathan Phillips, community liaison, 60 to 100 students are served lunch each month. Meals are provided by various groups at Levelland Saint Michael Catholic Church.

The funeral ministry provided lunch in January; the February 13 luncheon will be hosted by Catholic prayer group, Missionarios de la Inmaculada Concepción de Maria.

"We get a good response from the campus," says Father Phillips. "This is the first academic year we've been able to serve monthly meals."

Catholic students at South Plains College have a vibrant group

affiliated with the college that plan and host events for South Plains College. Two advisors, Melinda Ledesma and Robin Coler, support the students and are present at meetings and functions on campus.

"Because our group is affiliated with the college," shared Mrs. Ledesma, "we are able to use available facilities for our meetings and events." An array of mass communications is available to them, including email, voice and text groups, and space for posters on campus.

Catholic students are offered weekly Wednesday Mass at 4:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Building Recital Hall. Jenna Chang from the diocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life spoke on dating after Mass in January; Bishop Robert M. Coerver will celebrate the Mass February 27.

According to Ledesma, about three years ago the students began to bring the languishing organization back to life. "We have very active officers



SERVICE- Guadalupanas from Levelland's Saint Michael Church, along with Father Jonathan Phillips, associate pastor, center, prepare to serve food to South Plains College students. Various parish groups host the monthly free lunch, which draws 60-100 students. Saint Thomas Aquinas Student Center is a ministry of Saint Michael's, and is affiliated with the college as one of the on-campus groups. (Contributed photo)

and students who work to sponsor activities." The former "Campus House" was renamed St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Student Ministry two years ago. It is located at 1208

College Avenue in Levelland.

For more information, contact Melinda Ledesma (806)891-7487 or see entries at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/556586941214292>.

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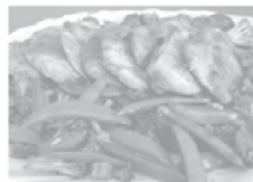


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MEMORIALS, from page 9

Lorenzo V. Gauna, 73, died December 13, 2018. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated December 22 at Saint Patrick Church.



Lorenzo was born in Maysfield, TX on September 5, 1945 to Vicente Gauna and San Juana Vega Gauna.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Raquel Rodriguez Gauna and daughter Juanita Teresa Gauna. He is survived by two sons, Lorenzo and Francisco Gauna; five grandchildren; and one great grandchild.

Adela Mireles Gomez, 68, died January 10, 2019. Funeral Mass was celebrated January 15 at Our Lady of Grace Church.

Adela was born June 4, 1950 to Juan and Francisca (Ramirez) Mireles in Longmont, CO.

In the latter part of 1950, she moved to Texas. In 1963, she moved to Lubbock and graduated from Lubbock High School.

Adela married Pete Gomez April 2, 1971 in Lubbock. She worked in accounting for multiple companies in Lubbock.

Survivors include her husband; two daughters, Denise (Timothy) Rodriguez, and Megan Gomez; three grandchildren; and five siblings, Janie (Joe) Hernandez, Mingo (Yolanda) Mireles, Olivia Teresa Dillard, Jimmy (Janette) Mireles, and Rosemary (Cecil) Quintero. She was preceded in death by her parents; a sister, Rosemary and a brother, Juan Mireles, Jr.

Jesus Rosales, 87, died January 6, 2019. Funeral Mass was held January 11 at Saint Elizabeth University Parish with burial following in Resthaven Memorial Park.



Jesus was born August 19, 1932 in Taylor, Texas to Mr. and Mrs. Jose R. Rosales. He worked for Frontier

Wholesale for 49 years.

Jesus is survived by his children: Lupe, Claudio (Loretta), Teresa (Jesse) Leal, and Cecilia Rosales, four grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and two great great-grandchildren, a sister; Sandy Richardson, and sister-in-law; Nina Rosales.

He is preceded in death by wife, Alberta, a son, his parents, three brothers, and three sisters.

Leonard Santibanez Valdez, 73, died December 18, 2018. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated December 22 at Saint Patrick Church.



Leonard was born March 16, 1945 to Gabino Valdez, Sr. and Maria Santibanez

in Temple, Texas. He married Mary (Estrada) Valdez February 23, 1965.

He was a master plumber for Texas Tech University.

His survivors include his wife Mary; daughters, Irene Lopez and Nancy Valdez; brothers, Jessie and Gabino Valdez, Jr.; sisters, Beatrice Escamilla, Martha Davila; two grandchildren, and his beloved pet.

