

Roman Catholic Diocese
of Charlotte



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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

Perspectives

Discovering God's call; We do believe; Penance begins with compassion

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VOLUME 19 No 10

A generous response

Archbishop calls U.S. Catholics to help Haiti

NEW YORK (CNS) — Catholic Americans are heroic and inspirational in their generosity, said Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York, and he anticipated a huge response to the second collection taken for Haiti in U.S. parishes the weekend after an earthquake shattered that country.

He spoke to reporters after Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral Jan. 17.

Parishes across the United States were asked to take up a second collection Jan. 16-17 to help ease "the terrible suffering of our brothers and sisters in Haiti" after a magnitude 7 earthquake.

The request came Jan. 13 from Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and Archbishop Dolan, who is chairman of Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' overseas relief and development agency. CRS will use the funds for relief and rehabilitation efforts in Haiti.

The archbishop told reporters that the New York Yankees baseball organization pledged \$500,000 to Haitian relief, half of it to CRS.

He said news from CRS gave a "glimmer of hope" although there were problems with "the two Ds: delivery and distribution."

In a Jan. 15 press release,

See HAITI, page 6

Hundreds march for life in uptown



PHOTO BY SUEANN HOWELL

Marchers line the sidewalk in front of the Federal Courthouse during the recitation of the rosary as part of the March for Life in Charlotte Jan. 15.

Fourth annual march draws record crowd in Charlotte

SUEANN HOWELL
SPECIAL TO THE
CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

CHARLOTTE — The bright sunshine was in direct contrast to the dark truth of abortion that was brought to light on the streets of Charlotte on Friday, Jan. 15. More than 200 marchers gathered for the fourth annual March for Life Charlotte at the Pastoral Center on South Church Street to give witness to the harmful effects that abortion has on men, women and children.

In Mecklenburg County alone, there are more than 4,400 abortions performed each year according to 2008 statistics. That is roughly 85 abortions

See LIFE, page 9



PHOTO BY SUEANN HOWELL

Men, women and children hold pro-life signs at the corner of Trade and Tryon Streets in uptown during the March for Life in Charlotte Jan. 15.

It takes a village

People from all walks of life stand up for the unborn

SUEANN HOWELL
SPECIAL TO THE
CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

CHARLOTTE — Kenya is a long way from North Carolina. Just ask Berle Oloo and her sister, Sylvia. That is where the former Belmont Abbey College students and current parishioners at St. Michael Church in Gastonia are from originally.

On Friday, Jan. 15, they were among the hundreds of people who participated in the

March for Life Charlotte to show their concern for an issue that affects everyone.

Both were attending the fourth annual pro-life march for the first time.

"We decided to come; we were Catholics back in Africa, so we decided to come to support adoption.... We want to make more awareness to stop abortion," said Berle Oloo.

"I have been thinking that

See MARCH, page 8

Culture Watch

Noted Catholic composer dies; A taste of homelessness; Inspiration from 'Blind Side'

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Around the diocese

Year for Priests: Father Cahill; Seminarian instituted as lector

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Pope visits Rome synagogue; For Pope Benedict, a different shade of green

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In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard



CNS PHOTO BY J.D. LONG-GARCIA, CATHOLIC SUN

U.S. Archbishop Raymond L. Burke, prefect of the Supreme Court of the Apostolic Signature at the Vatican, delivers the homily at the Jan. 12 Red Mass at St. Mary's Basilica in Phoenix. The annual Red Mass, now in its 40th year, marks the opening of the Arizona Legislature.

Archbishop says administering justice built on obedience to God's law

PHOENIX (CNS) — Hundreds of judges, attorneys, lawmakers and public officials crowded into St. Mary's Basilica in Phoenix Jan. 12 to attend the 40th annual Red Mass marking the opening of the Arizona Legislature.

Many in the congregation were drawn by the evening's homilist, U.S. Archbishop Raymond L. Burke, who heads the Vatican's highest tribunal, known as the Supreme Court of the Apostolic Signature.

The Red Mass was first celebrated during the Middle Ages, when the faithful gathered to invoke the inspiration of the Holy Spirit upon those charged with the administration of justice. In those times, Archbishop Burke said, there was a clear understanding of the essential unity of reason and faith.

Obedience to the law of God, written on every human heart, is the "solid rock upon which the administration of justice rests," he said.

The administration of justice in the United States finds itself in a critical situation, he continued. "More and more, we witness the violation of the most fundamental norms of divine natural law in the policies and laws of our nation, and in the judgments given by her courts."

Referring to abortion, embryonic stem-cell research, same-sex marriage and a host of other social issues, he offered an unequivocal defense of the sanctity of human life and marriage.

"Justice founded on obedience to the prompting of the Holy Spirit, first of all, must safeguard and defend the inviolability of innocent human life from the moment of conception to the moment

of natural death, and the integrity of the faithful and indissoluble union of man and woman in marriage through which spouses, in cooperation with God, create and nurture new human life," Archbishop Burke said.

A longtime friend of Phoenix Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted, Archbishop Burke was making his first trip to the Phoenix area from Rome.

Near the end of the Mass, the attorneys present rose to renew their oaths. Led by Justice Michael D. Ryan of the Arizona Supreme Court, many in the crowd stood to repeat in unison their oath of admission to the state bar.

In addition to a number of legislators and other elected officials, Gov. Jan Brewer was at the Mass. Bishop Olmsted singled out the governor for proclaiming Jan. 17 as a day of prayer for the state of Arizona. The bishop also thanked those who helped pass a slew of pro-life bills during the last legislative session.

Maria Salapska, president of the St. Thomas More Society, the organization that sponsored the Red Mass, was pleased with the heavy turnout — an estimated 600.

"We couldn't have expected any better. I felt touched and moved and in the presence of a great man inspired by God," Salapska told The Catholic Sun, newspaper of the Phoenix Diocese.

John Jakubczyk, a local attorney and president of Arizona Life Education Corp., was similarly pleased by the archbishop's homily.

"What is the purpose of law but to protect life and property?" Jakubczyk said.

Federal trial on same-sex marriage initiative opens in San Francisco

Catholic leaders strongly support Proposition 8

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — A challenge in federal court to the constitutionality of the voter-approved 2008 California ballot measure that defined marriage as the union of one man and one woman began Jan. 11 in the San Francisco courtroom of Chief U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker.

At the first federal trial on same-sex marriage and a possible preview of a debate that may eventually reach the U.S. Supreme Court, a lawyer challenging Proposition 8 told Walker that marriage is a basic civil right and the courts must extend it to all couples regardless of sexual orientation.

But Charles Cooper, representing advocates of Proposition 8, said voters approved the measure because they wanted to preserve the institution of marriage — "an institution of overriding cultural and social importance."

Voters approved Proposition 8 in November 2008, overturning a May 2008 state Supreme Court ruling that enlarged the definition of state-sanctioned marriage to include

all couples. Proposition 8 provides that "only marriage between a man and a woman is valid and recognized in California."

The California bishops and Catholic leaders across the country strongly supported Proposition 8, with the bishops saying that the acceptance of same-sex marriages would be a "radical change in public policy" that would "have many profound effects on our society." Such a change "discounts the biological and organic reality of marriage" and "diminishes the word 'marriage' to mean only a 'partnership' — a purely adult contractual arrangement" with no thought given to children, they said.

The Catholic Church teaches that marriage is a permanent union between one man and one woman.

The trial is expected to run at least through Jan. 20, with expert witnesses testifying on such questions as the impact of same-sex marriage on the stability of opposite-sex marriage and whether a married mother and father promote the optimal child-rearing environment.

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — *Samaritan's Feet* is coming to St. Mark! Area 6-12th graders are invited to earn service hours while supporting a great cause. Over 300 million children in the world go without shoes. Samaritan's Feet has a goal of donating 10 million shoes in 10 years and delivering them to those in need. A major retailer has donated 1 million shoes and help is needed to help tie and sort them to be shipped around the world. Sign up to help in the St. Mark Activity Center from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. or 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, January 23. A donation of \$5 to help cover the cost of shipping would be most appreciated. Lunch will be provided at no charge. For more information and to sign up, email the youth ministry team at St. Mark Church at stmarklifeteen@gmail.com by Jan 20.

CHARLOTTE — The members of St. Peter Church Ignatian Spirituality Team invite

you to set aside some time from the pace and concerns of the new year and reflect on your spiritual life and relationship with God. The retreat, *Second Journey — an Ignatian retreat for people 40 and over*, will be held on Saturday, Jan. 23 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The theme for this retreat is "New Life." Parking is free in the Green Parking Garage next to the church on 507 S. Tryon Street. To register, call (704) 332-2901.

CHARLOTTE — St. John Neumann Church is hosting a special event, *Fishers of Men*, for the Year for Priests, Monday, Jan. 25 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Father Patrick Hoare will be joined by a fellow diocesan priest and a Dominican sister to share their stories and personal reflections on their vocation. All ages are invited to honor those who have devoted themselves to a consecrated life and to learn from them how to discern our own vocation in life. For more information, call Sandra St. Clair at (704) 841-7562.

