Voice honored ...national awards...Pg. 3 **Black Catholics** 

...React to meet...Pg. 7

Vol. XXXIV No. 11

Catholic Archdiocese of Miami

Friday, June 12, 1987

## Pope lectures Marxists in Poland

## Says views on religion outdated

LUBLIN, Poland (NC) - Pope John Paul II returned to the Polish university where he once taught, to tell scholars that Marxism's view of religion is losing ground.

On the second day of a weeklong visit to his communist homeland, the pope told the academics that Marxism's materialistic vision has

diminishing credibility in the world.

He attacked the "opinion, particularly in Marxism, of the alienating character of all religion" as an outdated philosophy that is being replaced by a "rediscovery of the dimension of trascendence."

The pope's June 9 talk at the Catholic University of Lublin, the only such institution legally recognized among Eastern block states, also called for the "just autonomy" of the university to be respected. Polish academics have protested tighter state controls that, since 1985, have resulted in the firing of more than 100 professors for reasons widely believed to be political.

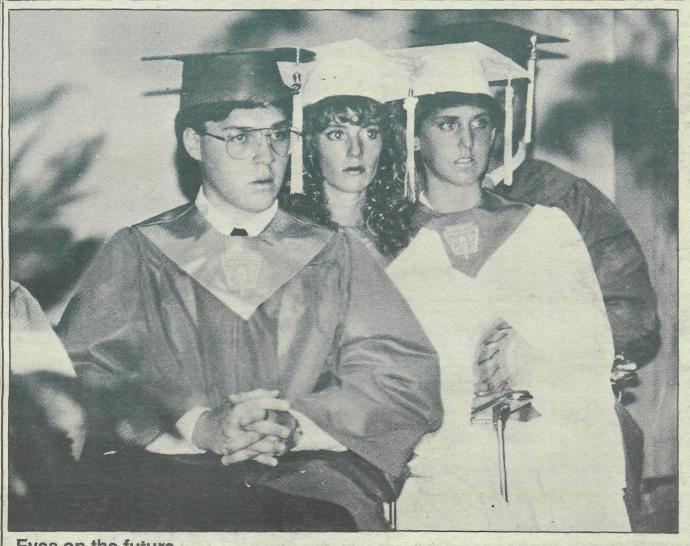
In the great hall of the university where he once taught ethics, Pope John Paul told some 500 scholars from all over Poland that the attempt to drive a theoretical wedge between science and religion had failed.

He warned them to beware of systems - whether "technocratic, consumeristic or totalitarian" that threaten human freedom by denying God.

In a meeting afterward with students and teachers of the university, the pope said their institution's role was an "eloquent" one among countries that "accept as official the materialistic ideology of Marxism."

He said Catholic universities are a living sign against "all those who would place religion among things of the irrational world."

Vatican sources said before the trip that the state may be close to recognizing the degrees of other theological faculties in Poland — a concession sought for years by Polish bishops and in particular by the pope, who found-



Eyes on the future

The pensive gazes of these Cardinal Gibbons High graduates seem almost to reflect uncertainty about the future of today's world, although they actually are intent on the commencement exercises at hand after years of hard work which apparently paid off for John Janke and Susan Thompson, salutatorians (left) and Carolina Garcia, valedictorian. (Schools honored, see story below.) (Voice photo by Jim Varsallone

The 'Opinion, particularly in Marxism, of the alienating character of all religion' is an outdated philosophy that is being replaced by a 'rediscovery of the dimension of transcendence.'

ed such a theological institute in the Archdiocese of Krakow.

The pope's day began with a brief visit to a former Nazi extermination camp at Majdanek, outside Lublin, and ended with an outdoor Mass at which he ordained 46 priests.

Pope John Paul laid flowers on a monument at Majdanek, built on an earthen mound containing bones and ashes of the estimated 360,000 people who were gassed to death and cremated there.

"The souls of the just are in the hands of God," the pope wrote in a camp ledger. He prayed silently for 10 minutes, and then met with Wanda Osowska, a camp survivor, who told him of her sufferings there.

"Man cannot be an oppressor to another man," the pope responded.

He asked her to be a "witness for the living" and said he considered the camp a warning to today's world.

During the evening Mass in a modern Lublin suburb, with an estimated attendance of more than 1 million, the pope called the priesthood a "social sacrament" and said the newly ordained should "liberate" people by emphasizing their human digni-

The ordination ceremony on a high altar platform highlighted Poland's increasing number of vocations. There are nearly 8,000 seminarians in the

(Continued on page 3)

## 'Indicates our schools are top'

Stories, Pgs. 9 and 10

By Prent Browning Voice Staff Writer

"We knew we had good schools all along, but it's nice to have confirmation." That's roughly what many Miami Archdiocesan Education officials are saying in the wake of the special national recognition that was accorded two more Archdiocesan high schools recently. Four Archdiocesan schools have been recognized this way in the past few years.

Cardinal Gibbons High School in Ft. Lauderdale and Our Lady of Lourdes Academy in Miami were singled out for recognition this year by the Exemplary School Recognition Project which grants awards to only the best private and public schools in the nation.

The "Excellence in Education". awards are given by the U.S. Department of Education to outstanding high schools, junior high schools, and middle schools, and on alternate years to excellent elementary schools.

Announced May 27th, the recognition was a good graduation present for the two schools, which held their commencement exercises the last weeks of May.

Last year St. Rose of Lima in Miami Shores was named by the project and the year before, the second year private schools were awarded, St. Thomas Aguinas in Ft. Lauderdale was recognized.

"We feel very proud of our schools," said associate superintendent Sr. Marie Danielle after the winning schools were announced. "The fact that

two schools from our area have won again indicates that our schools are top schools," she said.

It is not, in fact, an easy honor to win-- only 271 were recognized in the entire country this year and only four high schools in the state of Florida, three of them Catholic. This year for the first time public and private schools were judged by the same criteria

Representatives of the schools will travel to Washington where they will receive a "Flag of Excellence" personally from President Reagan and Secretary of Education William Bennett. This March Secretary Bennett visited St. Rose of Lima to present them with a plaque symbolizing the educational excellence award.

Winning schools were judged by a

panel of 71 reviewers in wide ranging areas that included, test scores, attendance and drop-out rates, community involvement, and harder to define qualities such as "educational "teacher-student climate" and interaction."

A total of 670 schools throughout the United States submitted reports to the panel on policies, programs, test scores, staff and other criteria. The committee then narrowed down the field to 370 schools. These schools received on-site visits from panel representatives who verified the accuracy of the written reports, talking with parents, teachers and students, as well as administrators. The reports of the on-site visitors were then studied along with the school's written reports before the final 271 winners were announced.

### Hostel for sick, destitute to open inside the Vatican

ROME (NC) — Mother Teresa of Calcutta said she has been permitted by Pope John Paul II to open a 74-bed hostel inside the Vatican for Rome's sick and destitute. The house, to be called "Gift of Mary," will be run by Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity, who minister to the poorest people of India and some 60 other countries. The pope is expected to lay the cornerstone for the new building.

### Ethiopian bishop: Famine over but long-term help still needed

NEW YORK (NC) - Bishop Kidane-Mariam Teklehaimanot of Adigrat, Ethiopia, said in a New York interview that although the famine in his country has been alleviated, people still need help. Rains were better last year, bringing a better harvest in most areas, he said. But some residents still need to receive food, he said, and the longer-range welfare of the region will require extensive work in development.

### **Bishop: Salvador government** 'out of touch' with citizens

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (NC) — The auxiliary bishop of San Salvador has said the government's preoccupation with the country's long civil war has put it out of touch with the citizenry, with sometimes fatal consequences to civilians. He also called for efforts to make the war less cruel, criticized the military's use of land mines and urged the government to stem an apparent resurgence of right-wing death squads. Auxiliary Bishop Gregorio Rosa Chavez said the administration of President Jose Napoleon Duarte "has not achieved an adequate communication with the people" because it is preoccupied with "defending itself from its adver-

### Caritas to work for 'more brotherly' world communities

ROME (NC) — Caritas Internationalis, the coalition of Catholic charitable organizations, said it has a long-range plan to promote social harmony at the grass-roots level worldwide to avert a "breakdown" in society. Caritas said its 13th General Assembly approved a five-year plan to "motivate members of the Catholic Church" to work for justice and peace in "base communities, both Christian and non-Christian." Citing a "breakdown in the fabric of our society" as one of the "worst tragedies of our times," the organization said it felt compelled to seek "the restructuring of the world and of society by creating or promoting more human and brotherly communities.'

### Philippine cardinal ignoring own advice on politics?

MANILA, Philippines (NC) — Cardinal James Sin of Manila, who told archdiocesan priests not to back candidates in the May 11 congressional elections, appeared in television advertisements supporting 10 senatorial hopefuls. The cardinal did not condemn specific candidates, but endorsed those who had been supported by Veritas, a Catholic weekly news magazine he was instrumental in launching and which is considered to be the cardinal's mouthpiece. The week before the election, Cardinal Sin appeared on the air urging Catholics to vote, vote wisely and vote for the 10 candidates. Those 10 office-seekers won, but many observers said they would have won without the cardinal's endorsement.

### Pope speaks out against 'new paganism'

FOGGIA, Italy (NC) — Pope John Paul II picked a rural corner of Italy to condemn what he called the "new paganism" of the modern world. He criticized elements of scientific progress and consumerism permissivism, drug use, premarital sex, massive unemployment, ecological problems, abortion and divorce also are signs that the world needs a new evangelism, the pope said.