He is preceded in death by his parents; one sister, Beatrice; and a grandson, Anthony Bryan Lopez.

MORTON- Mr. Ralph Rubio Soliz, 87, died January 7, 2019 in Morton. Funeral services were held January 11 at Saint Ann Catholic Church of Morton with Father Ernesto Lopez officiating. He was buried in Morton Memorial Cemetery.

NEW DEAL - Fidella Martinez Aleman, 96, died December 31, 2018. Funeral Mass was celebrated January 11 in Our Lady Queen of the Apostles Church.



Mrs. Aleman was born April 24, 1922 in Falls City, TX to Guadalupe and Refugia

See **OBITUARIES**, page 16

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Position Description- The principal's highest priority is the building of a Catholic community of faith in which the Catholic Christian message and experiences of community, worship, service and social concern are integrated. Additionally, a paramount responsibility is to promote and facilitate student learning of the highest quality.

The High School Principal is responsible for the policies, regulations and procedures to ensure that all students are supervised and educated in a safe environment that fosters the mission of the Diocese of Lubbock and Christ the King Cathedral School. Inherent in the position are the responsibilities for scheduling, curriculum development, spiritual and co-curricular activities, management and coordination of the academic personnel, staff development, emergency and safety procedures and communication with the Diocese of Lubbock and the Christ the King Cathedral parish community.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS-The Principal must be an active, practicing Catholic who understands, embraces, and is able to articulate the mission and vision of a faith-based education as defined by and monitored by the Bishop and superintendent. The Principal will be a dynamic, energetic leader who facilitates learning, growth, and collaboration both inside and outside the classroom. The Principal should have a genuine commitment to Catholic education and the ability to relate well to students and members of the school community and to interact with them regularly.

- Master's degree
- 3-5 years teaching experience
- at least 18 credit hours in education administration and supervision courses or a valid, appropriate state certificate for a principal or the successful completion of an appropriate state certification examination.

PERFORMANCE RESPONSIBILITIES: The principal is responsible for the continuing Catholic faith formation of the faculty and the students, the school's educational and co-curricular programs, and managing the day-to-day operations of the school. The principal is responsible to the Superintendent for administering the educational and co-curricular programs of the school in a manner consistent with the school's mission and philosophy as a diocesan secondary school in accordance with policies established by the diocese, the school, and the school's advisory board.

The principal is the educational, instructional and spiritual leader of the school and will help establish the vision of learning. The principal will partner with the Superintendent in cultivating and leveraging key relationships and partnerships within and outside the school with the goal of making education at the diocesan high school sustainable.

It is the principal's duty to keep the Superintendent and the advisory board informed at all times of the current status of the school and to work cooperatively with the Superintendent and the board in the development of school priorities.

Specifically, the principal will:

- Give clear educational, faith and moral leadership by providing direction to fulfill the mission of the school by regularly holding faculty meetings, speaking to students and parents, and communicating with the school's constituencies about the mission, values, culture, goals, and expectations of the school as a Catholic educational institution in the Diocese of Lubbock.
- Regularly meet with the Superintendent and report to the board on matters requiring their attention.
- Assign administrative and teaching duties, and provide for supervision, job descriptions, and annual evaluation procedures for all employees that report to the principal.
- Provide for ongoing professional development of the faculty and staff.
- Hire and terminate all employees reporting to the principal.
- Delegate responsibilities appropriately and appoint committees and councils to advise and assist in achieving the Catholic educational mission of the school.
- Coordinate, with the superintendent, the school's master schedule, annual calendar, and daily schedule, as well as the scheduling of all school related activities.
- Work with the superintendent, the business manager, and the finance committee of the advisory board in the development of the annual budget; and monitor compliance to and fiscal control over the budget for staff development, school administration, co-curriculars, and academic departments.
- Supervise and maintain a sound disciplinary system to ensure an appropriate educational climate.
- Represent the school in all official functions relating to the educational community and project a positive image of the school in the community.
- Coordinate and supervise all state and federally funded school programs.
- Make decisions in the admission and dismissal of students in accordance with the school's policies and procedures.
- Be available, accessible and effective in communications with parents, students and the broad constituency of the diocesan high school.
- Perform other duties as assigned by the Superintendent appropriate to the position of Principal.