CHARLOTTE — A *St. Peregrine Healing Prayer Service* will be held at St. Matthew Church on Thursday, Jan. 28 at 7:30 p.m. This solemn prayer service will include the blessing with the relic of St. Peregrine for those suffering from cancer or other serious diseases. The church is located at 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. For more information call (704) 543-7677.

CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church will host *four educational seminars for senior citizens* that address legal and end of life issues, plus the latest on Medicare, Medicaid and community services. Each seminar will take place on four

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FROM THE VATICAN

Morality offers solutions without impeding progress, says pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christian moral values do not infringe upon freedom and scientific research; rather they offer honest, concrete answers to biomedical questions facing the world today, Pope Benedict XVI said.

In today's secularized world, many people consider religion to be a series of "prejudices that reject any objective understanding of reality" and that hinder freedom and scientific progress, he said in a speech Jan. 15 to members of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, who were having their plenary meeting at the Vatican.

"The Christian faith instead offers a contribution of truth even in the field of ethical philosophy, without offering prefabricated solutions to concrete problems, like in biomedical research and experimentation, but by proposing reliable moral positions from which human reason can seek and find valid answers," the pope said.

The pope dedicated a significant portion of his address to the importance of the Vatican document "Dignitas

Personae" ("The Dignity of a Person") of 2008, which highlighted how scientific progress should be guided by the concern to defend the sacred nature of human life. The document presented teachings — and in many cases moral prohibitions — in areas such as stem-cell research, human cloning, gene therapy and embryo experimentation.

Pope Benedict said the document is part of the church's contribution to forming the consciences of all people, not just Christians.

The church bases its pronouncements on natural moral law, which is not something exclusive to religious belief, he said.

Natural law is inscribed on the hearts of all people and is fundamental in any reflection on rights and responsibilities in civil society, he said.

Pope Benedict underlined that the proposal "is in no way in opposition to the ecumenical movement, but shows rather, (the church's) ultimate goal of reaching the full and visible communion of the disciples of the Lord."

consecutive Wednesday mornings from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. The seminars will be held on Jan. 27, Feb. 3, 10 and 17 at St. Gabriel Church Ministry Center. For more information, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 335-0253.

CHARLOTTE — *Shining Stars Adult Day Respite Caregiver Support Group* meets the last Monday of every month from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at St. Gabriel Church in Room E of the Ministry Center located at 3016 Providence Rd. Meetings are also held the third Tuesday of each month from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Sardis Presbyterian Church, in Room 105 located at 6100 Sardis Rd. The meetings are free and open to the public. For more information, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 335-0253.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women is having a *covered-dish luncheon* at Saint Paul the Apostle Church on Wednesday, Jan. 27, beginning at 12 Noon. The church is located at 2715 Horse Pen Creek Road at New Garden Road. The speaker will be from the YWCA. Please bring your favorite dish to share. There is no charge for this luncheon. For more information, call Anne Crooks at (336) 855-1402 or e-mail: Grannyamc@triad.rr.com. All Catholic Women and new members are always welcome!

GREENSBORO — The *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians* will meet at 7 p.m. on February 4 in the Kloster Center at St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St. For more information, call Alice Schmidt at (336) 288-0983.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — St. Aloysius Church offers a monthly *Charismatic Mass* on the first Thursday of every month. The Mass is in Spanish every other month. February's Mass will be in Spanish and will take place on February 4 in the Sebastian Chapel at 7 p.m. at 921 Second Street NE. For more information call Joan Moran at (828) 994-0880.

WINSTON SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — Our Lady of Mercy School will be hosting an Open House on Tuesday, Feb. 2 from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. Our Lady of Mercy is SACS accredited and enrollment is available for grades Pre-K to 8 for the 2010/2011 school year. For a student-led tour, or for more information, call (336) 722-7204 or visit our website at www.ourladyofmercyschool.org.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to catholicnews@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

'Don't squander Sunday homily'

ROME (CNS) — Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington encouraged U.S. seminarians in Rome to see the Sunday homily as a privileged moment and urged them not to squander the unique weekly opportunity to reach their parishioners.

"It is from the pulpit that Sunday after Sunday we have an opportunity directly to touch our people in a way that nothing else we do can," Archbishop Wuerl said. "Every priest has hundreds or even thousands of hearers each Sunday. We must not squander this opportunity."

The archbishop cited statistics showing more people in the United States go to church on any one Sunday than all the people attending major sporting events throughout an entire year.

Archbishop Wuerl spoke Jan. 10 during the 2010 Carl J. Peter Lecture at Rome's Pontifical North American College.

The annual lecture seeks to foster preaching skills for seminarians who will return to the United States as parish priests after completing their training

in Rome. The archbishop's talk was part of celebrations for the college's 150th anniversary.

Strengthening communion within the Catholic Church should be one of the primary goals of homilists, the bishop told the seminarians.

Through their studies the future priests should prepare to address the many challenges to church unity and teaching that have arisen in contemporary U.S. society, he said.

There should be a visible unity between all those who preach and teach in the name of the Catholic Church, he said. "This allegiance includes acceptance of the necessary prudential judgments of the bishop required to sustain a unity of faith and practice," he said.

"From the pulpit the priest must proclaim the truth — the complete and unvarnished truth — that is the way to salvation," he said. But a good priest also "meets the members of his flock where they are, to support and walk with them on their pilgrimage to the Father," and in this way helps build up the communion of the Catholic Church, he said.



CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE HILL

Bishop Gerald Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., greets Mohammad Abu Saifan, 3, at his family's house in the West Bank city of Hebron Jan. 13.

The quest for Mideast peace

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Calling for justice for the peoples of the Holy Land, a U.S. bishop joined a group of European bishops in urging political leaders to be courageous in seeking a just peace in the region.

The bishops, including Bishop Gerald Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., said that despite the region's deep wounds,

"love and hope are alive" among the people.

Mandated by the Holy See and organized by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, the Holy Land Coordination meets every January in the Holy Land as a demonstration of solidarity with the resident Christian community.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

January 22 — 11:30 a.m.
Mass for Life

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C.

January 29 — 10:15 a.m.
Catholic Schools Week Mass

Bishop McGuinness High School, Kernersville

New editor named for The Catholic News & Herald

After a search of several months a new editor of The Catholic News & Herald has been named by Bishop Peter Jugis. Patricia Larson, who currently works as the interactive coordinator of The Herald newspaper in Rock Hill, SC, will begin her duties as editor of the diocesan newspaper Feb. 1.

Diocesan director of communication

David Hains noted that the final selection was a difficult choice because several excellent candidates emerged from the screening process.

The Catholic News & Herald will be adjusting its delivery methods in the coming months to include interactive and online technologies such as Facebook, twitter and e-mail with the printed

newspaper that is delivered to more than 56,000 homes throughout the diocese.

Larson replaces Kevin Murray who resigned in August. Interim editor Heather Bellemore chose not to pursue the position. Of her Hains said, "Heather is a hard working innovator whose short tenure has left a positive mark on this publication."

Lector instituted to ministry



PHOTO BY NORTH AMERICAN COLLEGE

Seminarian Jason M. Christian of the Diocese of Charlotte receives the book of Sacred Scriptures at Mass in Rome on Jan. 17. Christian, who resides at the Pontifical North American College in Vatican City while he studies for the priesthood, was among 51 seminarians at the college who became lectors. The Most Rev. Paul S. Loverde, Bishop of the Diocese of Arlington, Va., celebrated the Mass and instituted the new lectors. Handing the book of Sacred Scriptures to each seminarian, he said, "Take this book of holy Scripture and be faithful in handing on the Word of God, so that it may grow strong in the hearts of His people." The institution as lector is one of the ministries seminarians receive as they proceed toward diaconal and priestly ordination.

Teaching the teachers



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Roger Arnsparger, diocesan vicar for education, directs a training session for formation leaders, youth ministers, principals, campus ministers and religion department heads at the Catholic Conference Center near Hickory on Jan. 14. The theme for the training was "Catechizing for Life in Christ: Content and Method."

Year for Priests

Interviews with priests around the diocese



FATHER PATRICK CAHILL

FATHER PATRICK CAHILL
Parochial Vicar, St. Gabriel
Charlotte

Place of Birth & Home Parish – Born in Ohio, grew up in NC, St. James Church, Concord

High School – Charlotte Catholic High School, Charlotte, NC

College/University – Belmont Abbey College, Catholic University

Seminary – St. Charles Borromeo
Date of Ordination – June 2, 2007

What assignments have you had since ordination?

I spent two wonderful years as parochial vicar at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte (2007-09); currently parochial vicar at St. Gabriel Church. I am also a chaplain to the Charlotte Police Department.

What have been some of the greatest joys for you as a priest?

I love being a role model for our youth. I think being a priest should be something that people see as a legitimate and honorable thing to do. It was also pretty cool to offer the invocation at the "Oath of Office" ceremony for our new mayor, Anthony Foxx, and the Charlotte City Council.

Who influenced you most to consider the vocation to priesthood?

Father John Allen when he was vocations director for the diocese.

What was your background before you entered seminary?

I was a college student.

What would people be surprised to know about you?

I am a huge LeBron James fan. I have a picture of him in my office. The Bobcats are my team, but I pretty much always like to see LeBron succeed. I think I'd be in heaven if Michael Jordan brought him to Charlotte.