### Clearing debris

Volunteers clear debris from the site of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Mission in Saragossa, Texas. A tornado destroyed the church as well as the rest of the town and left 29 dead and 121 injured in the small, mostly Hispanic community. The Chicago-based Catholic Church Extension Society announced it will help rebuild the church. (NC/UPI photo)

### Cardinal favors closer ties between Vatican and USSR

ROME (NC) — Closer ties between the Vatican and the Soviet Union would promote peace, Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Agostino Casaroli was quoted as saying in an interview. "A reconciliation between the Holy See and the Soviet Union would serve the cause of peace," the cardinal told the Spanish Catholic newspaper "Ya." He described the current nuclear superpower balance as "unstable and dangerous." It is "sufficient perhaps to ward off the threat of irremediable catastrophes, but incapable of creating a spirit of collaboration that can use the resources of nature and science for the development of peoples," he said. Pope John Paul II has expressed interest in traveling to the Soviet Union and there has been some "signal-sending," as one Vatican official described it, on a possible Christian-Marxist meeting in the Soviet Union next

#### Priests urged to adhere to 'fundamentals' of ministry

SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO, Italy (NC) -Pope John Paul II told priests in southern Italy to adhere to the "fundamental values" of the priesthood exemplified by Padre Pio, an internationally known 20th-century confessor. Pope John Paul came to San Giovanni Rotondo to help the town celebrate the 100th birth date of Padre Pio, who spent the final 50 years of his life there. The pope called the Italian Capuchin priest a model for today's priesthood because of his devotion to the sacraments, primary tasks of celebrating Mass and hearing confessions.

### **Expelled Nicaraguan bishop: I** support contras, freedom

DETROIT (NC) — Expelled Nicaraguan Bishop Pablo Antonia vega said ne supports the U.S.-backed counterrevolutionaries as part of a general opposition to the Sandinista government. 'If you interpret the contras as just rebels, then I have little relationship with them," he told reporters in Detroit recently. "But if you speak about the many people who oppose the government, then yes I am involved with the contras and support them." He added that he supports "revolution that changes the lives of the people for the better?"

#### Pope will meet with AIDS patients in San Francisco

WASHINGTON (NC) Pope John Paul II will meet with AIDS patients Sept. 17 when he visits San Francisco during his visit to the United States, the Archdiocese of San Francisco has announced. The pontiff will meet acquired immune deficiency syndrome patients at Mission Dolores, one of his first stops in San Francisco. The AIDS patients will be accompanied at the mission — the sixth of the California missions started by Franciscan Father Junipero Serro — by families, friends and primary caretakers.

#### Bishops name task force to study AIDS, school clinics

WASHINGTON (NC) — A U.S. bishops' task force on AIDS and related questions has been formed by Archbishop John May, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. Bishop William Hughes of Covington, Ky., chairman of the bishops' Committee on Education, has been named to head the task force. Msgr. Daniel Hoye, general secretary of the USCC, confirmed the existence of the task force to National Catholic News Service in late May. The task force is to advise Archbishop May "how best he might have the [bishops] conference address the complex issue of AIDS [acquired immune deficiency syndrome]," Msgr. Hoye said. The task force will consider not only AIDS, but also school-based health clinics, the bishops' responses to how the media handles AIDS and related issues, for example, "through television ads and public service announcements," and overall issues of education in human sexuality.

#### U.S. Church will divest itself of all South African stock

WASHINGTON (NC) The U.S. Catholic Conference has announced that it will sell all its stock in firms doing business in South Africa because the government there failed to make significant progress on ending aparthied by May 15, a condition set by the USCC. Last September the USCC Administrative Board called for divestment if the government did not begin to dismantle its system of strict racial separation and to enter into "serious and substantial negotiations with legitimate black leaders."



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## Second Front

## Pope comforts Holocaust survivors

(Continued from page 1)

country.

For the second time in the trip, he referred to the late Father Jerzy Popieluszko, calling the murdered priest a model of priestly courage, who "was ready to sacrifice his very life." The crowd burst into applause.

Father Popieluszko, an outspoken critic of Poland's regime, was murdered in 1984 by state security of-

ficers.

Standing under a massive blue canopy, the pope quoted from the late Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski's prison writings to illustrate priestly commitment to others. The former primate was imprisoned during a crackdown on religion in the 1950s.

The pope also asked priests to give Polish lay people their confidence.

"They have an enormous potential of good will, of competence, of availability for service," he said.

It was the first massive crowd of the trip, and Catholics from the eastern part of the country began streaming into the city early in the day. Police kept up a massive presence, and several busloads of pilgrims were reportedly stopped miles outside town.

Police in Lublin arrested eight underground activists belonging to Solidarity, the banned independent trade union, on the eve of the visit, according to church sources. They said the activists were told they would be detained until the end of the pope's trip.

During the Mass, several pro-Solidarity banners were held up in the

## Voice wins national awards

The Archdiocesan newspapers, The Voice and La Voz, have again been honored for excellence in various categories by the national Catholic Press Association.

The Voice was cited for the best Opinion/Feature Section and the best News Photo of 1986, in competition with 179 national and other diocese Catholic publications in North America.

The section, said the judges, "is consistently substantial in coverage, reader-friendly in format, enriching and informative in content. Of particular note, is its clear demarcation of features, editorials, letters, opinion, family life--a full page each time--and entertainment." The quality of writing was excellent and "displayed a wonderful Catholic Christian sensitivity to the different sides of intra-Church controversy."

The Opinion/Features Section consists of several pages in each paper, including analysis of current Church and social issues, Voice editorials, Catholic columnists, the Family Page, and the Entertainment Page.

The first place news photo by Prent Browning showed two exuberant Haitian women hugging in jubilation at the news of 'Baby Doc' Duvalier's overthrow.

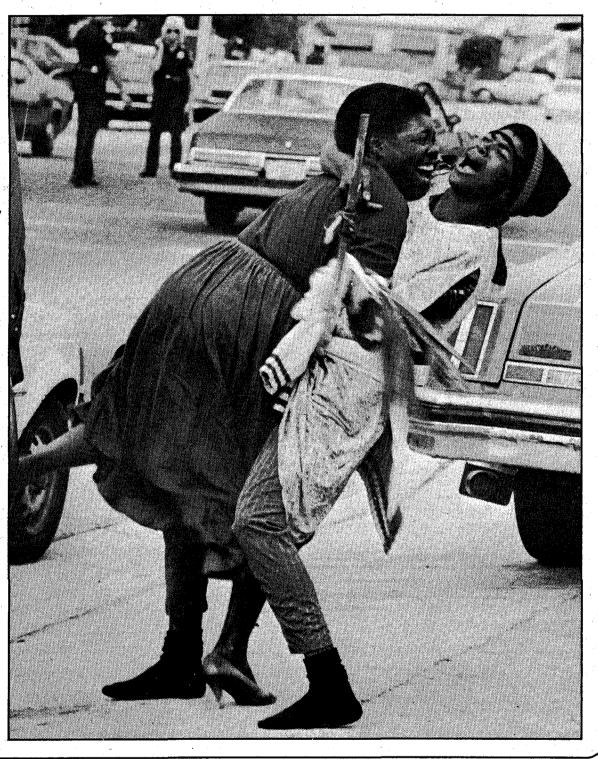
"This is a real action news photo!" said the judges. "The photographer caught the precise moment of joy... This is it; the action is spontaneous and the joy real."

Ana Rodriguez-Soto, Voice News Editor, also won a second place for Best News Report on her extensive coverage of the Archdiocese Synod's survey of South Florida Catholics. The report, "Who We Are," presented the results of the survey "very clearly," the judges said. "Exposition and writing are excellent and the facts presented clearly and fairly."

Voice circulation is about 50,000. There are 609 Catholic newspapers and magazines in North America with a total circulation of almost 28 million.

La Voz, circulation 25,000, was cited six times in the Spanish category, with Best Article and Best Editorial, by Araceli Cantero; Best Feature Story by Legia Gillen; two second places for news reporting and human interest by Ms. Cantero, and a third place for an opinion column by Father Arnaldo Bazan.

Awards were announced at a convention of hundreds of editors meeting in San Antonio. Judges include Catholic editors and journalists from such publications as Newsweek, Wall Street Journal, Good Housekeeping and various Catholic publications as well as university professors.



## 348 Political prisoners

## Church unit negotiates Cubans' release

WASHINGTON (NC) — Cuban President Fidel Castro has promised a U.S. Catholic Conference official he will allow 348 current and former political prisoners and their families to emigrate to the United States, the USCC announced.

The announcement was made in a statement released by the USCC June

Msgr. Nicholas DiMarzio, executive director of the USCC's Migration and Refugee Services, obtained the commitment from the Cuban president while in Cuba the week of May 31 for an immigration seminar, the statement said.

Castro indicated that exit permits will be issued for 204 persons on a USCC list of political prisoners, according to the statement.

The Cuban president agreed that an additional 144 persons still imprisoned and not on the USCC list also will be granted permission to leave Cuba, the statement said. It is believed the additional 144 have all been in prison at least 10 years.

Last September the U.S. Catholic Conference and Cuban officials negotiated the release of 111 political prisoners and their families.

The USCC lists of political prisoners were compiled through parish and grass-roots contacts with the help of Miami Auxiliary Bishop Agustin Roman, who is in contact with communities of Cuban-Americans throughout the United States.

Bishop Roman is a native of Cuba who was deported when Castro came to power.

Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick of Newark, N.J., chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration, credited the work of Msgr. DiMarzio and "continuing perseverance and prayerful commitment on behalf of the prisoners" by U.S. Cubans with "this new opening of the doors of freedom for another group of Cuban political prisoners."

According to the statement, the USCC effort is the result of a January 1985 meeting when a delegation of U.S. bishops, in Cuba for a pastoral visit, presented the names of 146 political prisoners to Castro and offered to assist in their relocation in the United States.

Msgr. DiMarzio submitted a new offer of assistance after Cuban officials indicated interest in receiving an

updated list following last September's relocation of political prisoners and immediate family members.

Processing consultations between the USCC and the U.S. departments of State and Justice have already begun, the USCC statement said. All applicants must qualify under current regulations to gain admittance to the United States.

It is expected the prisoners, former prisoners and their immediate families will be transported to the United States in small groups, the statement said

The prisoner release will take place despite the fact a migration agreement between the United States and Cuba, negotiated in December 1984, was suspended in May 1985 when the start of U.S.-sponsored Radio Marti broadcasts to Cuba angered Castro.