BEAMS-Kayleigh Diaz signs a beam at Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church in Lubbock. After Masses on January 5 and 6, Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church parishioners participated in the "beam signing." The parishioners of Lubbock's newest Catholic church signed beams to be used in the construction of the parish's multi-purpose building. Parishioners, young and old, wrote thoughts, favorite scripture or signed their names. These beams will be part of the permanent structure of Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church located at 108th Street and Indiana Avenue in south Lubbock. Visit the church's website at stjohnbaptistlbk.org to view more photos of the beam signing and to keep up to date on church construction. (Contributed photo).

COUNCIL, from page 1

coordinators spoke," Bishop Coerver said, "we got information and more input was requested."

Bishop Coerver also reported on the retreat for U.S. Bishops in January.

"The retreat was excellent," Bishop Coerver said. "There was lots of silence and bonds were formed and solidified. We are moving forward in a good direction."

Bishop Coerver reported that 250-280 bishops attended the January retreat.

Editor's note: Bishop Coerver's reflection on the retreat may be found on page 3 of this edition of the South Plains Catholic.

Diocesan Finances

"We are wrapping our heads around realistic financial picture," Bishop Coerver said, "it's clearer but, not a pretty picture."

Bishop Coerver reported that the diocese has drawn from a line of credit and, this year, he asked for a more realistic budget.

"In 2018, the budget process took place in May, and the DCA assessments and the campaign kickoff were in February, so we were not getting a truly projected need," Bishop Coerver

er said. "We asked for less than we actually needed."

Bishop Coerver said that the budget cycle for 2019-2020 changed. Budget hearings were held in the Fall, with a proposed budget prepared during January 2019.

Bishop Coerver said that without the DCA, the diocese would have a deficit of almost \$3 million and that contributions to the DCA is about a \$1.8 - 2.2 million difference.

"That can't be made up in one year, and we want to be more transparent with the people of the diocese," Bishop Coerver said. "We want the parish's DCA goals to be more realistic, and this could help us raise \$900,000-1 million for this year."

Bishop Coerver said DCA goals will need to increase, but maybe not as much. He also said that the structure of the annual appeal would change.

Bishop Coerver said parishes will be able to choose one of two options: a set DCA goal of 20 percent of all parish income which would include Jamaicas and building funds or a DCA Goal set by calculating 30 percent of Sunday collections. Parish

See **PASTORAL**, page 14

PASTORAL, from page 13

priests will have more information and be able to make the choice with their finance councils.

"These options will be how the goals are set. This may be too much for a parish, but we need to know," Bishop Coerver said. "The choice would be made each year and could change from one year to the next. In the future, I would like the DCA to fund operations."

Diocesan Pastoral Councilmember Stephen Henry asked about the possibility of slowing growth of parishes with the new structure to the DCA.

"This may be stopping physical growth," Henry said, "because churches can't find funds to build or grow with 20% or 30% going to diocese."

Bishop Coerver said stewardship and spirituality formation are needed with transparency.

"Parishioners want to know what their responsibility is," Councilmember Frances Alvarez said. "I attended a retreat on tithing, but I was told 'no, we won't talk about money from the pulpit,' when I asked if I could talk about the retreat and what I learned. People need to know what to give, but if we only talk about money nothing will change because the people don't know how to give."

Diocesan High School

Bishop Coerver reported that priests

of the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Lubbock passed support for a diocesan high school at the group's December meeting, and committed to funding the high school.

The Presbyteral Council agreed on the value of a diocesan high school, that every parish with a student in the school should pay \$1,000 per student per academic year and an equal amount of funding should be spent on youth ministry outside of Lubbock, (but this measure was discontinued for a year). The fourth resolution passed was that the deficit that remains should be included in the budget for the diocese of Lubbock—this would be part of every parish's DCA assessment.

Currently, the diocese's only contribution to the school is payment of medical insurance for employees. Christ the King Cathedral supports all grades of the school. The four high school grades will become a diocesan high school to be funded by the DCA.

Pastoral Planning

Another discussion of the Diocesan Pastoral Council focused on incorporations of parishes which could happen during the 2019 calendar year, but would probably happen in the next fiscal year which starts in July.

Legal parish incorporation would cover assets, and parishes would incorporate non real estate assets and then

incorporate real estate assets separately. The diocese would incorporate 61 real estate entities, but would only legally incorporate 37 parishes.

This would look to the future with eyes on being Catholic Communities, one parish with multiple worship sites. Bishop Coerver said this would take pastoral planning and happen in the future. Parishes could be combined and incorporated as one, and the parishes would need to develop the mindset of "a Catholic Community."