What are some of your hobbies?

Sports and spending time with my family.

What are some of your favorite books/spiritual reading/magazines?

You can't go wrong with the Bible! I also enjoy reading the New York Times when I get the chance.

Who is a hero to you?

My dad. He is always there for us, no matter what.

What are some ways that we can help all people/families understand their role in promoting and supporting vocations?

I think that being Catholic is a very cultural experience. When going to church is a part of the way you are raised, you know it is important – I think especially if both parents go. When someone expresses an interest in religious life, by all means, encourage them to pursue it!

What advice would you give a young man who is contemplating a vocation to the priesthood?

Call me at St. Gabriel's! I'd love to share what a joyful and humbling thing it is to be a priest. Being a priest is a privilege and, if God calls you to that vocation, it is a precious gift.



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National Vocation Awareness Week

Students at Our Lady of Grace School celebrated National Vocation Awareness Week January 10 to 15. The highlight of the week was a school Mass on Wednesday, January 13.

Bishop Peter Jugis con-celebrated the Mass with Our Lady of Grace pastor, Father Fidel Melo, and parochial vicar, Father James Stuhrenburg. Also attending were representatives of religious life including a brother from Belmont Abbey and several sisters from religious communities in Greensboro and High Point.

Following the Mass the guests attended a luncheon in the school library, hosted by the members of the school board's Mission Effectiveness Committee that organized the day's activities.

After lunch the bishop and special guests visited the children in their classrooms, discussed vocations and answered the students' questions. Currently 17 men are in seminaries preparing for priestly ministry in the Diocese of Charlotte.



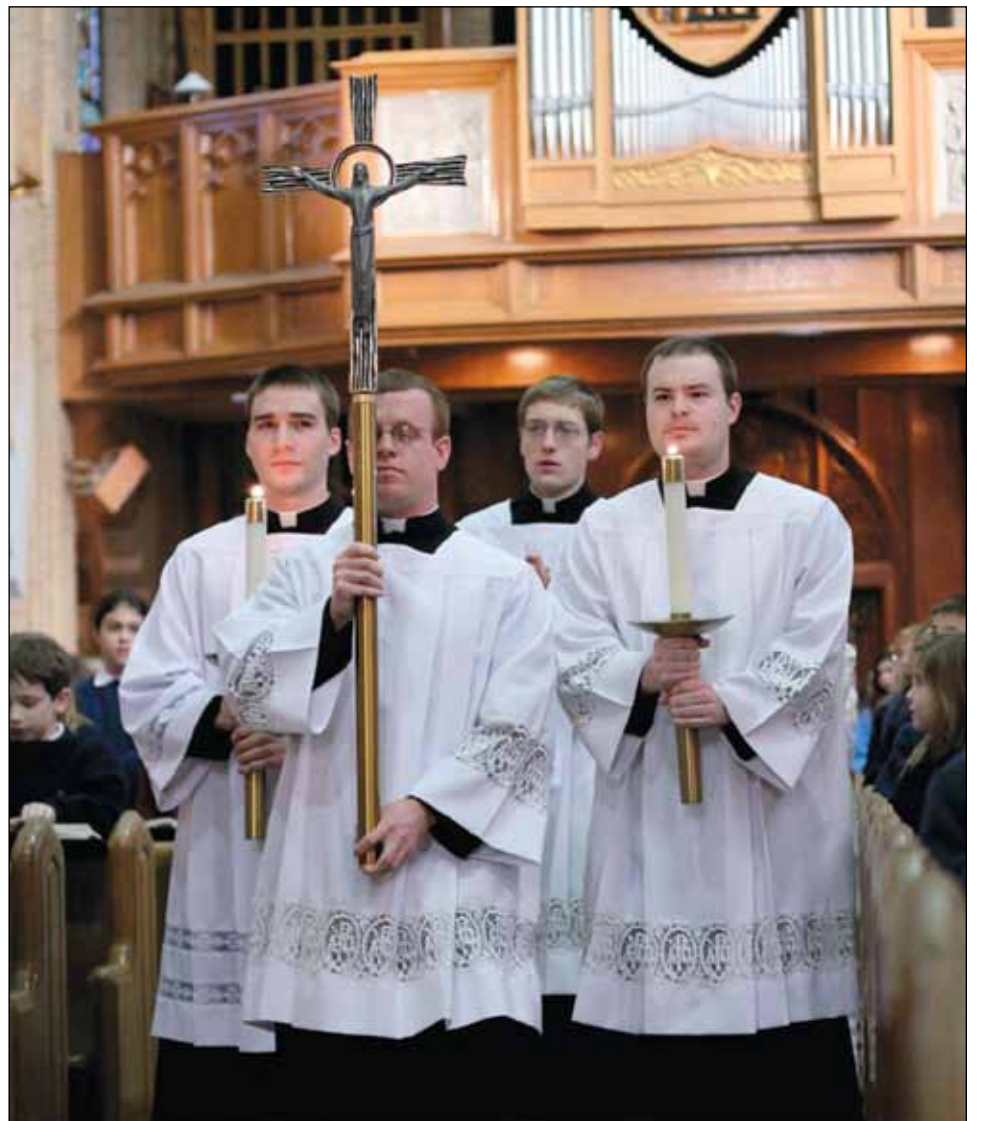
COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Peter Jugis visits Mrs. Brumbeloe's third-grade class at Our Lady of Grace School in Winston-Salem Jan. 13. After celebrating a morning Mass, the bishop, priests of the diocese, seminarians, brothers and sisters all visited with students to talk about vocations and their calling by God to ministry in the church. Looking on are Father James Stuhrenburg, left, parochial vicar of Our Lady of Grace and Father Christopher Gober, diocesan director of vocations.



COURTESY PHOTO

Fifth-grader Michael Sandy proudly stands with his cousin, seminarian Wendell Sawyer, at Our Lady of Grace School in Winston-Salem Jan. 13. Sawyer is studying for the priesthood at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia. He and other seminarians have been adopted by classes at Our Lady of Grace. The students and the seminarians correspond frequently.



COURTESY PHOTO

Seminarians lead the way at the beginning of a special Mass to celebrate National Vocation Awareness Week at Our Lady of Grace Church in Winston-Salem Jan. 13. Pictured from left are Santiago Mariani, Casey Coleman, Wendell Sawyer and David McCanless. All four men are studying for the priesthood at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia. The seminarians are featured in the Diocesan Support Appeal video that will be shown throughout the diocese over the weekend of Feb. 6 and 7.



It is the Lord!

Southeast Regional Divine Mercy Conference

St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church
591 Flint River Rd., Jonesboro, GA 30238
Monday (Presidents' Day), February 15th
9am to 6pm

A full day of intense learning and resources for clergy and lay leaders, but open to everyone. This is a unique opportunity to receive the latest information, resources, and strategies on how to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday.

If you want to be energized, then don't miss this one-of-a-kind conference, which is open to all, but especially designed for clergy and lay leaders.

\$50 attendance fee* must be paid in advance and includes light breakfast, snacks, lunch and a chance to win a life-sized framed Divine Mercy image. DEADLINE: February 12th cut off date (*Priests attend free in honor of their vocation in the Year for Priests)

Great hotel accommodations are available at low cost.

This will be a most informative conference that will set your parish on fire for souls!

Featured speakers -



Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC



Fr. Pablo Straub, CSsR

Register now at:

www.MercySunday.com
or 1-888-732-0722



CNS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SHERMITS

Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York consoles Estelle Dubuissou after celebrating Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York Jan. 17. Dubuissou is the president of a New York-based nonprofit organization that provides outreach to the children of Lascahobas, Haiti.

Archbishop Dolan urges relief for Haiti

HAITI, from page 1

CRS said it was able to distribute food and water from "pre-positioned supplies" in warehouses in Port-au-Prince, the Haitian capital, and the city of Les Cayes. Additional aid was on its way from the agency's supplies in the neighboring Dominican Republic.

Archbishop Dolan likened Haiti to the image of Christ depicted in Michelangelo's "Pieta," which he visited after he heard about the earthquake during a trip to Rome.

"I saw the dying, bleeding, bruised body of Jesus in the arms of his mother," he said, "and thought 'that body of Jesus is Haiti: bleeding and dying and scourged ...' and we in the world have to embrace that body too because they're part of the body of Christ."

Archbishop Dolan urged the reporters to continue their news coverage of the disaster. He said, "I think sometimes we

in the U.S. suffer from attention deficit disorder, so once the headlines die down, the temptation will be to forget Haiti and we can't do that."

During Mass in the cathedral, which was dedicated to the pro-life cause, the archbishop recounted one of many touching stories he heard about the faith of Haitians after the Jan. 12 earthquake.

The rector of a seminary returned to Port-au-Prince after the earthquake to find the seminary in shambles and the students trapped in the rubble. Archbishop Dolan said the rector heard the seminarians crying for help and tried unsuccessfully to dig through the debris.

Archbishop Dolan said as it became clear that the seminarians would not get out alive, the dying men began to pray the rosary, "calling on the intercession of Mary."

The archbishop offered prayers "in solidarity and support with the nearly desperate people of Haiti" and asked worshippers to "unite with them in mourning the many dead, tending the wounded and recovering hope."