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## Pope: Birth control teaching not debatable

John Paul II told a meeting of natural family planning experts that Catholic teachers who contradict church teaching against contraception "guide couples down the wrong path."

Speaking at the Vatican June 5 to participants of a national conference on the Billings method of natural family planning, the pope also urged them to teach the full Christian message regarding human sexuality, not simply a method for regulating fertility.

The natural family planning conference was sponsored by the Natural Regulation of Fertility Study and Research Center at Rome's Sacred Heart University.

The pope told the participants that responsible procreation is one of the "most urgent and important pastoral concerns" of the church.

Two problems facing the church are open contradiction of the church teachings on procreation and assertions that the teachings are correct but impractical, he told them.

From the Second Vatican Council through the encyclical "Humanae Vitae" (Of Human Life) to the apostolic exhortation on the family, the church's teachings on contraception and responsible procreation are clear,

the pope said.
"What is taught by the church on contraception does not belong to material freely debatable among theologians," the pope said.

Those who argue otherwise, "in open contrast with the law of God, authentically taught by the church,

guide couples down a wrong path," he

With regard to those who say church teachings are correct but impractical in some cases, the pope said that "every commandment brings also a gift of grace."

"God does not command the impos-

He also criticized those who "speak of a conflict of values or goods" which might require a couple to choose one good and reject another.

Such an analysis "is not morally correct and generates only confusion in the consciences of couples," he said.

### CUBAN BISHOPS:

## Church strong despite oppression

WASHINGTON (NC) — Cuban bishops told a group of visiting religious that the church in Cuba, though oppressed by the nation's communist government, still baptized 30,000 persons last year, according to one of the visiting Religious.

The bishops also reported that while only one percent of Cubans go to Sunday Mass, one-quarter of the babies born last year were among the 30,000 people baptized.

Franciscan Father Roland Faley, executive director of the U.S. Conference of Major Superiors of Men, was one of a small group of heads of conferences of Religious in North and South America who attended a May 25-31 meeting in Havana.

In an interview after his return he said Cuba's bishops and the Vatican's apostolic nuncio to Cuba, Archbishop Giulio Einaudi, both reported on the increasing number of baptisms.

Father Faley and other Religious, including Sister of St. Joseph of Medaille Janet Roesener, executive director of the U.S. Leadership Conference of Women Religious, met with the bishops and nuncio at two separate meetings May 28 in Havana.

Father Faley said that the Cuban church views its persecution as "a purifying experience" and is hopeful even

though the government will not let it operate any Catholic schools and permits only a few Catholic hospitals lepers and the mentally ill.

The church is limited to serving "people who can't be armed" such as the sick and elderly, Father Faley said. Education is limited to sermons.

Yet, he said, the church "is not getting weaker. It's strengthening.

Father Faley said the Cuban bishops expressed hope in the popularity of church-sponsored youth groups.



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## 'Firmness' still the issue in Seattle

By Jerry Filteau

WASHINGTON (NC) — Last October the papal pronuncio to the United States said in a public report that the Holy See considered Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen of Seattle "lacking the firmness necessary to govern the archdiocese."

In late May, a three-bishop commission, pressed into service to end an impasse over church authority in Seattle, declared in a new public report that "no matter how personally firm in his teachings and practices the archbishop himself may be, without ining it he is perceived as generath, or at least accepting, a climate of permissiveness within which some feel themselves free to design their own policies and practices."

Between the two statements is a fundamental difference in fixing the blame for whatever weaknesses in Catholic teaching or practice might exist in the Archdiocese of Seattle.

The first report reflected a view that the archbishop himself was primarily at fault — certainly not in a moral sense, as other parts of the report thoroughly attested, but in the sense that he somehow did not have all the qualities needed to govern his people well and keep them on a path of sound Catholic thinking and practice.

The second report said that the fault - again not (or at least not necessarily) in a moral sense — seems to lie more with the archbishop's priests and other pastoral leaders and with the Catholic people themselves.

It said that Archbishop Hunthausen 'asserts unconditionally his own commitment to formal church teaching," but clear official teachings of the church "seem to be confused in the

Vatican returns full power to Abp. Hunthausen; second report blames 'permissiveness' on 'middle-management'

minds of some [others]."

While Archbishop Hunthausen has taken "laudable steps" to correct abuses cited by the Vatican, the May report said, "certain practices mandated by the Holy See seem to be modified arbitrarily by some pastors and other persons charged with responsibility for archdiocesan activities," and "no substantive changes will perdure until this climate or orientation [of permissiveness]

changes."

The decisions which flowed from the two different perspectives were

In the first case, reflecting a view that the chief source of weakness was with the archbishop, the Holy See named an auxiliary bishop, Bishop Donald Wuerl, with instructions to Archbishop Hunthausen to cede to him final authority over those areas of governance in which abuses had been

uncovered.

In the second case, reflecting a view that the problem was more at middle management and grass-roots levels, Archbishop Hunthausen was given a coadjutor, Archbishop Thomas J. Murphy, to help him intimately in all areas of archdiocesan governance and eventually, upon his death or retirement, to succeed him as archbishop of Seattle.

The idea this time, it appears, is that the archbishop, whatever his own capabilities, faces a difficult situation in which he needs help — not someone taking over instead of him in the specific areas of difficulty, but someone helping him in all areas.

In addition, the three-bishop commission established to resolve the Seattle controversy — Cardinals Joseph Bernardin of Chicago and John O'Connor of New York and Archbishop John Ouinn of San Francisco is to remain in existence for the next year to give any further assistance needed.

Bishop Wuerl, acknowledged as a good man who was put into an impossible situation, was to receive a new assignment.

Initial reactions reported in Seattle indicated a mixture of agreement and disagreement, of hopefulness and disatisfaction.

Archbishop Hunthausen himself said he accepted the proposed resolution, but he did not agree "with all of the commission's assessment" of the situation in Seattle.

## Priests 'relieved', hopeful

SEATTLE (NC) — Priests of the Seattle Archdiocese are "relieved" at the restoration of authority to Archbishop Raymond G. Hunthausen and the development of "a solution everyone can live with," said Father Jerry Mc-Closkey, pastor of Seattle's St. Paul Parish.

About 125 priests met at the end of May with Archbishop Hunthausen and his newly named coadjutor, Archbishop Thomas J. Murphy, to discuss the

solution announced by the Vatican.

In the solution, Archbishop Hunthausen regained his full authority; the appointment of Seattle Auxiliary Bishop Donald Wuerl and his special authority in the archdiocese were terminated; and Archbishop Murphy was named as coadjutor with right of succession but without special authority.

"The mood was very positive and hopeful," Father McCloskey said. "People felt good about Bishop Murphy," who has been bishop of Great Falls-Billings, Mont. "He seemed very open and personable."

Archbishop Murphy, 54, has a reputation as a pastoral, consultative bishop

who is at the same time clear and decisive.

"He's a fine man and a good priest. I wouldn't mind him being my bishop." said Father Richard Hynes, president of the National Federation of Priests' Councils who has worked with the new archbishop on issues facing priests across the United States.

Father McCloskey said the priests at the meeting were "happy about what we got," especially restoration of full authority to Archbishop Hunthausen. But they were "not naive about what we didn't get," namely a complete return to normal, he said.

He said the majority of priests seemed ready to "move on" to the future as Archbishop Hunthausen requested.

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crete block and brick, heart, cypress and pine. In addition to the 'regulars' such as swimming (we have a pool, lake, river and spring for this), riflery, handicraft, archery, Good Counsel Camp offers special training in boating and canoeing. Long trips up to 20 to 50 miles are offered to the advanced boater. Special 'safaris' via jeep through the great forests and games preserves — exploration trips on the mysterious Withlacoochee River — overnight trips to Tomahawk Lodge on Rainbow Springs are a few of the 'Specials.'

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## Good preaching

PATERSON, N.J. (NG) — Good preaching may do more than any other single thing to draw people closer to their church, according to results of a survey of Catholics in the Diocese of Paterson.

"Homilies affected practically everything in the parish. The quality of preaching was really the lens through which Catholics view the church and their parish," said Father James Mahoney, diocesan vicar for planning and priorities.

## Key to reaching Catholics in parishes, survey finds

Father Mahoney oversaw the survey in 1986 and reported on it in an interview and a four-page special report in the Paterson diocesan newspaper, The

The survey, taken among a random sampling of the diocese's 107 parishes and readers of The Beacon, was done to help establish priorities in diocesan planning.

Father Mahoney said the importance of homilies was one of the "most startling" findings of the survey. The way people rated homilies in their parish was the strongest indicator of how they felt about the church, he said.

Nearly three-fourths of the people said the homilies they heard were excellent or good. Only one-quarter rated them fair or poor.

Those who rated homilies highly tended to feel closer to the church, expect more from it and "have a warmer religious imagination," the priest said.

In a comparative analysis with other survey data, "the quality of preaching edged out even the friendliness of priests as the thing which had the greatest impact upon people's lives," he

Improvement of preaching emerged as a significant priority for the diocese, Father Mahoney said. He said priests should relate homilies closely to their congregation, seek feedback from parishioners on their preaching, and at least occasionally have their preaching videotaped and professionally critiqued.

## Church will appeal ruling in abortion/tax case

WASHINGTON (NC) — The U.S. bishops' conferences announced June 5 they will appeal again a federal court ruling requiring them to provide extensive church records on anti-abortion

Calling the case "unprecedented" and "exceptional," Msgr. Daniel F. Hove, general secretary of the conferences, said allowing the case to proceed "is to permit irreparable harm" to the bishops' conferences.

In the ruling issued June 4 the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and U.S. Catholic Conference lost an appeal of a contempt-of-court citation that was issued over their refusal to produce the records.

In a 2-1 decision the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New York let stand a May 1986 federal district court's order to produce the documentation or face \$100,000-a-day fines.