DCA

Bishop Coerver and the Diocesan Pastoral Council also discussed changes to the structure of the 2019 Diocesan Catholic Appeal.

Beginning this year, the Diocesan Catholic Appeal Bishop's Guild Dinner will change to four deanery-level appreciation dinners.

The new structure will combine the DCA Kick-off Workshop, Bish-

op's Guild Dinner and the deanery meeting setup into one event in each deanery.

"There is lots of overlap, especially in workshop and deanery meetings. The new format combines all those events into deanery appreciation dinners," Bishop Coerver said. "At the dinners, we will give thanks, let parishioners know where their money goes and have some stewardship formation."

The 2019 deanery dinners will take place in Seminole, Plainview, Snyder and Lubbock, one a week during Lent. Parish pastors will submit the names of stewards, including many of the people they would have sent to the trainings.

"This is a better time frame," Bishop Coerver said, "in March, when we need to focus on the appeal."

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RETREAT, from page 3

has prayed and continues to pray for that unity (cf. JN 17).

• The Holy Spirit is love -- the bond between the Father and the Son. Pentecost was thus an overwhelming experience of being loved by God. Our mission is to spread that love so that those to whom we are sent might experience Pentecost too.

• When the Spirit of Jesus comes to a person their heart is changed.

• The Word become flesh, Eternal Truth, is adored in the manger. In that manger is a person. The Gospel is a person more than a doctrine. Adherence to the person precedes adherence to the teachings of the person and their legacy.

• An image: all of these “apostles” (successors) gathered in prayer under one roof; is it too much to ask/pray for a New Pentecost? Interiorly that just might be happening! Pope Fran-

cis was very wise, calling us together in prayer.

• The role of pastors is to be “paracletes” (who warn, suggest, remind, comfort, etc.). God is the first Paraclete; today that Paraclete needs us to be “paracletes” for those entrusted to our care. But this is a task also for all the baptized too.

• Jesus tells us bishops, and the Church of today: “Be strong, for I am with you.”

Truly, I believe that Pope Francis gave the Church in the United States a great gift in calling us bishops together for a purely spiritual purpose.

I do believe the Spirit’s presence was felt by all of us. It’s under the guidance of that Spirit that we are called to shepherd the Church in the United States.

May we never abandon our pastoral role, which would be to abandon the flock. At the closing Mass of the Retreat, for meditation after



FELTS-Pope Francis greets Margo and James Felts, Christ the King Cathedral Parishioners, in Saint Peter’s Square in Vatican City early in January. The couple spent their honeymoon in Rome. (Contributed Photo).

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Communion a contemporary Christian song was beautifully sung. We bishops joined in for the refrain, a refrain which needs to echo throughout our country as we seek to make reparation for, learn from, and move beyond the scandals which rocked the Church in 2018. That refrain:

“Holy Spirit, You are welcome here / come flood this place and fill the atmosphere / Your glory, God, is what our hearts long for / to be overcome by Your presence, Lord”

Thank you for your prayerful support during the retreat. Your prayers were not in vain. Come Holy Spirit!

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OBITUARIES, from page 12

Martinez. She married Cruz Aleman December 31, 1936 in Tres Rios, TX. They moved to New Deal from Hale Center in 1950. Mrs. Aleman loved sewing quilts and gardening, and caring for grandbabies.

Mrs. Aleman was preceded in death by her husband in 1988, son Rudy in 1999, grandson Steven Aleman Mora in 1992, granddaughter Jessie Marie Rosa in 1985, and son-in-law Robert Vasquez, Sr. in 1994.

She is survived by sons Tony (Josie), Cruz Aleman, Jr. (Rhonda), and Joe Martinez (Eva); five daughters Lala Pineda (David), Pauline Vasquez, Angie Rosa (Julian), Lilly Mora (Lupe Mejia), and Ruby Otero (Alfredo Garcia); daughter-in-law, Sylvia Aleman, 33 grandchildren, and numerous great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

PETERSBURG- Juan Resendiz Torres, 72, died December 13, 2018. Funeral services were held December 19 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Petersburg.

Juan was born in Mesa del Salto, Rioverde, San Luis Potosi, Mexico. He immigrated to the United States in October of 1976. Using his talented, hardworking hands he demonstrated his most sincere appreciation for every opportunity - professionally and personally. Juan was a proud farmer and a true cowboy.

Juan had an unwavering faith in God and love for his family.