Late Haitian archbishop portrayed as humble man

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Haitian Archbishop Joseph Serge Miot was known as a humble man who was close to the poor in the Archdiocese of Port-au-Prince.

Archbishop Miot, 63, was among hundreds of thousands of Haitians who died in the Jan. 12 earthquake.

For years he served as president of the Haitian bishops' justice and peace commission, and he often spoke of the need to help the citizens of the Western Hemisphere's most-impooverished nation.

In a Jan. 14 e-mail to Catholic News Service, Archbishop Bernardito Auza, papal nuncio to Haiti, said the archbishop "was hurled from the balcony outside his room ... (from) the force of the earthquake ... and he died, it seems, from the impact."

Haitian Holy Cross Father Rodolphe Arty, associate pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Naperville, Ill., described Archbishop Miot as "humble" and "very close to poor people in Port-au-Prince."

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March 19-20, 2010

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"Faith & Sports"

Fr. Dwight Longenecker

Author and Convert from the Anglican Priesthood
"Priesthood - Promise and Providence"

John Martignoni

Apologist and Founder of the Bible Christian Society
"Living the Word of God to Bring Justice and Peace"

Dr. John Bergsma

Associate Professor of Theology at the Franciscan University of Steubenville
"My Journey to the Catholic Church"

Dr. Greg and Lisa Popcak

Catholic Psychotherapist and Co-authors of *Parenting with Grace*
"Marriage: For Better... Forever!"

FREE Friday evening workshop!
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Full Program Saturday including Lunch! 8:30am-6:30pm
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Adults \$35, Students \$20, Groups of 5 or more \$25



Vigil Mass celebrated by
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THE CATHOLIC NEWS HERALD



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Pope Benedict XVI shakes hands with Rabbi Riccardo Di Segni, the chief rabbi of Rome, at the main synagogue in Rome Jan. 17.

Pope visits Rome synagogue

Honors memory of Holocaust victims

ROME (CNS) — Laying a wreath at a memorial to Roman Jews rounded up by the Nazis in 1943 and joining in a standing ovation to a dwindling group of Holocaust survivors, Pope Benedict XVI broke the ice with Rome's Jewish community even before he began to speak.

The pope made his first visit to Rome's main synagogue Jan. 17, strongly affirming the Catholic Church's commitment to improving Catholic-Jewish relations, its respect and appreciation for Jewish faith, its condemnation of anti-Semitism and his own hope that Catholics and Jews can work together to bring biblical values back to society.

In his speech, Pope Benedict said that "the closeness and spiritual fraternity" of Catholics and Jews flows from sharing the Hebrew Scriptures or Old Testament.

"It is in pondering her own mystery that the church, the People of God of the New Covenant, discovers her own profound bond with the Jews, who were chosen by the Lord before all others to receive his word," he said.

Pope Benedict said the Ten

Commandments are central to the values that Christians and Jews share with each other and must share with an increasingly secularized world.

Acknowledging one God as the creator of the universe, calling for respect for human life and upholding the dignity of the traditional family, the Ten Commandments are "a beacon and a norm of life in justice and love, a 'great ethical code' for all humanity," he said.

The pope told his audience that while Christians and Jews pray to the same God, "they often remain unknown to each other. It is our duty, in response to God's call, to strive to keep open the space for dialogue, for reciprocal respect, for growth in friendship, for a common witness in the face of the challenges of our time, which invite us to cooperate for the good of humanity in this world created by God."

After the pope's visit, Rabbi Di Segni told reporters, "I think the speech calmed the atmosphere," which was tense after Pope Benedict advanced the cause of Pope Pius. "My first reaction is decisively positive," the rabbi said.

For Pope Benedict, a different shade of green

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Over the last few months, Pope Benedict XVI has opened a wider dialogue on the subject of environmental protection, and in the process put a sharper focus on an issue that's become central to his pontificate.

It's increasingly clear that the "green" label slapped onto Pope Benedict after he installed solar panels at the Vatican and joined a reforestation project in Europe was not the whole story. Now the pope is defining which shade of green — in moral arguments that are not always popular.

The pope began weighing in on environmental themes in 2006. His strong defense of the Amazon's fragile ecology, his appeals for safe water and his warnings on pollution's burden on the poor all received general acclamation.

When he approved the installation of solar panels on several Vatican buildings and funded tree-planting in Hungary, the Vatican drew praise for trying to become the world's first carbon-neutral state.

But lately, the pope's words on ecology have raised eyebrows and even some objections.

In a speech Jan. 11 to the diplomatic corps accredited to the Vatican, the pope extended the discussion of "human ecology" to same-sex marriage.

"Creatures differ from one another and can be protected, or endangered, in different ways, as we know from daily experience. One such attack comes from laws or proposals which, in the name of fighting discrimination, strike at the biological basis of the difference between the sexes," he said.

That prompted protests from homosexual activists, including the head of an Italian gay organization, who said the pope's linkage of gay marriage and ecological irresponsibility was "almost comical."

Pope Benedict, however, was not trying to score a cheap political point. His argument touched on what might be called the leitmotif of his pontificate: that man is not God, and that man's actions should correspond to God's plan — or, as he phrased it to the diplomats, to "the structure willed by the Creator."

This is a long-held opinion of the German pontiff. In 2004, in a major Vatican doctrinal document on the relationship of men and women, then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger said the "obscuring of the difference or duality of the sexes" was part of a misguided effort to free the human being from biological conditioning.

Addressing the diplomats, the pope

said he was thinking of legislative initiatives in countries in Europe, North America and South America. Three days earlier, the Parliament in heavily Catholic Portugal was the latest to pass a law that would legalize same-sex marriage.

In the same speech, the pope underlined that protecting the environment makes no sense unless it begins with protecting human life, including the life of the unborn. Here, too, the pope was emphasizing that the church's "green" philosophy always puts the human being at the center, precisely because humans are made in God's image.

Critics might argue that the pope was hijacking environmental issues to push the church's agenda on the usual topics of abortion and homosexuality. But in fact, the pope's analysis of morality and ecology went in several other directions, too, challenging conventional policies.

One of his strongest points to the audience of diplomats — and one that received relatively little coverage in mainstream media — was that the protection of creation demands a re-allocation of resources away from military spending and the development of nuclear weapons.

It echoed an appeal he made for disarmament in his World Peace Day message Jan. 1, which was dedicated to the environment. In that text, the pope said the continued existence of nuclear weapons "threatens the life of the planet and the ongoing integral development of the present generation and of generations yet to come."

Likewise, the pope probed the link between war and ecological damage. He noted that many current conflicts around the world arose from a struggle for natural resources, and in turn inflict immense harm on the environment.

He looked at the connection between environmental destruction and migration, and pointed to the drug trade in places like Afghanistan, where agriculture is largely dedicated to the production of narcotics. "If we want peace, we need to preserve creation by rechanneling these activities," he said.

He sees the ecological crisis as part of a wider moral crisis, and the common denominator is what he calls a "self-centered and materialistic way of thinking which fails to acknowledge the limitations inherent in every creature."

With that as a starting point, the pope's continuing catechesis of ecology is likely to keep grabbing attention and ruffling feathers in coming months.

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FROM THE COVER



PHOTO BY SUEANN HOWELL

March for Life Charlotte participants gather in The Square at the corner of Trade and Tryon Streets Jan. 15 to listen to speakers from Silent No More, a group for post-abortive women who regret their abortions.



PHOTO BY SUEANN HOWELL

Brothers from the Missionaries of the Poor, who are part of the first international mission established in the United States and are located in Monroe, NC, pray the rosary during the March for Life Charlotte in front of the Federal Courthouse on W. Trade Street.

Standing up for the unborn

MARCH, from page 1

adoption is a better option. I don't understand why anyone would choose to have an abortion," said Sylvia Oloo.

Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena, originally from the Philippines and now at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte, were among the marchers as well.

The Missionaries of the Poor, an order of religious brothers who now help the poor in Monroe, NC and have missions around the world, also participated.

Some members of the St. John Neumann Church youth group in Charlotte, five of whom are adopted, marched holding signs encouraging adoption.

Senior citizens, some with walkers, came to the march to make their voices heard.

"I wish we didn't have to be here. If we were doing what we should have been doing 37 years ago, we wouldn't have to be here today," said Mary Pat Arostegui, parishioner at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte and long-time coordinator of Teams of Our Lady, a national Catholic faith-building organization for couples.

"I hope that young people who are not necessarily pro-life will take a second look at the issue... take a look at some of the pictures of the born babies... and say to themselves, 'maybe there is a reason that we should wait,'" continued Arostegui.

Families with small children marched with strollers, carrying signs illustrating the development of babies in the mother's womb. "This is our fourth

year attending the march," said Beth Ohlhut, parishioner at St. Ann Church in Charlotte and mother of eight. Ohlhut's three eldest children will be attending the Washington, D.C. March for Life on Jan. 22 with their grandparents, Allen and Gini Bond, long-time pro-life activists and parishioners at St. Mark Church in Huntersville.

Friday, Jan. 22 marks the 37th anniversary of the Roe versus Wade decision by the United States Supreme Court that legalized abortion of tens of millions of unborn Americans. The Catholic Church defends all life from conception to natural death.