'To say we are disappointed by the result is a dramatic understatement," said Msgr. Hoye.

He said the case is important not only for the NCCB-USCC "but also for any religious or tax-exempt group concerned about issues of public debate."

"If necessary, the conferences will seek to protect their rights in this case by way of petitioning the Supreme Court for review. For now, the confer-

ences will seek appropriate relief from the imposition of penalties in order to allow this matter to be reconsidered fully by the court of appeals or by the Supreme Court," Msgr. Hoye said.

The suit in district court is part of a 7-year effort by Abortion Rights Mobilization to force the U.S. govern-

ment to revoke the tax-exempt status of the Catholic Church in the United States on grounds that it engaged in political activities forbidden to tax-exempt religious organizations.

In their appeal the NCCB-USCC had argued that First Amendment religious rights were at stake.

## Vocations ads recruit converts, too

DETROIT (NC) — A funny thing happened in the Archdiocese of Detroit on its way to finding a few good men to be future priests — it also found some men, women and children interested in becoming Catholics.

Billboards, newspaper and magazine advertisements, and television commercials boosting vocations to the priesthood were part of a new archdiocesan media campaign.

But Father Gary Bueche, archdiocesan vocations director, said about 25 non-Catholics called his office during the first month of the campaign with

questions about joining the church. His office also has received 100 in-

quries about the priesthood and three calls from young women about religious life.

Many of the non-Catholic callers "knew the parish they were close to, but, if not, we gave them the name of the nearest Catholic church, plus the pastor's name and phone number," Father Bueche told The Michigan Catholic, Detroit archdiocesan newspaper.

'We talked to each person for about five minutes about how great it was for

them to reach out to the Catholic faith. We gave them a strong affirmation pitch" which stressed "how much the pastor would love to hear from them and how the parish would welcome them with open arms."

Some said they had been thinking about learning more about the Catholic Church but just never got around to it, he added.

A couple of the men who called about becoming Catholics also raised the possibility of the priesthood. "We really never planned on anything like this happening," he said.

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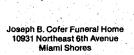
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## Synod discussions

Carlos Garcia, a member of the Synod commission on Temporalities, makes a point about Archdiocesan finances during a recent session of the Archdiocesan Synod. Gathered at St. Thomas University, about half of the 100 Synod members debated and approved the "narrative summaries" of three commissions: Temporalities, General Services and Christian Formation. The summaries are compilations of all the issues raised by South Florida Catholics during public hearings last year. Synod members will study these issues in the light of Church documents, the Bible and the reality of today's society, then propose responses for the Archbishop to approve. By the end of the summer, the Synod body will have approved narrative summaries of all seven Synod commissions, and these will be published in La Voz and The Volce. In addition, both newspapers will publish regular stories outlining key issues raised in the narrative summaries and discussing the progress of the Synod with its



## Black Catholics: 'We're ready!'

By Araceli Cantero Executive Editor, La Voz

Black Catholics here are describing their recent national congress as a history-making event and "a steppingstone to our being treated as equal in the Catholic Church.'

Those words belong to Larry Miller, one of 10 black Catholics who represented the Archdiocese of Miami at the congress, the first national meeting of black Catholics in more than 100

The meeting took place in May at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, and brought together all 11 of the United States' black bishops as well as almost 1,500 black Catholics from throughout the country. The delegates prepared a national pastoral plan for black Catholics which emphasized evangelization.

"If the priorities of the Congress are implemented then many things will be happening," said Sister Clementina Givens, another of the Archdiocesan representatives and the principal of Holy Redeemer School in Liberty City.

"I hope to see the black culture at least being accepted in the predominantly black parishes," she added during an interview with La Voz, the Spanish newspaper of the Archdiocese.

The congress will "help us put more of our culture in the liturgy," said Donna Blyden, a music teacher and member of St. Philip parish in Opa-

Loise Straughter, a teacher at St. ncis Xavier School in Overtown, said the congress, for her, was the "chance of a lifetime...I had never seen 1,500 black Catholics together."

She recalled a moving encounter with a 63-year-old man, a Catholic all his life, who had never until that day seen a black bishop. "This shows how significant [the congress] was for many

To assume leadership positions in Church, say Archdiocesan delegates to recent national meet



Miami's representatives to the national congress of black pose for a picture while in Washington, DC. It was the first such gathering of black Catholics in more than 100 years.

blacks," Straughter said.

Now, "I am more able to evangelize because I have seen more positive images. I've seen bishops and many Religious and experienced the gifts that blacks bring to the faith: the special way of celebrating, the music and rhythm, the inner strength as a people, the gifts of spirituality and joy," she added.

But she noted that such an experience of black Catholicism is not the norm for many. In fact, many black Catholics leave the Church because they lack models or can't express their feelings at Mass.

When the priest is white, he doesn't understand our exclamations during the liturgy," Straughter said. She

noted that the seminary should prepare future priests to be sensitive to the black culture because "even hair dressers have to learn how to treat black hair."

"I had the feeling that, prior to this [congress] we were basically not considered full citizens" in the Church, said Portia Oliver of Christ the King parish, who accompanied her husband Perry, one of the Archdiocesan representatives to the congress.

"It was also heart-warming to see the [white] bishops of the other dioceses attending," she said. "They showed it was important because they took time from their busy schedules. It was unfortunate that ours did not choose to

Another local participant in the

'We have as much to offer as the rest of the ethnic groups in the Church.'

> Leona Cooper, St. Hugh, Coconut Grove

congress was Leona Cooper, a member of St. Hugh parish in Coconut Grove who attended in her capacity as a member of the National Council for Catholic Evangelization.

"We have as much to offer as the rest of the ethnic groups in the Church," said Cooper, who founded the St. Martin de Porres Association, a local organization for black Catholics. It's time "we become more leaders and less followers," she added, noting that black Catholics are ready to assume those leadership positions.

Miller, a member of Christ the King parish, agreed. "We want something moving in our favor for a change," he said, and the congress "makes me very hopeful that something

The top priority for many of South Florida's black Catholics is the creation of an office for them at the Archdiocesan level. Miller said black Catholics here lack "channels of communication" with the top echelons of the Church.

"I think the Church has made an effort," he said, but "we don't even have a black working in the Pastoral Center. Nobody knows how we feel. We need someone who can share these feelings."

He said an Archdiocesan office could coordinate programs for black Catholics and pass on their concerns about spirituality, music and even the way the Gospel is being presented among blacks.

Currently, the Archdiocese has a Black Apostolate headed by Father William Mason, OMI. The priest was in large part responsible for the yearlong, Archdiocesan-wide process of consultation and reflection which preceded the national congress. As a result, some of the concerns of South Florida's black Catholics

(continued on page 17)

## Black Catholics' priorities

From NC News Service

Black Catholics identified the following as priorities during their national congress in Washington, DC

- Evangelization by blacks of the country's 6 million to 10 million black Americans who have no formal church
- Study of cultural and historical contributions of black Americans to church and society through local committees of black historians and scholars.
- Strengthening of black family values through parish family life programs that affirm black traditions, history and development.
- Comprehensive training for black men and women for ministry within the church at all levels.
- · Continual spiritual development through retreats and
- days of recollection reflecting blacks' fived experience. Church decision-making at all levels involving blacks, showing appreciation of black culture.
- · Continued financial support for Catholic schools in black communities and special efforts to ensure quality education.
- Developing black parishes as "beacons of hope" to communities through vibrant liturgies, social outreach and church involvement in community problems.

## 4th Grader wins trip to White House

## Son of Cuban exiles writes essay on freedom, Constitution

A fourth grade student at St. Rose of Lima School in Miami Shores, and the son of a Cuban exile couple, has been honored by the U.S. Department of Education for his essay on the Constitution.

Ernesto Otero's essay on "What the Constitution Means to Me and to Our Country" was one of 150 out of over 1 million essays nationwide singled out for such recognition, with award ceremonies at the White House

Undersecretary Dr. J. Lee McCormick, speaking at a school fundraising ball in Miami Shores, praised Otero and St. Rose of Lima School which also was honored last year by the U. S. as one of the

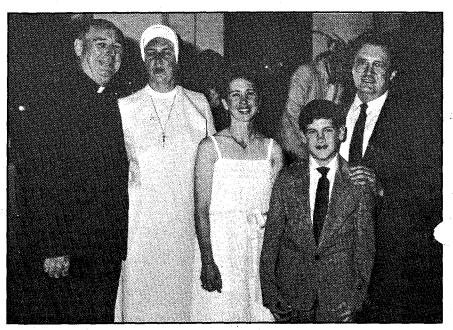
nation's top schools.

Ernesto, son of Ernesto and Gisela Otero, praised his parents and school in a moving speech to the crowded ballroom of the Miami Shores Country

"I want to thank my parents for teaching me through their example life's most important subject, that is 'good spiritual and moral values and to never compromise any of these principles over material things.

He thanked the priests and teachers and members of St. Rose for their contributions of time, talent and money.

'This is not a paid announcement. I say it from the bottom of my heart, because I am very proud of my school and my St. Rose of Lima family."



Ernesto Otero at St. Rose of Lima ball, with Msgr. Noel Fogarty, pastor, Sr. Anne Bernard, I.H.M., principal, and Gisela and Ernesto

## 'What the U.S. Constitution Means to Me and to Our Country

Most people think of the United States as a young country. Yet it has the oldest written constitution among the important nations of the world. The first ten amendments form the Bill of Rights. The makers of the Constitution had considered it unnecessary to forbid some of the elementary invasions of personal liberty and property rights. Many of the people, however, wanted just such reassurances. As President Reagan said in his recent State of the Union message: The Constitution of our country is unique because we the people of this country spell out what the role of government will be in the lives of the citizens of our country. In other words the citizens through the constitution, dictate what type of government we will have.

On the other hand, the government, of most countries of the

world dictate what type of role the citizens should have in government affairs.

Our constitution is very special to me because my parents have always taught me the importance of freedom and that it should not be taken for granted, since as my parents are always saying, "You do not know what you have until you lose it."