Juan is survived by Cipriana Hernandez, two daughters, Maria Resendiz-Birchfield and Asusena Resendiz, and four sons, Pedro, Juan Jose, Ramon, and Daniel Resendiz; eleven grandchildren

and five great-grandchildren; four brothers, Isidoro, Norberto, Tomas, and Ramiro, and one sister, Maria.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Juan and Martina Resendiz, and two brothers, Miguel and Faustino.

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MEMENTO, from page 1

been tweeting daily meditations on death with the hashtag #MementoMori.

The project has now grown to include two forthcoming books: a journal titled "Remember Your Death: Memento Mori Journal," as well as a Lenten devotional titled "Remember Your Death: Memento Mori Lenten Devotional."

What makes a relatively young religious sister, certainly not one expecting to die soon, so eager to focus on death?

Noble told Catholic News Agency (CNA) that she was first inspired by

the example of the founder of her order, even before she entered the religious life.

Blessed James Alberione kept a skull on his desk to remind him of his eventual death.

"Before I entered the Daughters of Saint Paul I read this and I thought, 'That is so metal. Definitely going to do that at some point,'" she said.

While she later forgot about the intention, it came back to her during a spiritual retreat last year. One of the priests at the retreat had a small skull with him. Noble took this as a sign to take up the meditation and borrowed a ceramic skull from one of her sister's Halloween decorations. She created the hashtag campaign shortly thereafter.

The practice of meditating upon one's death has been common in the Church for centuries, and daily prayers for the dead are part of the routine for many religious orders. In Catholic art, many saints are depicted holding a skull as a reminder of their death and the importance of preparing for a final encounter with God.

While death can certainly be an uncomfortable topic to think about, it is far from a morbid subject in the mind of the Church. Noble said that she believes that as Christians, "we are not just meditating on the reality of death but on Christ's victory over death."

Since starting her tweets, Noble told CNA that hundreds of people have sent her pictures of their own memento mori skulls, and that many people have seen the spiritual fruits that come along with meditating on their own death.

With the journal and devotional she is now writing, Noble says she wants to help people with the spiritual practice of meditating on one's death "with something more substantive than my tweets."

The journal contains an introduction to the practice of memento mori, as well as prayers and quotes from the church fathers, saints, and scripture. The journal, she said, is meant to be a companion to the Lenten devotional. *This article was originally published on CNA October 30, 2018.*

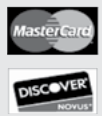


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NEW YEAR'S RETREAT FOR MEN – More than 30 men gather for prayer in the chapel at Our Lady of the Angels Convent in Wolfforth on January 12. Hosted by the Saint Francis Mission Sisters, the "Becoming Men of God" retreat was organized by Deacon Ron Vowels and featured presentations by Billy Trevino, Matt Hoelscher, Deacons Benny Brito, Gary Simmons, and Leroy Behnke. (Contributed photo)

POPE, from page 2

husband and wife to quarrel but recommended trying to keep arguments out of the view and hearing of their kids.

"This, I dare, is a piece of advice that will help you pass on the faith," Pope Francis said.

He also commented on the "chorus of tears," that could be heard coming from the more than two dozen babies in the chapel and said mothers should not be ashamed to breastfeed if their child is hungry.

"And so, we go forward in this ceremony, in peace, with the awareness that the transmission of the faith is your responsibility," he said.

Following the Mass, Pope Francis reflected on the Baptism of Christ before leading the Angelus, noting that before Jesus' baptism in the Jordan river took place, he was "in the midst of the people."

This element of the story "is not only a background of the scene, but is an essential component of the

event," he said. "Before plunging into the water, Jesus 'plunges' into the crowd, joins it and fully assumes the human condition, sharing everything except sin."

He said that in his divine holiness, full of grace and mercy, the Son of God

became flesh to take upon himself and take away the sin of the world.

Explaining that Jesus' baptism marks the start of his public life and mission, Pope Francis noted that the mission of the Church and each person to be "faithful and fruitful," calls for a "grafting" onto the mission of Jesus.

"It is a matter of continuously regenerating evangelization

and apostolate in prayer, to make a clear Christian witness. Not according to human projects, but according to God's plan and style," he said. "The feast of the Baptism of the Lord is a favorable opportunity to renew with gratitude and conviction the promises of our Baptism, committing ourselves to live daily in harmony with it."

*Before plunging
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Jesus 'plunges'
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joins it and fully
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