Bishop Peter Jugis, will celebrate Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. at 11:30 a.m. with Bishop Michael Burbidge of the Diocese of Raleigh prior to the National March for Life on Friday, Jan 22. All are invited to attend.



PHOTOS BY SUEANN HOWELL

(From left) Marchers gather under the statue of a woman holding a child at the corner of Trade and Tryon Streets in uptown; (top) Bishop Peter Jugis leads the rosary in front of the Federal Courthouse in Charlotte; (bottom) a father and son show their support of life during the March for Life Charlotte Jan. 15.

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PHOTO BY SUEANN HOWELL

Andrea Hines, regional coordinator of Silent No More — a group for post-abortive women — addresses March for Life Charlotte participants at The Square Jan 15.

March draws record crowd

LIFE, from page 1

per week. There are seven designated abortion facilities in Charlotte. Pro-life advocates pray regularly in front of two of those facilities in central Charlotte.

The Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis, bishop of Charlotte, helped lead the procession which began at 12 noon. The route took marchers along S. Tryon Street, past St. Peter Church to the center of Uptown — The Square — at the corner of Trade and Tryon Streets.

“We are participating in the March for Life Charlotte and the prayer vigil at the U.S. Courthouse to urge that our laws protect the right to life of the child in the womb. We are working for a more just and compassionate society — a society

that recognizes the right to life of the child in the womb,” said Bishop Jugis.

Once at The Square, clergy, laypersons and children offered prayers, testimony and songs to call attention to the truth of abortion and the mercy of God.

Father Mark Lawlor, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte, led the opening prayer at the Pastoral Center and gave witness at The Square saying, “There are so many people in the whole country or in our culture who are kind of on the fence or not really interested (in pro-life causes), so I think that a prayerful, positive witness will cause people to take a good look and to really think about some things that are on the books and the law of the land that are unjust against the little ones.”

Women who regret their abortions gave public witness to the harmful effects it had on them and can have on women.

Andrea Hines, regional coordinator of the group Silent No More, a group for post-abortive women said, “We have to be out on the streets. It’s the only way the pro-life message gets out there. We have to be creative....The march covers all aspects of life, from families bringing their kids to post-abortive women.... People need to understand that there are consequences to every choice. We (Silent No More activists) talk about the aftermath of the choices we made (to have abortions).”

After the talks and a Marian song performed in Latin by area Catholic home schoolers, the march then proceeded from The Square at Trade and Tryon streets to the Federal Courthouse at 401 West Trade Street. There, Bishop Jugis, flanked by the Knights of Columbus, led those gathered in praying the sorrowful mysteries of the rosary for an end to abortion in our country.

The rosary was followed by The Divine Mercy Chaplet, led by Tom and Heather Martin, parishioners at St. Mark Church in Huntersville.

Tina Witt, organizer of Charlotte’s fourth annual March for Life credits the large number of participants to “a lot of prayer, people on the ground working hard months beforehand, tremendous support from the diocese and Bishop Jugis, parishes participating directly with donations for ads and two digital billboards, an ad in the local Charlotte paper, and ads in The Catholic News & Herald.”

What does Witt hope the fourth annual March for Life Charlotte will accomplish?

“We hope we will wake up a lot of people with a total witness of holy example and peacefully praying and evangelizing, too,” continued Witt. “This is something done throughout the ages by great saints who would protest the injustices. We hope to be a visible witness to those just driving by...even if they saw one sign...that that will be a seed for them to meditate on what is the reality of abortion.”

Bishop Jugis added that “The church will continue to bring this issue before the conscience of our country, and will continue to ask the question: When are we going to correct the grave injustice of abortion?”

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Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF BENEDICTINE ABBEY OF ST. PAUL OUTSIDE THE WALLS

The "Codex Pauli," a book with specially designed type and ancient illustrations, celebrates the life of St. Paul. The limited-edition book contains 13 New Testament letters written by St. Paul as well as commentaries by several current Christian leaders.

New limited-edition volume pays tribute to St. Paul

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A new book — the "Codex Pauli" — to be presented to Pope Benedict XVI celebrates the life of St. Paul and his impact on Christianity in a volume that compiles ancient illustrations, specially designed type and contributions from an international group of Christian leaders.

The first copy of the limited run of 998 printed will be presented to the pope Jan. 25 during his visit to the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls. Monks of the Benedictine Abbey of St. Paul Outside the Walls, who edited the volume, will give it to the pope as a reminder of the special year he dedicated to St. Paul in 2008-2009.

The book includes original commentaries contributed by several important Christian leaders, including: Ecumenical Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople; Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill of Moscow; Melkite Patriarch Gregoire III Laham of Damascus, Syria; Anglican Archbishop Rowan Williams of Canterbury, England; and retired Lutheran Bishop Eduard Lohse, a New Testament scholar

and former presiding bishop of the Evangelical Church in Germany.

Abbot Edmund Power, head of the Benedictine community at St. Paul Outside the Walls, said the book also includes the 13 New Testament letters written by St. Paul and the texts in Italian and Greek of the Acts of the Apostles and the Letter to Hebrews, as well as several apocryphal texts from the first century that refer to Paul, his preaching and his martyrdom.

The 424-page "Codex Pauli" was printed using an original font, which has been named "Paulus 2008" and reflects the handwriting used in the 9th-century Carolingian Bible, preserved at the basilica.

Abbot Power said, "This is not only a work of scholarship, but a work of art. It's a unique work, using modern techniques, but all the illustrations are taken from codices kept by the library and archives at the Abbey of St. Paul Outside the Walls."

"So it's a very beautiful book. It's a tribute to Paul and his writings, but also a tribute to a monastic tradition and Christian art," he said.

Noel Goemanne, noted church musician and composer, dies at age 83

DALLAS (CNS)—Noel Goemanne, a noted Catholic church musician and composer of many pieces of music and Masses performed by choirs and organists throughout the world, died Jan. 12 in Dallas from complications of colon cancer. He was 83.

A native of Belgium, Goemanne had lived in Dallas since 1972. He had directed the choir at Christ the King Church until this past summer.

A funeral Mass for him was celebrated Jan. 16 at Christ the King.

He is credited with creating more than 200 sacred compositions and about 15 Masses. He received the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross from Pope Paul VI in 1977. He composed the processional for Pope John Paul II's visit to San Antonio during his 1987 multicity tour in the United States.

According to a Jan. 15 obituary in the Dallas Morning News, Goemanne was always an outspoken advocate of the importance of music, even as a youth. During World War II he was arrested for publicly playing the music of the Jewish composer Felix Mendelssohn during the Nazi occupation of Belgium, the paper said.

In 1952, he and his wife, Janine, came to the United States and settled in Victoria, Texas, where he was church organist at St. Mary's Church.

In response to the liturgical changes in the church brought about by the Second Vatican Council, he was quick to adapt his music, composing the first English Masses in the spirit of the council. During that same period he traveled to college campuses, giving workshops on sacred music. He established the sacred music program at St. Joseph College in Rensselaer, Ind.

Goemanne held organist and

choirmaster positions at St. Rita Parish in Detroit and Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Parish in Beverly Hills, Mich. He also held those positions in Dallas, first at St. Monica's Parish and Holy Trinity Seminary, then at Christ the King.

At the suggestion of a choir member, he arranged a version of Johann Pachelbel's "Canon in D" for singers; up to then the composition had been arranged for every instrument but voice. His arrangement was used in several scenes in the 1980 Oscar-winning movie "Ordinary People."

Among his many honors were numerous awards from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers; an award from the Institute of Sacred Music in Manila, Philippines (1974); and honorary doctorates from St. Joseph College in Rensselaer (1980) and Madonna University in Livonia, Mich. (1999).

Born Dec. 10, 1926, in Poperinge, Belgium, Goemanne was a graduate of the Lemmens Institute of Belgium. Some of his most popular choral works include "I Have Touched the Face Of God," "Jubilate Deo," "Joyfully We Sing Your Praise," and "Lead Us Safely Home."

Goemanne was a member of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, the American Guild of Organists, the American Choral Directors Association and the National Association of Pastoral Musicians. He is mentioned in the International Who's Who in Music, "Organ Preludes" by Jean Slater Edson, "The History of Catholic Church Music" by Karl Gustav Fellerer, and Vlaanderen, a publication on art and culture in the Netherlands.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a daughter, a son and three grandchildren.

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CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROS.

Quinton Aaron as Michael Oher and Tim McGraw as Sean Tuohy star in a scene from the movie "The Blind Side." Tuohy, who with his wife adopted Oher, said his actions were influenced by his own father.

Inspiration from 'Blind Side'

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — No one loved a good story better than Ed "Skeets" Tuohy, the legendary basketball coach of Isidore Newman School in New Orleans. Skeets was a lanky kid who was recruited out of St. Philip High School in Chicago to play basketball for Loyola University New Orleans in the 1950s.

Although he went on to a Louisiana Hall of Fame high school coaching career before his life was cut far too short at age 49 by a major stroke, Skeets was more a student of the game than a practitioner.

He considered the hours he spent riding the bench at Loyola an investment in the future and he grew to know the game inside and out, and more importantly, he knew how to coax the best out of kids. He understood human nature, probably because he had tried just about every trick in the book as a player.