My parents lost the country of their birth, Cuba, to communism and had to leave it when they were about my age. But thanks to the many freedoms granted to them as free citizens of our country by our constitution, I have a loving and secure home, I am free to worship, and ! am enjoying the benefits of their successful business which was made possible by the equal opportunity granted to them by our Constitution.

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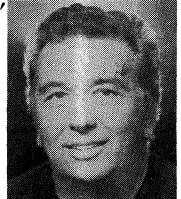
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## U.S. cites Lourdes for 'excellence'

By Prent Browning Voice Staff Writer

For Lourdes academy, recognition for "Excellence in Education" by the U.S. Dept. of Education is not just an occasion for the faculty and administration to pat themselves on the back. Parents, students, and Lourdes benefactors all need to share in the award, according to principal Sr. Peter Mary Birster, I.H.M., for they are all partly responsible for winning it.

In their analysis of Our Lady of Lourdes Academy, says Sr. Peter Mary, the recognition program "talked about academic excellence, the caring attitude, the

warmth and friendliness, and the outreach of Christian service."

Over \$100,000 in scholarships were awarded this school year to Lourdes students and approximately 95 percent of those students will continue their education at college.

Lourdes academy, founded in 1963 began humbly in two classrooms of Epiphany with 69 students. Later the school moved into a two story building on six acres of land adjacent to Epiphany School at 5525 SW 84th st.

Today, with a student body of 760 the Lourdes prides itself in keeping up and modern technology. But community service has always been close to the heart of what the school is all about. Lourdes has a very active four year religion program headed by Sr. William Miriam which emphasizes Christian service and spiritual development, in addition to textbook studies.

Students will volunteer time as part of the religion program (10 hours per semester for Juniors and Seniors) in a variety of activities ranging from serving food at Camillus House to candy stripping at a local hospital and collecting for the Leukemia Society. Typical of its Christian service has been Lourdes prominent support of the Catholic missionary group Amor en Accion (see separate story). Students also participate in retreats as part of the spiritual development aspect of the religion program.

Both teachers and parents are very involved in the school , says  ${\sf Sr.}$  Peter Mary.

Teachers take part in a training program about drug education and

prevention, and there is a low faculty turnover rate.

"Parental involvement is one of the most notable aspects of the school," says the principal. Parents are involved in a school advisory council, an

endowment committee, and a parents guild, among other activities.

"I was really, really, happy for our parents and our faculty that we got the award. I know what they do," said Sr. Peter Mary last week.

"On Thursday and Friday we've received over a hundred (congratulatory) phone calls, plus parents bringing in flowers, and coming in and saying 'thank

Jumping for 'Sister School'

Faguet, a one-room school house in Northern Haiti, is not exactly easily accessible. Located on the top of a mountain, it's a two and a half hour walk from the nearest town. But that hasn't stopped students at Our Lady of Lourdes Academy from contributing much needed school materials and teachers' salaries to the primitive school. Their involvement is part of a sister school program of the Catholic, Miami- based missionary group, Amor en Accion, which aids schools, and building and health projects in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Lourdes raised so much money in the first two years of the program (1982-84) that they decided to contribute desks and money for capital improvements to an additional sister school-- St. Francis Xavier in Overtown.

Typically the students themselves raise over \$2,000 per semester for the two schools through a variety of fundraisers. Lourdes students sell food, hold auctions and participate in many imaginative fundraising activities such as the "Jump-rope-athon" (photo), and "college bowl" games.

This year Sr. William Miriam, Director of Religion and Campus Ministry, will be visiting Faguet personally to deliver medical supplies, fundraising proceeds, and clothes.



Lisette Nodarse helps raise \$700 in a Jump-rope-athon

Amor en Accion's sister school program are: Epiphany School in South Miami; LaSalle High School in Miami; Archbishop Curley-Notre Dame High School in Miami; Msgr. Edward Pace High School in Miami; Madonna Academy in Hollywood; St. Brendan High School in Miami; St. Theresa of Little Flower School in Coral Gables; St. John the Apostle School in Hialeah; St. Joan of Arc in Boca Raton; Christopher Columbus High School in Miami; and the St. Raymond Youth Group in Miami.

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## Blacks, Indians need your help

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Dear Friends in Christ:
Each year we appeal to your generosity to support the developing Church among Black Catholics and American Indian Catholics. Christ intended that His Church would embrace all peoples. The word "Catholic" means universal, for all peoples, for all times.

Your continued support of this appeal assists the Archdiocese in providing educational and social service programs in the Black Communities throughout South Florida.

The Annual Collection for the benefit of Missions among Black Catholics and American Indian Catholics will be held on Sunday, June 14, 1987.

I encourage your continued generosity to this appeal.

With personal regards and best wishes, I am

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Edward A. McCarthy Archbishop of Miami

ΔΔΔ

Archdiocese of Miami

The Pastoral Center announces that Archbishop McCarthy has made the following appointments:

The Rev. John Paszko--to Associate Pastor, Annunciation Church, West Hollywood, effective June 17, 1987.

The Very Rev. Andrew Anderson--to Chaplain, Fourth Degree Father Andrew Brown Assembly, Miami, Knights of Columbus, effective May 18, 1987.

The Rev. Vang Tran, C.Ss.R--to coordinator, Vietnamese Apostolate, effective May 29, 1987.

The Rev. Russell Nickerson, O.M.I. --to Associate Pastor, Immaculate Conception Church, Hialeah, effective Aug. 20, 1987.



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## Gibbons is tops all-around

## National Excellence in Education award just confirms it

By Jim Varsallone Voice Correspondent

Father Joseph J. Kershner, the principal at Cardinal Gibbons High School in Fort Lauderdale, is starting a scrapbook.

With all the cards, letters and newspaper clippings he has received, Father Kershner has good reason to start a scrapbook. It is not every day that your school is cited as one of the top high schools in the country by the U.S. Department of Education's Secondary School Recognition Program.

"This is wonderful," said Father Kershner, who has been at Cardinal Gibbons for 22 years. "We'd felt with our philosophy and our standards that we were one of the top schools, but you're never 100 percent sure if the [U.S. Department of Education] committee thinks so."

"I think that this is a big honor for us," said Susan Thompson, Gibbons cosalutatorian for the Class of '87. "This is good for us [students], because it shows that we are coming from a serious school."

"They [committee representatives who visited the school] admired the care they saw exhibited through the faculty and administration," said Assistant Principal Marie Schramko, O.S.F., who has been with Cardinal Gibbons since the school's beginnings 26 years ago.

#### Scientific excellence

One on-site Department of Education visitor, the principal of a high school that just added on a \$1 million science wing, was particularly impressed with the school's science department. Cardinal Gibbons' students have been consistent winners in the prestigious Westinghouse National Science Talent Search.

"He couldn't get over what we were able to do with the facilities that we have," said Sister Schramko.

But the high academic standards are not confined to the school's science department. This is reflected in the fact that out of 284 graduating seniors this year, 95 percent will attend college next fall. Eighty-three percent are enrolled at a four-year institution, while 12 percent are on their way to a two-year college.

Cardinal Gibbons' athletics are also remarkable. This year alone the school won three state championships in tennis, volleyball and baseball (see accompanying story).

#### Community service

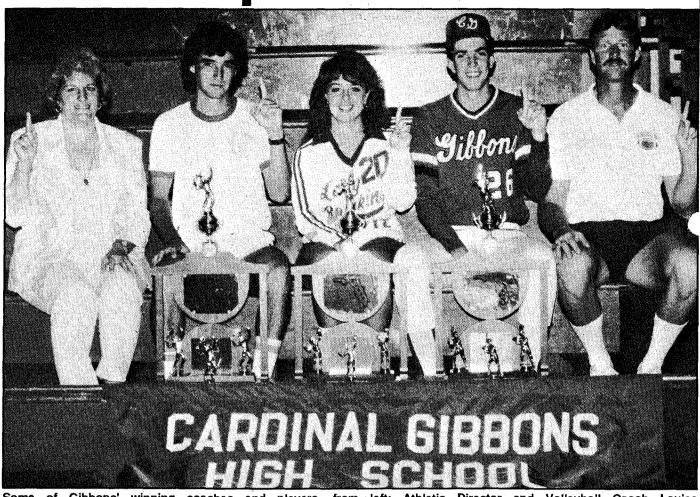
The Catholic school also emphasizes spiritual formation, requiring religion classes and 20 hours per semester of community service for seniors.

Father Kershner and other representatives from the award-winning schools will each receive a "Flag of Excellence" from President Reagan in Washington, D.C. sometime this summer.

The hoopla continues in the fall as William Bennett, the U.S. Secretary of Education, will travel to Cardinal Gibbons and present the school with a plaque.

For now, the cards and letters from former students, parents, parishioners, Phi Betta Kappa at the University of Miami, educators and the community keep pouring in, congratulating Cardinal Gibbons for its accomplishment.

"I'm really proud to say that I represent a school that has received such an honor," said Carolina Garcia, the school's valedictorian. "Cardinal Gibbons has progressed a lot in four years, and it's all for the better."



Some of Gibbons' winning coaches and players, from left: Athletic Director and Volleyball Coach Louise Crocco; tennis player Larry Bergere; volleyball player Doris Smith; baseball player Greg Knowles; and baseball coach George Petik (Voice photo/Jim Varsallone)

# Scholar-athletes win both on and off the field

Three Gibbons teams won state championships this year: tennis, baseball and volleyball

By Jim Varsallone Voice Correspondent

Cardinal Gibbons High School in Fort Lauderdale shares the Class-3A state athletic division with Ely High School, Plantation High School and Tallahassee High School to name a few. But when all is said and done, Cardinal Gibbons' sports program is literally in a class by itself.

And the proof is in the pudding as the Redskins won three state championships in 1986-87.

"We are very proud of our sports program," said Louise Crocco, the athletic director at Cardinal Gibbons. "We won our third consecutive state title in volleyball and in boys' tennis. We also won a state title in baseball."