The box-office smash "The Blind Side" is the story of Skeets' adoptive grandson. Based on the story of a real person, it has become the No. 2-grossing film in the history of the movie industry.

The success of the movie is "second behind 'The Passion of the Christ,'" Sean said in amazement. "The screenwriter told me, 'Sean, I know how competitive you are, but I don't think you'd mind

taking No. 2 to Christ. No matter how close we get, Christ figures out a way to keep packing the stadium.'"

Skeets' son Sean — who went on to become the all-time assists leader in the Southeastern Conference during a stellar career at Ole Miss — and daughter-in-law Leigh Anne took in and then adopted a homeless black teenager from the other side of the tracks in north Memphis, Tenn.

They nurtured and tutored their adoptive son, Michael Oher, within an inch of his 6-foot-4, 308-pound frame so that he could keep up academically at a college-prep school. Through endless hours of study and dedication, Oher not only survived, he thrived. In 2009 he became a first-round draft pick of the Baltimore Ravens. He is now a millionaire left tackle protecting the "blind side" of quarterback Joe Flacco.

In an interview with the Clarion Herald, newspaper of the New Orleans Archdiocese, Sean said his father would have been a "proud Irishman" to see the good that has been accomplished by and through Oher.

"Dad didn't want to solve the world's crisis," Sean said. "He just wanted to help a kid. He wasn't a grand thinker. He was a grand doer."

A taste of homelessness

Texas Catholic college students get first-hand experience and raise awareness

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (CNS) — It's been said that a good way to get to know someone is to walk a mile in his shoes.

With that in mind, several students from the Catholic campus ministry program of the University of Texas at Brownsville/Texas Southmost College spent a day much like a homeless person might by escaping the elements in cardboard boxes and asking strangers for money.

The students camped out on campus grounds and approached passers-by for donations. They received mixed reactions from the people walking by but said the overall responses were negative.

"A lot of people laughed at us and others walked by like they didn't care," said Carlos Ventura, 21, a Brownsville resident.

"People just passed by and ignored us, some people were rude but most people just walked by and said, 'No thank you,'" said 20-year-old student Lupita Capistran. "We felt rejected."

When it began to rain heavily, the students refused to leave their cardboard-box camp, pointing out that the homeless often have to endure adverse weather conditions.

"My feet are soaked," said 24-year-old student Misael Martinez. "It's not a very pleasant feeling and the homeless feel this way every time it rains."

The students intended to spend a full 24 hours camping out but were unable to get clearance to do so from campus officials.

Although the day was full of glitches, there were many positives.

Some passers-by were impressed and asked a lot of questions. Some people showed compassion and donated money. The students raised a total of \$190.98.

A proposal was sent to the student government requesting it match the funds raised. The Knights of Columbus donated another \$100 to the cause.

The money was used to purchase food for the homeless of Brownsville. "Bags of hope" containing food, letters of encouragement and prayer cards were handed out at a local park where many homeless people sleep at night.

The student exercise, held in late December, was part of an ongoing social justice project. Throughout the semester the students have conducted research on homelessness and poverty.

Hilda Escandon, who leads the campus ministry program at University of Texas at Brownsville/Texas Southmost College, described the homeless experience as "humbling."

"Most of the people that walked by wouldn't even make eye contact with us," she told The Valley Catholic, newspaper of the Brownsville Diocese.

For Escandon, the goal of the project was to raise awareness among students and the community about the issues that affect people every day.

Even though the students endured poor weather conditions, they said feeling homeless was even harder to take.

"As time passed, we felt our spirits sinking," Martinez said.

"We put ourselves in their shoes and we got a little taste of what their lives are like," Capistran said. "I can't imagine feeling like that every day."



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF THE VALLEY CATHOLIC

Misael Martinez, a student from the University of Texas at Brownsville/Texas Southmost College, and Sister Sharon Horace, a Daughter of Charity, take refuge in cardboard boxes to escape a rainy day in late November as part of a social justice project about homelessness.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Eighth-grader Emma Myers at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro holds a bag of cookies from a student-sponsored bake sale. The students have been holding the monthly bake sales throughout the school year to raise funds for charities. The class voted to send all of the proceeds from the first semester to the survivors of the earthquake in Haiti. The contribution was over \$500. Selling the goodies are Emma's classmates Kable Young, center, and Jonathan Buechner.

How to spell success



COURTESY PHOTO

Spelling bee winner Alex Pinder, right, poses with teacher Helen Rasmussen and runner-up Elizabeth Ampolini at St. Leo School in Winston-Salem Jan. 15. Fourth- and fifth-graders participated in the contest at the school. Alex will represent the school in a district spelling bee in February and he will also receive a certificate of recognition at the end of the school year. Alex's winning word was a-l-t-i-t-u-d-e.

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Helping the homeless



COURTESY PHOTO

Students from Our Lady of Grace School drop off donated goods at the Urban Ministries of Greensboro. The students were concerned about the impact the recent freezing temperatures had on the homeless in Greensboro. A request went out to the school and church community for blankets, towels, hats, scarves, gloves and toiletries. Over 2,000 items came into the school within a week. Pictured are students Will Murray, Patrick Murray, Andrew Horne, Victoria Edwards, Caleb Carmichael and Zachary Palenchar.

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Service with a smile



COURTESY PHOTO

St. Matthew Church Junior Girl Scout Troop 7501 makes a delivery to Room At The Inn of Charlotte Dec. 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. For their Bronze Award community service project, the scouts organized a 6-week collection of baby toiletries, diapers, wipes, formula, clothes and equipment at St. Matthew School. Families dropped off items in a bassinet in the school lobby and brought items to a family movie night. Pictured are troop members Erin Becker, April Burg, Lindsay Cramer, Sofia Escobal, Megan Fiato, Morgan Fiato, Natalie Fischer, Caroline Gorman, Katharine Johnson, and Erin McCullagh. The troop is led by Nannette Gorman and Jackie Johnson.

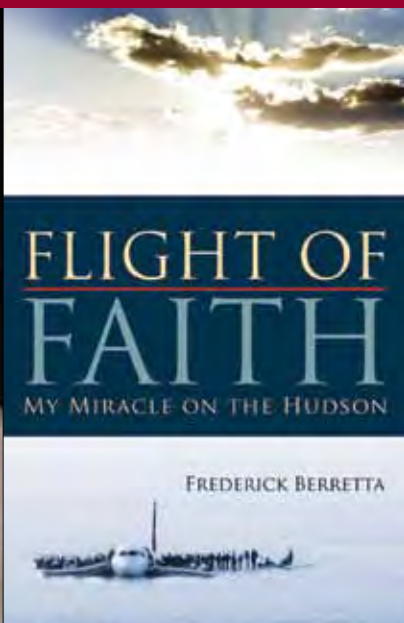
Where is the free space?



COURTESY PHOTO

Three-year-old pre-schoolers play bingo with some slightly older ladies at St. Leo The Great Church in Winston-Salem Jan. 19. The ladies are members of the Gold Club that meets monthly in the parish center. The group is playing Alphabet Bingo which helps youngsters learn their ABCs. Unlike the regular bingo game, Alphabet Bingo does not contain a free space on the center of the playing card.

“MIRACLE ON THE HUDSON” PASSENGER TO RECOUNT LIFE-CHANGING JOURNEY JANUARY 29 AT BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE



When U.S. Airways Flight 1549 struck a flock of geese and lost both engines minutes after takeoff from LaGuardia Airport on the afternoon of January 15, 2009, Frederick Berretta, an amateur pilot himself, knew before most of his fellow passengers that something was seriously wrong.

As the roar of the jets quieted and the aircraft ceased to climb, the pilot, Captain Chesley Sully Sullenberger, guided the powerless plane towards a desperate crash landing in the Hudson River and announced, “Brace for impact.”

Berretta fingered the prayer book in his pocket and tried to prepare himself for death. He felt a “nudge” on his conscience; a keen realization that he had to do something. But what?

Come hear Frederick Berretta recount his life-changing journey in a talk entitled “Flight of Faith: My Miracle on the Hudson,” on Friday, January 29 at 8:00 p.m. in the Abbey Basilica on the campus of Belmont Abbey College.

Mr. Berretta’s talk is the second event of 2010 sponsored by the Bradley Institute for the Study of Christian Culture, and admission is free to the public. Seating capacity is limited to 225, so to reserve your seat, please visit <http://alumni.belmontabbeycollege.edu/MiracleOnTheHudson>.

Mr. Berretta will be signing copies of his new book, *Flight of Faith: My Miracle on the Hudson*, at a wine and cheese reception after the talk. The reception is co-sponsored by Saint Benedict Press, publisher of *Flight of Faith*, and the Catholic Shoppe at Belmont Abbey College, and all are cordially invited.

BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE

100 Belmont-Mount Holly Road (Exit 26, I-85); www.BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu



Artist: Rex Babin

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Discovering God's call

One of the major tasks of young adults is to discover God's call. It is a process we all go through in one way or another.

Each of us has a unique call — one only we can answer. Discovering our call isn't as easy as picking up the phone or texting a message to God or our pastor. It takes hard work to find out how God wants us to live our lives. We must take time for prayer and reflection that includes serious discernment.

When I was a campus and young adult minister, and also in my ministry as vocation director for the Sisters of the Holy Cross, I was often asked the question of how a person knows God's will and plan for his or her life. There are no easy answers, but there are some things that can help us discover how God wants us to live our Christian lives.

First and foremost, it is important to remember that God calls everyone. Each of us has a vocation. We received our most important call at baptism. In that primary sacrament of our faith, we became members of Christ's body, the church, and were called to help bring about the reign of God in this world. It is not just a role reserved for religious brothers and sisters or ordained ministers. Through baptism each Christian shares in the priesthood of Jesus Christ and in his mission to reveal God's love to the world. The challenge is to discern, or to figure out, how God wants us to carry out this mission with the gifts we have received, and what is the way of life to help us do this best.

The majority of Christians live God's call through the sacrament of marriage. Others are called by God to live the single, ordained or consecrated life as a religious brother or sister. Most people discover their call by listening to the deepest desire of their hearts. For instance, some have a deep longing to share their lives with one special person and to raise a family. Others have a passion to give their entire lives to the Lord through prayer, community and service to the people of God. Then there are those who are conflicted between the two. They feel a pull between marriage and a church vocation.

It is important to be aware of the many ways God reveals his call to us. One essential way is through prayer, taking quality time to actively listen to God and by seriously taking into account what others say to us about our lives. For example, maybe several people have asked you if you have ever thought of considering priesthood or religious life, or observed that you would make a wonderful mother or father. Very often those comments are planting seeds and should give us pause to reflect on what we hear.

When I was in high school one of my teachers — a sister — asked me what my plans were after graduation.

Guest Column

SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS
GUEST COLUMNIST

She said she thought I should consider religious life. At first it was a shock but then I began to seriously reflect and pray about that possibility, and here I am many years later. I often have wondered if my life would have been different had I just ignored her.

Most of the time the discernment of God's will is not easy because it is usually a choice between two or more good options. It would be much easier if one were good and the other definitely not for us. For instance, valuing marriage and loving children doesn't automatically count one out of religious life or priesthood. The ministers of God's church must be warm and loving as was Jesus. And many lay people have a deep spirituality and do great service in the church and the world. That doesn't necessarily mean they are called to religious life or priesthood.

There are some things a person can do to make the right choice. A good way to start is to list the pros and cons of each option, pray about them and listen to which one draws you the most. See what feels right and gives you a clear sense of peace. I remember one of my professors, during a class in graduate school at Boston College, saying that the deepest desire of our hearts is usually God's will for our lives. Listen to what your heart tells you.

Finally, recently I was viewing videotape about community life and the presenter offered this advice: She said the key to discovering one's vocation in life is to discern which lifestyle will make a person happy, healthy and holy. To be happy really means having inner joy and loving my life (most of the time!). A spiritually healthy life is one that enables me to use my gifts and grow into the person God wants me to be. A holy life is one that gives God an important place in my life as I spend time growing in relationship with God.

My prayer for each of us is that we will discover what will best help us to live happy, healthy and holy Christian lives.

As disciples of Christ we all have the same mission. The key is to discover the best way for us to carry it out.

Sister Margie Lavonis is a freelance writer and member of the Sisters of the Holy Cross at Saint Mary Church in Notre Dame, Indiana.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JAN. 31, 2010

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle C Readings:

- 1) Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19
Psalm 71:1-6, 15-17
- 2) 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13
- 3) Gospel: Luke 4:21-30

Living in love for others

JEFF HEDGLEN
CNS COLUMNIST

"Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous ..."

These words from the First Letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 13, in this week's readings have to be some of the most loved and remembered words in the Bible. They certainly are the most definitive Scripture on what real love is. This New Testament passage is used to set the tone for weddings every Saturday across the globe because it is the standard for how we should look at one another and how we should treat one another.

But the meaning of this Scripture changed for me one day during a retreat. Instead of being an altruistic measuring stick for love of others, it became a mirror to my soul. The retreat master asked us to read the Scripture, replacing the word "love" with our own name. In so doing, the famous text became:

"Jeff is patient, Jeff is kind. He is

not jealous, he is not pompous, Jeff is not inflated, he is not rude, he does not seek his own interests, he is not quick-tempered, Jeff does not brood over injury, does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. Jeff bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Jeff never fails."

Wow, these beautiful words from St. Paul had just become evidence that could indict me on numerous violations of the law of love. In truth, more times than I care to admit. I am not patient or kind. Too often, I am jealous, pompous, rude, inflated, and quick-tempered. I lose faith, fail to hope and quit. And I certainly fail much of the time.

The retreat master asked us not to get too down on ourselves; rather we were to use this as fodder for self-reflection, growth and the sacrament of reconciliation. Since that day I have often used this passage for my examination of conscience before the sacrament.

It is often said that people will rise to the expectations you set for them. Based on this passage from Scripture, God must really think we are capable of greatness. We may never live these words to perfection, but the one who is their perfect incarnation is offering us the challenge to at least attempt to never fail.

Questions:

Have you ever thought of 1 Corinthians 13 in this way? How does this view of the passage impact you? What are some ways you can strive to love like this?

Scripture to be illustrated:

"Love is patient, love is kind. ... Love never fails" (1 Corinthians 13:4, 8).

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 24-30

Sunday (Third Sunday in Ordinary Time), Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10, 1 Corinthians 12:12-30, Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21; **Monday (The Conversion of St. Paul)**, Acts 9:1-22, Mark 16:15-18; **Tuesday (Sts. Timothy and Titus)**, 2 Timothy 1:1-8, Mark 3:31-35; **Wednesday (St. Angela Merici)**, 2 Samuel 7:4-17, Mark 4:1-20; **Thursday (St. Thomas Aquinas)**, 2 Samuel 7:18-19, 24-29, Mark 4:21-25; **Friday**, 2 Samuel 11:1-10, 13-17, Mark 4:26-34; **Saturday**, 2 Samuel 12:1-7, 10-17, Mark 4:35-41.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 31 – FEBRUARY 6

Sunday (Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19, 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13, Luke 4:21-30; **Monday**, 2 Samuel 15:13-14, 30, 16:5-13, Mark 5:1-20; **Tuesday (The Presentation of the Lord)**, Malachi 3:1-4, Hebrews 2:14-18, Luke 2:22-40; **Wednesday (St. Blaise, St. Ansgar)**, 2 Samuel 24:2, 9-17, Mark 6:1-6; **Thursday**, 1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12, Mark 6:7-13; **Friday**, Sirach 47:2-11, Mark 6:14-29; **Saturday (St. Paul Miki and Companions)**, 1 Kings 3:4-13, Mark 6:30-34.

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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

We do believe

For Christmas, I received a copy of "Christianity and the Crisis of Cultures," written by then-Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI. (I was also given some new shirts, in case anyone might think Schall is a one-dimensional man.)

In the last section, Benedict questions whether, logically, a man can be an "agnostic" – someone who decides, with intellectual consistency, that he can really know nothing about the important things. Hence, he need not take a stand on anything. Such a mind is so delicate that it verily ceases to be a mind at all.

In the end, however, such a man still has to live and decide whether his living is just that – meaningless – or has some purpose. He cannot have it both ways. In his daily actions, he has to live as if his life does or does not matter.

From here, Benedict turns to faith itself. Does it make sense? Is it a help? We go around affirming that "we believe" in many things, even though we ourselves have not checked out the evidence. That does not much bother us. We trust that is so. Now, it is an understanding of Catholics that faith is not blind. In a teaching that goes back at least to St. Thomas Aquinas, we believe only if someone else sees and we have reasonable evidence for its being known by someone. It cannot be otherwise. If we cannot, logically, reduce faith to seeing, we cannot hold it.

This is not strange doctrine. Often, faith is made to appear a silly enterprise that only the naïve would accept – and

yet faith happens to us every day. We act by faith. A common-sense reflection on it often illustrates the point. Benedict tells us to check our experience. Few of us know the ins and outs of any complicated technical system, market, or contraption. We know that electricity works. We turn on the switch. What is electricity? We vaguely recall experiments in high school... But somebody obviously knew what it was, because he examined it.

The difference between faith and reason in technical affairs is that we can accept the testimony of others that they know. We do not take our busted car to the beauty stylist. We do not go to the grocer in order to cut our hair. We go to those who know: the mechanic, the barber. In all crafts and professions, some are better than others. So we, in fact, live and act in a daily world of trust. We think nothing of it.

Is religious faith, in principle, any different? Not really. This faith understands that something else that we do not see is true, because we accept the testimony of someone who saw. The only issue, then, is whether the witness is telling us what he saw, however odd it might seem to those who did not see. If we thought for a moment that the witness was telling us something that was not as he said it was, we might still believe him, but we are deceived. This is why the credibility of the witness is such an issue.

The essence of the Christian faith — that is, what it attests — is that God, the Logos, became man in Jesus Christ, who was true man. This is how He described

Guest Column

FATHER JAMES SCHALL
GUEST COLUMNIST



Himself. He said that He is sent by the Father, His Father. He tells this to a number of fishermen who seem by no means naïve. He does a number of things to confirm His divine power. They see what He does.