#### 13 Championships

State championships are commonplace at Cardinal Gibbons. In their 25year history the Redskins have won eight volleyball state championships, four boys' tennis state championships and one baseball state championship (this spring). They were the first high school in 40 years to bring Broward County a state baseball title.

"I've had better individual baseball players in the past," said George Petik, the fifth-year coach for Gibbons' baseball team, "but this is the best group that I've had since I've been here. They played like a team and did what it took to win."

Senior pitcher Greg Knowles was the team's co-MVP (Most Valuable Player), and rightfully so. Knowles of Plantation compiled an outstanding 17-1 record, while the Redskins finished the season with a 26-4-1 record.

"In the beginning of the season

"In the beginning of the season coach told us to set a goal to win the first game," said Knowles, who transferred to Gibbons from neighboring St. Thomas Aquinas High School. "Then he told us to set a goal to win the next game, and we kept doing that after each

game. I'm really happy with the way things have come along."

The righty was very successful on the mound, and baseball is something Knowles lives for. But he also realizes the importance of academics, as does the entire Redskins sports program.

"Baseball is something that I want to do for a living," Knowles said. "But I know that I can't play baseball for the rest of my life, and I was always taught

'I know that I can't play baseball for the rest of my life, and I was always taught by my coach and my parents to keep my grades up.'

> Greg Knowles, baseball co-MVP, 4.2 grade-point-average

by my coach and my parents to keep the grades up."

Knowles' 4.2 grade point average exemplifies that, and he is one of several Gibbons' athletes who received the county's scholar-athlete award.

"Academics. That's why we're here," Petik said.

Baseball was not the only sport celebrating the athletic and the academic achievement. Doris Smith, the senior captain for the 38-2 Redskins volleyball team, also was a scholar-athlete.

She said that her coach, Crocco, told the team that grades and studies come first. If a player does not meet the academic requirements of a 1.5 grade-point-average (g.p.a.), the player cannot play the sport.

Out of the 500 student-athletes at Cardinal Gibbons, 497 were able to play sports throughout the 1986-87 school year. Smith superseded the requirements and obtained a 4.0 g.p.a.

Smith said this was a tough

season compared to the previous two seasons. But the results were the same.

"In the beginning of the season it was hard," Smith said. "It was a quick rebuilding season, since we lost a lot of starters last year. Once we got going we worked well, and by the time the tournaments came, we were playing at our best."

Smith was the student council vice president and also played softball for the Redskins. She was another outstanding role model, as was Larry Bergere of the boys' tennis team.

Bergere, a senior captain, was the team's number one player and recorded a 16-2 mark for the undefeated (13-0) tennis squad. He was a member of the team during its three-year reign as state champion.

"I wanted to make the most out of my senior year," Bergere said. "It is tough to keep up that pace every year, and we were able to do that."

His 4.3 g.p.a. earned him a spot of the county's scholar-athlete list, and that made his coach, Jim Scott, very proud.

Bergere, Knowles and Smith have college plans, which is another reason why academics are so very important.

#### 'Intelligent athletes'

"We believe that an intelligent athlete goes hand in hand," said Crocco, who has been at Gibbons for 18 years. "Nowadays, colleges don't even look at you if you don't have the proper g.p.a. and S.A.T. scores under Proposition 48. And in the long run it enhances their college opportunities."

All in all the Redskins are a proud group, academically and athletically. Their success stems from a family-type attitude.

"I really feel that it is through the dedication and through the rapport between the players and the coaches that we've been successful," Crocco said. "It's a family-type of attitude throughout the school, an attitude that we are proud of "

## Teen suicide

## It's preventable, predictable when community cares

By Father Philip Boyle, O.P.

Recently, four teenagers in Bergenfield, NJ, took their own lives by asphyxiating themselves in a closed automobile. Their shocking, tragic deaths touched the whole community, provoking feelings of remorse, guilt, anger and bewilderment. Parents wondered about their own children, while educators and mental health

fessionals were inundated with calls for help in

uning with the aftermath.

These deaths also re-ignited discussion of teen suicide on the national level, something that responsible reporters now undertake only with great trepidation. Recent studies, including one cited in the prestigious New England Journal of Medicine, suggest there is a contagion of suicides after the phenomenon is reported in the news media or on TV programs. In fact, the day after the Bergenfield tragedy, two girls in Alsip, Ill., confirmed the copycat syndrome by killing themselves in the same manner.

These six young people were not alone. Suicide is the eighth leading cause of death in the United States, the second leading cause among young adults. One occurs every 18 minutes. Last year, nearly 40,000 Americans took their own lives.

Teen suicide raises concerns for all who stand in the aftermath. Parents and educators wonder if they could have or should have detected symptoms in advance. And what should their response be? In light of inevitable copycats, there is a valid argument that public attention can be dangerous and helps to portray suicide as romantic or desirable. Unfortunately, dismissing the problem or refusing to discuss it can also be deadly.

But discussion of the problem should not emphasize the sensationalism of youth tragedies in a way that might glamorize this type of death. Education should be carefully aimed at examining what triggers young adults to commit suicide and what can be done to prevent it. The first questions that should be asked are the hardest: Who is apt to commit suicide? Can the symptoms be recognized? Can anything be done in advance? And what should be done

People who study suicide find that it is difficult to evaluate the phenomenon. Post mortems don't always reveal suicidal intentions unless the manner of death is evident: overdoses, gunshot wounds and jumping from dangerous heights. Regardless, certain information has emerged and is instructive.

Suicide is a multidimensional act. The "contagious" effect that has been noted after media coverage of suicides is only half of the story. Though public discussion often implies that teen suicide occurs in the "best and the brightest," evidence does not bear

On the contrary, suicide is more likely among youth who are mentally or emotionally impaired, intolerant of distress and impulsive by nature. These teenagers are agitated by acute, but ordinary stress, such as arguments with parents or the break up of a relationship. Advance indications include truancy. dropping out of school, promiscuity, withdrawal, running away, changes in eating or sleeping habits or joking about suicide. What distinguishes adolescent

des from others is the lack of forethought. is larely philosophical reasoning behind the self-

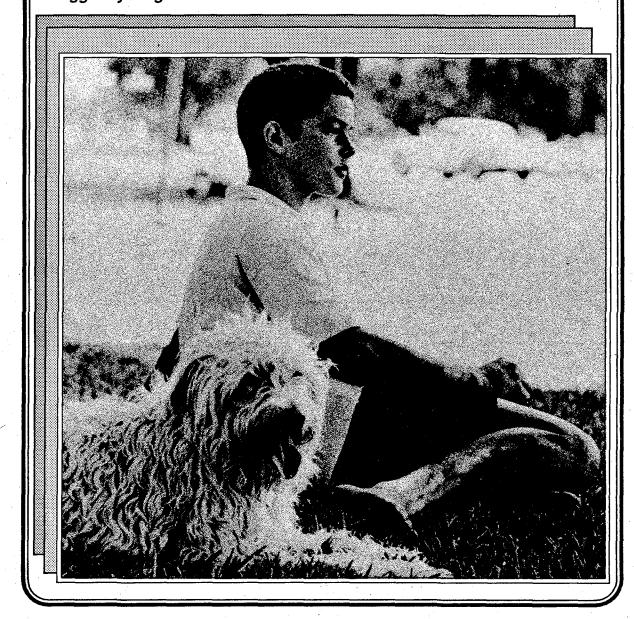
Suicide victims share a kind of psychological pain that stems from a feeling of hopelessness and helplessness. They think suicide is their only means to gain a sense of control and self-determination.

Recognizing this hopelessness and offering the suicidal person some control is essential.

Parents and educators must realize that not confronting the problem is no solution. Primary prevention is first: teens must learn coping skills so they can deal with trauma during the transitions that always come in the teen years. Helping students build self-esteem is fundamental. To successfully intervene, educators and others in regular contact with teenagers

The news media have clear responsibilities too. Teen suicide should be carefully handled to avoid sensationalizing or romanticizing it. Details should be reported carefully, to avoid implanting specific ideas in the heads of teens who may already be troubled. Most importantly, suicide should not be reported as a big mystery. It is behavior that can and ought to be prevented. News stories that emphasize the irrationality of the act, claiming "he had everything

Discussion of the problem should not emphasize the sensationalism of youth tragedies in a way that might glamorize this type of death...Education should be carefully aimed at what triggers young adults to commit suicide'



should be trained to spot the warning signs and approach the situation.

Kids talk to kids, and they are the first line of defense in recognizing the problem and intervening. Peer-counseling, teen hotlines and other crisis services are a must in every community. Care after a suicide is also important. Crisis teams must offer appropriate counseling to decrease the isolation, frustration and grief of survivors. Finally, education must include life enhancement skills that will help young people deal with problems and changes in their

going for him," clearly tend to enshrine youths who have committed suicide as tragic, romantic martyrs.

Finally in the midst of social tragedy, parents and educators must be clear-headed. Moral responsibility lies only partly with teens who irrationally and impetuously commit suicide. We must keep in mind that our responsibility is to give the education that could save lives.

(Fr. Boyle is associate director of the Center for Health Care Ethics at St. Louis University Medical

## Today's grads selfish, realistic about goals

Catholic University of America

Students of the 1980s are more ambitious and selfish than their counterparts of the 1960s. But today's students are also realistic, says a management professor at The Catholic University of America.

'Students expect that jobs and personal pursuits will lead to a full, satisfying life. In addition, students know they must earn money to achieve a certain lifestyle," says Alexander Woroniak, head of CUA's economics and business department.

Woroniak does not find student sacrificing their values to obtain jobs that meet their salary goals. But students are willing to work hard and earn credits in

more than one marketable area. Graduates with combined concentrations in accounting and human resources management are in demand. They can hit the job market in both areas. "Liberal arts graduates with good oral and written communication skills who are able to understand different environments and cultures command premium wages in today's employment market.