These apostles and others surrounding Christ are told to make known this Good News, that He is. Why He did not do it Himself might be wondered about, but He is crucified in a public trial in Jerusalem under the authority of Rome. Since that time, right up to today, we have folks who live in the company of those who attest to these truths, the ones that have been handed down about this Man-God.

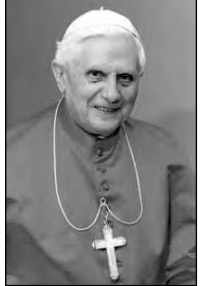
But at the basis of all our ability to "believe" is not more belief, but finally seeing. The apostles saw what He did and told us. Christ on His part simply said, "I have seen the Father." He did not say, "I believe in the Father." The reason is that He did see.

Reprinted with permission from InsideCatholic.com. Fr. James V. Schall, S. J., teaches political science at Georgetown University. His latest book, The Mind That Is Catholic, is published by Catholic University of America Press.

Christians must pray for unity, pope says

The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The search for Christian unity "is not a linear process," because as churches resolve their past differences, differing approaches to new questions create new difficulties, Pope Benedict XVI said.

During his weekly general audience Jan. 20 — in the middle of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity — the pope said the unity that Jesus wants for his disciples will require human effort and conversion, but ultimately it will be a gift of God for which people must pray.

Discussing the ecumenical landscape, the pope said, "we must be aware, on the one hand, of how much real progress has been made in Christian collaboration and fraternity over the past 50 years, but at the same time, we know that ecumenical work is not a linear process. Old problems, born in the context of another age, lose their weight, while in our own context new problems and difficulties are born."

Pope Benedict did not list the new problems, but in the past he has noted how the approach of different Christian communities to modern moral and social sensitivities has created new divisions, for instance when they have led some churches to ordain women or to recognize homosexual unions.

The new divisions, he said, call on all Christians "to be always ready for a process of purification, through which the Lord will make us ready to be united."

Christians will never be able to give a united witness to the world until each of them is united to Christ, he said.

Ecumenism does require intellectual effort and theological dialogue, but even more it requires Christians who know and experience the love of God through Jesus and are prepared to share the Gospel with the world, he said.

A new, united church constructed with human hands and minds, the pope said, "would be something human, while we want the church of God, made by God. God will create unity when he wills, when we are prepared."

Pope Benedict asked God to listen to all Christians, who plead especially intensely for unity during the Jan. 18-25 Week of Prayer.

Participating in the audience were members of the Continuation Committee of Ecumenism in the 21st Century, a body convoked by the World Council of Churches and made up of representatives of 15 Christian communities, including the Catholic Church.

Penance begins with compassion

In the Catholic faith, we experience the healing mercy of God through many gifts... gifts of prayer, hope and forgiveness, gifts that are meant to be shared with others.

As a newly confirmed Catholic, I used to think the word penance was a bad thing. But now, after experiencing the healing grace of penance, through reconciliation, my heart is changed. Penance is a gift, penance is healing, penance is compassion.

When we stray from God, it is gifts like these that pull us back to the light. We were called to help pull others back to the light on Jan. 22, the Day of Penance. To do this, we can start with prayer, by praying for hope and forgiveness to touch the lives of those who have been affected by abortion.

The wounds of abortion run deep and become systemic roots of self destruction if not addressed in our post-abortive women. Since almost 50% of all abortions are from women having repeat abortions, these women are a top priority. If we could fathom how many women are stuck in this cycle of self destruction, then wouldn't we ground this call for life in these healing gifts of grace?

On the Day of Penance, we were called to pray for the end to abortion. But

the issue is multi-faceted and must be addressed as such, in our prayers, in our words and in our actions.

In "Hope After Abortion," an article published in the Jan. 2010 issue of The Columbia magazine, author Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson quoted the words of Pope John Paul II as saying, "There are situations of acute poverty, anxiety or frustration in which the struggle to make ends meet, the presence of unbearable pain, or instances of violence, especially against women, make the choice to defend and promote life so demanding as sometimes to reach the point of heroism."

With love and compassion as our foundation, we are called to pray for the legal right to life, but we are also called to action, action that is grounded in love.

A friend of mine works with domestic abuse victims. She often tells me that a woman stuck in a cycle of abuse who is told over and over again that she is unworthy will certainly not see the life growing inside of her as worthy either.

We can help those women by supporting our domestic abuse safe houses.

We can also help by supporting our local crisis pregnancy centers and maternity homes. We can help

Guest Column

GEORGIANNA PENN
GUEST COLUMNIST

by supporting post-abortion healing ministries and by being sensitive to how we speak about abortion in our churches.

Anderson also writes, "We must be sensitive to the fact that so many who hear us speak out on the issue of abortion have been hurt by it themselves. We must seek to heal — not condemn."

When a woman heals from the wounds of abortion, we save many lives. She will more than likely never make an abortion decision ever again, saving her life and the lives of others. Our call to fight this fight with compassion is imperative.

Remember the Day of Penance, pray with hope and forgiveness in your heart, speak words of compassion and act out of love. Give the gifts that have been so freely given to you where they are needed most... to this fight for life.

Georgiana Penn is a Respect Life committee member and parishioner of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro.

Facing violence with courage

Christians navigate extremism in the Middle East

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians in the Middle East are called to be courageous builders of peace in a region too often marred by violence and oppression, said the outline for the Synod of Bishops for the Middle East.

Islamic extremism, too, represents a threat to everyone in the region and it must be confronted by Christians banding together with Muslims who share the same concerns, it added.

The theme of the synod, scheduled for Oct. 10-24, is: "The Catholic Church in the Middle East: Communion and Witness: 'The community of believers was of one heart and mind.'" The quotation is a description of the unity of the early church from the Acts of the Apostles.

The synod's outline said the two main goals for the October assembly were "to confirm and strengthen Christians in their identity through the Word of God and the sacraments and to deepen ecclesial communion among the particular churches."

A renewal of faith and improved ecumenical collaboration also will help Christians better understand their role in Muslim societies and how they can aid their nations by being authentic witnesses of Christ, it said.

The only way to find the strength to overcome the fear or desperation often felt by the Christian minority and to carry out the mission to "assist your church and your country to grow and develop in peace, justice and equality for all citizens" is to deepen one's faith, it said.

The "lineamenta," or outline, of the synod's theme was released during a Vatican press conference Jan. 19. The document contained dozens of questions about some of the problems confronting Christians and how the

church can better prepare people for the challenges they face.

Bishops' conferences and other groups in the region were asked to respond to the questions by April 4. The responses will form the basis of the synod's working document.

A major problem many face in the Middle East is political conflict, for example: the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories, divisions in Lebanon and the war in Iraq, which has "unleashed evil forces within the country" that target all Iraqis, the document said.

The increasing influence of Islam on politics and the retreat of Christians from political life, as can be seen in Egypt, have led to intolerance, inequality and injustice, it said.

In some countries authoritarian regimes force all citizens, including Christians, to silently accept the status quo, it said.

The influence globalization is having on cultures, including in the Middle East, can help promote human rights, but it also risks destroying local value systems, the institution of the family and spirituality, it said.

Responding to threats to traditional values, Islamic fundamentalism has spread — blaming the source of all social ills on neglecting Islam, it said.

"These extremist currents, clearly a threat to everyone, Christians and Muslims alike, require a treatment in common," it said.

Christians and Muslims share some of the same concerns, especially regarding the threats of atheism, materialism, relativism and indifference, said the outline, and working together to overcome these tendencies is needed.

Living in a region caught up in so many military conflicts can make



Croatian Archbishop Nikola Eterovic, secretary-general of the Synod of Bishops, speaks at a Jan. 19 Vatican press conference previewing the theme of this year's Synod of Bishops for the Middle East. The synod is scheduled for Oct. 10-24 at the Vatican. Also pictured is Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman.

working for peace seem impossible, it said, "considering that war and violence are virtually forced upon us."

"The solution to conflicts rests in the hands of the stronger country in its occupying and inflicting wars on another country. Violence is in the hands of the strong and weak alike, the latter resorting to whatever violence is within reach in order to be free," it said.

Christians must courageously denounce those who oppress, who work against their country's best interests, or who resort to violence in order to overcome oppression, said the outline.

It will take a great deal of courage for Christians to convince people that violence has led only to failure and that, with dialogue, "peace is the most realistic path to follow even though the majority of people might reject it."

The Middle East is the cradle of Christianity, it said, yet Christians have been emigrating from the region in increasingly greater numbers.

"We bear a grave responsibility not only to maintain the Christian faith


in these holy lands, but more still to maintain the spirit of the Gospel among Christian peoples and (in) their relations with non-Christians," it said.

Despite its small size, Christianity plays an irreplaceable role in the Middle East, it said, because it upholds the values of peace, justice and forgiveness, which are fundamental to promoting the common good.

While global policies and local politics "will likely have an impact on a decision to stay in our countries or emigrate," the faithful will find reason to stay in their home countries when they accept their vocation as Christians — finding hope and strength in God and working to bring peace and justice for all, the document said.

Christians are called to proclaim the message of Christ "despite difficulties and persecution," it said.

The desire to evangelize has also diminished and the outline emphasized the responsibility of all Christians to share the Gospel message of love and hope.



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