"And making business decisions more than understanding statistical data. A decision maker must consider people's welfare too," he says.

"Effective decision-making is taught in philosophy and religion courses. Valuable thinking skills and an understanding of religion's role in different cultures and of how to make ethical choices on the job are gained in these courses. Students who are literate in many subjects and have high grades can command

top salaries. Students can recognize the value of a home life as well as a successful business career," Woroniak adds.

CUA requires undergraduate students to take four philosophy and four religion courses, which explore ethical and moral issues. These courses help students majoring in management, economics, or accounting to better understand how to think and act in business.

Woroniak believes college graduate can't begin to justify their actions on ethical issues without exposure to choices and the different cultural values learned in a liberal arts institution.

But students with a philosophy and religion background are better prepared to make ethical decisions in the corporate world," Woroniak concludes.

## Editorial Page

# Catholics missing big TV lesson

Everyone is watching the Protestant TV evangelist controversies with eager attention if not morbid curiosity.

Some of it, indeed, rivals the National Inquirer's most gossipy front pages as the stained carpets of televangelism roll out before our eyes. But...

Is anyone really thinking about all this? There is one overriding lesson to be learned from the phenomenon that has nothing to do with sex. The revelations about million-dollar-plus salaries of the Bakkers, the Palm Springs estates, the Oral Robers' appeal for \$7 million (which he apparently got) to save him from God's scimitar, the multi-million-dollar budgets of several of these TV preachers...

### Voice editorial -

Doesn't it ever cross your mind--Why are we Catholics letting the fundamentalists have the airwaves practically all to themselves?

Mother Angelica, God bless her, is the only one making an effort in this area and has practically done it all on her own.

The Catholic Church in America states that evangelization is its highest priority, yet the most powerful, the most all-pervasive tool of communication in the nation, television, is virtually ignored except by local dioceses struggling with small budgets.

The big lesson of the televangelists is that it is possible to launch and pay for a huge television ministry based on contributions from a relatively small number of watchers. Studies show that the fundamentalist TV preachers get most of their funds from women, age 55 to 75.

It requires no great leap of faith or logic to assume that if a warm, reasonably eloquent and charismatic (in the personality department) priest or bishop were put on television, and if he were to preach a broadly based Biblical line, tied in with today's world-that the fifty-million Catholics and millions of non-Catholics would support the ministry in a way that might startle even the mediaconscious Pope.

If every adult Cathoic in the U.S. gave just fifty cents a month, the total would be upwards of two-hundred-million dollars a year-more than enough to pay for the airtime with millions left over to feed the hungry and house the poor. The actual potential is actually much greater than these modest figures without having the slightest impact on local Catholic giving.

The Church at the national level could budget the initial few shows, put out the P.R. on it and wait for the ministry to become



self-sustaining. The *least* that should be done is for the Bishops to mandate a study of the idea.

A ministry of this type could reach people who don't go to Mass, it could inform better those who do, it could engender good relations with non-Catholics and it could raise funds for good works.

And there would be no Rolls-Royces at the stage door.

## Letters

## Open letter to the governor concerning two heroes

As a Cuban-born refugee who is also a citizen of the United States, the beacon of democracy in the world, I choose to publicly inform you that I feel very proud of two persons: one a Cuban, the other an American.

The first person I feel proud of is Roberto Martín Rodríguez, a Cuban political prisoner who was freed recently and arrived in the U.S. to a hero's welcome. The other is Miss Joan Andrews, an American citizen who is still in jail in Florida.

Roberto was condemned to prison because of his love for his country and for freedom, Joan because of her love of God and unborn babies. Roberto's only crime was to seek freedom for his country, Joan's only crime was to try to save innocent human lives.

Roberto started his "passive resistance" against communism in Cuban jails, refusing to wear the blue uniform used by common criminals. Joan started hers with a hunger strike and refusing to participate in prison activities. Because of this she is denied visitors.

Roberto refused to be "rehabilitated" and as a consequence he was transferred to a maximum security prison, Joan was transferred to the Broward County prison for dangerous criminals because she refused to "rehabilitated" for "the crime" of saving innocent lives.

The communist government of iban asked Roberto to give up his fight for freedom, something that is against his principles. The judge who condemned Joan asked her to stop "rescuing" babies from abortion, which is against Joan's principles. Cuban courts condemn heroes like Roberto to prison, while ruthless men missgovern that nation. The judge who sentenced Joan to five years for the sole crime of entering an abortion clinic and attempting to disconnect the machine used to perform abortions, also sentenced two men the same day to only four years each for complicity in a murder.

Roberto refused to accept freedom when it was offered to him, out of love for his brothers who remained behind in prison. Joan has refused to accept freedom if in return for it she has to stop trying to save the lives of her unborn brothers and sisters, whom she loves. Roberto stood proudly against

atheistic, materialistic communism, Joan against cruel, unjust abortion. Criminal abortion and communism, equally criminal, do not respect the dignity of human persons or their right to live, both are great evils which we must fight against.

In view of all of the above Mr. Governor, why is Roberto Martín Rodríguez considered a hero in the U.S. and rightly so, while Joan Andrews remains in jail, surrounded by criminals? How can anyone explain the fact the Cuba's communist government pardoned Roberto, while Florida's government has not pardoned Joan?

There are limits imposed by God's laws which governments cannot or should not exceed, and rights which are not theirs to usurp the right to liberty is one of them, the right to life is another as the U.S. Constitution declares. How can it be possible that in a democratic country whose constitution is based on these rights, a person is honored for defending the right to liberty, while another is condemned for defending the right to life, without which there are no other rights?

The endless years of unjust prison suffered by Roberto Martín Rodríguez in a Cuban communist prison remind us of

our commitment to defend freedom, even at the price of our own lives. The years Joan Andrews is serving in prison, also unjustly, should remind us of our commitment to defend innocent human life. The valuable and incomparable sacrifice that Roberto and so many others like him have made, is a call to the conscience of the world which denounces an unjust system of government that incarcerates innocent human beings only because they value freedom and struggle to obtain it.

Joan Andrews' smaller yet no less valuable sacrifice is also a call to the conscience, that should remind us of the existence of an unjust law in the U.S. which allows the killing of innocent human beings, only because they have not yet been born. We cannot heed one of these calls and not the other, lest our own conscience and even our humanity suffer what might perhaps be irreparable moral damage.

Mr. Governor, before you were elected you promised to defend innocent human life. To you we appeal for JUSTICE FOR JOAN ANDREWS.

Magaly Llaguno, International' Committee for Life Inc.

P.O. Box 650704, Miami, 33165

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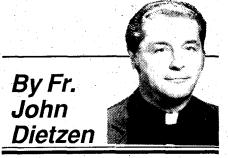


## Confusion about annulments

Q. My wife and I have had what I thought was a fairly good marriage for 19 years. She is not baptized but we were married in the church and now have two teen-age children.

For almost a year my wife has been having an affair with a much younger, single man.

She told me yesterday she



believes in divorce and remarriage (since the time we were married) but did not tell me until now. I have filed for divorce.

My family tells me that this is grounds for an annulment in the Catholic Church. Is this true? I am desperate and scared. (Ohio)

A. Just in case you do not recall, an annulment is a declaration that some essential element for a real marriage was lacking from the beginning of the relationship between the couple as husband and wife. Therefore no marriage ever existed.

One essential condition for a valid marriage is that both partners at the time of the marriage fully and consciously intend to enter a union which can be dissolved only by death. Whether or not this or another essential requirement for marriage was lacking for you and your wife could only be determined by your diocesan marriage tribunal.

Please talk to a priest, preferably one in your parish. He will explain and assist you with the steps you must take.

Many people, Catholic and non-Catholic, are under the serious misconception that annulment is only a Catholic phenomenon. Especially in light of your question, it is worth noting again that this is not true.

Annulment is as much a reality in civil law as it is in Catholic Church law. Intention for a lifelong union is generally necessary for a valid civil marriage as well as for a valid Catholic marriage. Thus the traditional words of e vows, "Until death do us part."

One hears less about civil annulment for the simple reason that divorce is so simply and easily acquired in civil law that recourse seldom is necessary to the more complicated annulment procedures.

Civil annulments are far from unheard of, however. They usually have more radical and broader legal consequences than a simple divorce.

(A free brochure outlining marriage regulations in the Catholic Church and explaining the promises in an interfaith marriage is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Parish, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Questions for this column should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address)

(NC News Service)

## The Medjugorje visitation

Medjugorje is a tiny village in Yugoslavia which is attracting pilgrims from around the world to what is being reported as a visitation by the Blessed Mother.

Though not officially accepted by church authorities, the visits are said to have begun in June 1981 with the appearance of the Blessed Mother to six children in Medjugorje.

The apparitions are said to have continued daily ever since and Mary's message is unchanged. According to reports, Mary says that the world faces a "great catastrophe" which only can be turned away through prayer, sacrifice and penance, and that sin is the cause of the lack of peace in the world. So long as people continue to ignore God, the message continues, they will never see peace.

Recently, I spoke to two pilgrims who went to Medjugorje. Karen Moran is 30, a graphics artist. She says she reached a point in her life a few years ago where she wanted to understand her faith more. She heard of Medjurgorje through a parish group.

"If Our Lady was appearing somewhere in my lifetime, I felt this was such a blessing I wanted to partake of this gift firsthand," she told me. What struck Ms. Moran the most was "the reverence the people had."

She also described what happens in the room where the children are said to see Mary. The children, the youngest now 16, go to the center of the room, kneel and look up. The apparitions are short now, she added, not as lengthy as they were at first.

Mary no longer appears to two of the children because they have now received the "10 secrets" containing the total message Mary said she would give them.

The other woman I spoke with is a nurse, Jean Suddaby, 53. She was in Yugoslavia for Holy Week. She went "not to find miracles but to get to know God better.""

Mrs. Suddaby reported that in Mejugorje she experienced

By Antoinette Bosco



a strange phenomenon, a pulsating, of the sun.

Father Donald Heintschel, associate general secretary of the U.S. Catholic Conference, said that the church is "investigating Medjugorje.. to determine what is going on." The general position of the church on such matters, he emphasized, is that they "are considered to be not true until proven to be true."

But regardless of what the final church judgment is, Medjugorje will remain the mystery of how the Catholic faith was revitalized in a communist country and how thousands of people came to find peace and inspiration there. Admittedly, the country also has profited economically from the surge of tourism

Like Jean Suddaby, some pilgrims have come back with a mission. "I have a very strong desire to pass on God's word as expressed through Mary," Ms. Suddaby said.

But the fact that so many have discovered peace in a communist country may be the real miracle of Medjugorje - regardless of what the final finding of the church's investigation may be.

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## We need vocations

During a recent trip to Antwerp, Belgium, where I attended an international meeting of the Catholic press, I spent some time with Cardinal Suenens, formerly the Primate of Belgium, now retired. We had travelled extensively together in former years. For nearly two days we talked, shared happy memories, explored new ideas for the future of the church, and prayed together. At 83 he is in marvelous shape and his mind still vigorous. I felt the Holy Spirit living in Him in a special way.

He told me of a turning point of his life. When he was only 3, his father died. The shock made a powerful impression on him. He came to realize that life was short, and that it was best to use the years given to us to focus on the things of heaven. And so, his desire to be a priest was present almost before he reached the age of reason.

For me it was different. I felt the call to the priesthood faintly in childhood, but I dismissed it as a pious fantasy. Later when I was a man, the call became stronger; I consciously resisted it. Like so many young people today I was afraid of making any commitment, afraid of deceiving myself, afraid of failing at whatever I tried. I didn't know why I was alive. I had no sense of mission. I had no personal knowledge that God had a plan for my life, as He does for every single person alive.

Only when I allowed this sense of God's guiding presence to grow in me did I begin to feel capable of risking all to follow Him. It took about six years. A tremendous sense of relief followed. I surrendered to God's plan, and I experienced an incredible peace. I only wish I cold share this

By Fr. John Catoir



peace with many young people who struggle with their grace as I once did.

There is a vocation crisis in the church today. The fault lies in part with our secular culture which muffles and distorts the promptings of the Holy Spirit, and partly with young people themselves who cling to their doubts and fears as I did for so many painful years. But time is running out, the church needs priests and religious desperately.

Pray for vocations. Pray for our good young people. They are the hope of the future. Pray that all of us may be generous enough to accept the greatest gift God can give, the call to holiness.

(For a free copy of the Christopher News Notes, Your Career: Choosing the Real Good Life, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The Christophers, 12 East 48 Street, New York, NY 10017.)

## Time capsules

By Frank Morgan



## St. Francis and St. Clare

Just think. If it hadn't been for a 13th century Italian cloth merchant, there wouldn't have been a Frank Sinatra, San Francisco, Emperor Franz Joseph, Franklin Roosevelt or Fanny Farmer. The cloth merchant, a man by the name of Bernadone, named his son, Giovanni, but for reasons of his own he nicknamed him Francisco, which meant "little Frenchmen." Francisco became famous as St. Francis of Assisi and the name of Francis and its derivitives began.

Illness turned young Francis back from joining a Crusade, after which he became very devout. He exchanged his rich and fashionable life for one of rags and the preaching of the Christian message of brotherly love. Pope Innocent III gave Francis permission to start the Franciscan Order of Friars.

Francis broke off his engagement to a beautiful, young girl named Clare by saying that he was going "to wed the fairest of all brides, my lady poverty." Clare also renounced worldly possessions and founded the Poor Clares Order of Nuns. Once when Assisi was beseiged by the army of Emperor Frederick II, Clare appeared at the city walls and the

enemy troops fled in terror. Pope Innocent IV rushed to her death bed to administer the last rites. He was so enthusiastic about her holiness that he had to be restrained from canonizing her into sainthood at her funeral.

During her lifetime, St. Clare was accreditied with the power of bilocal sight which meant that she could see places and events when she was actually elsewhere. This is probably the reason for her being considered the patron saint of television today.

Our first knowledge of the gem, topaz, dates back to the 13th century when it was considered a cure for asthme, insomnia, burns and hemorrhages.

If it were worn around the neck, it was believed to besto cheerfulness, calm passions, and prevent bad dreams for the wearer. But all these powers increased or decreased with the changes of the moon, of course.

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## Seeking professional advice

Dear Mary: I became a widow 15 years ago. My husband and I had a dairy farm. I was 48 then and had seven children.

I continued to operate the farm with my sons, the oldest 20 years. My oldest son became aggresive and violent. Three years went by and suddenly he demanded the farm. I became very nervous and, not accepting responsibility, he cheated me on the cattle and machinery.

I have moved to town and work in a nursing home, but our pastor announced persons that do not know how to handle Godgiven property should not receive their God in Communion, so I feel down and out.

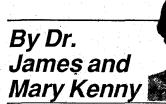
The doctor had me on sedatives and Valium. Why didn't he forget the drugs and simply talk to me and accept my problem?

I tried to correct this after six years went by. I just don't know where to go for help. I have been praying for years.

When I mention this to my son, he says he has no money, but then he invests in something else. What do you do? I've told mental health counselors, my doctor, my pastor. Can you help? -- Wisconsin.

You have carried a burden for many years. No wonder you have been to doctors and mental health counselors.

As you observe, they have not been able to help you with your problem. You do not seem to





have primarily a medical problem or even a mental health problem, and certainly not a spiritual problem. You have a business and legal problem.

As you and many women have found out, women can no longer depend on men to handle their business affairs or to see to their material well-being. In today's world a woman of any age in any situation needs some knowledge of how to handle her material goods.

You did take charge of the farm when your husband died and your children were quite young. This was a competent and courageous thing to do. You seem to be far more knowledgeable and capable than you give yourself credit for.

Where do you start? Here are three suggestions:

1. Get the kind of advice you need. For a business and legal problem you need a lawyer and an accountant. If you do not have a lawyer or an accountant, ask a trusted friend or perhaps your pastor to recommend one.

Do not think that because this is a family matter

business professionals should not be involved. Many businesses are organized between family members. Almost all benefit from the formal structure and organization which lawyers and accountants can provide. As you have found out, when family businesses have no formal legal structure, great problems can arise.

Professional advice is not cheap. To minimize their time and your costs, prepare carefully in advance for meetings with accountants or lawyers. Get the facts. Who owns what? Get property deeds, property tax records, income tax records, records of payments and receipts.

2. Determine what you want. Since you ran (farm yourself, you know about farm income, farm expenses and common ways of passing along ownership. Determine what you think is reasonable, where you have been wronged and how the matter could be resolved. Tell your lawyer and accountant what you want.

3. Apparently you have lived in your community for many years, yet you can find no one to talk to about your problem. You might well need someone to support you as you approach lawyers and accountants. Perhaps you and your husband had good friends or neighbors you could now ask for help.

Brooding about a problem can be devastating to the rest of your life. Do your best to resolve your problem by going to the proper resource persons. Whatever is decided, try then to put the problem behind

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## Bioethics and the lay experience

Last spring the Vatican came out with a document on bioethics, the ethics of surrogate parenthood, artificial insemination and the like. The document generated a great deal of newspaper and television space and commentary.

I found it interesting that, while many disagreed with the document, there was almost universal agreement that we need moral guidelines in this new technological area. And, apparently, John Paul II has taken the courageous first steps in addressing the issues.

Perceptive theologians and futurists have been warning us for at least twenty years that scientists were taking steps in technology that could create moral havoc. Occasionally an issue like the Karen Quinlan case - whether we have the right to unplug the machines on a comatose patient - has jarred us into examining moral implications but until now we have largely ignored the issue of creating life.

I hope the Holy Father's words will engender discussion among the theologians, scientists and lawmakers and will also give silent moralists the courage to examine technology in a moral and legal perspective

When we do discuss these critical bioethical issues, however, I hope the theologians and





magesterium will validate and listen to the lived experience of the people, which is the lay theology we so often ignore.

One area of the Pope's document, for instance, doesn't make theological sense to a great number of laity, particularly Catholic fertility physicians. I'm speaking of his injuction against in vitro fertilization, using the husband's sperm and the wife's egg.

Why doesn't it make sense? Because we were taught that one of the two primary purposes of marriage is to procreate. Twenty years ago, couples suffered greatly from this teaching, fearful of having a baby a year and finding the rhythm method not enriching as the official (and unmarried) church taught, but detrimental to marriage.

Now we are being told that procreation is secondary if it takes place outside the sex act. It doesn't make sense when a simple technology can bypass blocked passages or feminine mucous unfriendly to a husband's sperm. If a couple embraces procreation as a primary purpose of marriage and if technology can help them achieve it, why is it immoral?

Couples who suffer the pain of infertility, who desperately want children, and who know there is a medical method of uniting his sperm and her egg are confused and angry. We need to hear them when we discuss the morality of conception by scientific means. They are the ones involved in the lived experience of infertility.

Those who make the laws don't have to live with this pain. But they do need to hear it and to witness the love and caring of these Christians. According to Peter Hebblewaite, Vatican Affairs writer, there was no consultation with the laity or even the bishops on this document. How sad. We have reached a point of maturity where we can offer to our leaders who have not experienced either the pain of unwanted or desperately wanted pregancies, the insights we are entitled to by the documents of Vatican II.

(C. 1987 Alt Publishing Co.)

## Family matters

## Discovering the meaning of matrimony

By Lynda DiPrima, Director of Marriage preparation

I must admit that I envy the marriage preparation sessions that most engaged couples are receiving in the Church at this time. They are getting a head start on what took us a few tension-filled years to understand.

When I married my husband, John, almost twenty three years ago in the very elegant, stately cathedral of Christ the King, I had little understanding of the real meaning and reality of the "sacrament" of matrimony. To me at that time, it was synonomous with going to church as a couple, receiving the Eucharist together, praying together (which we rarely did then), having children and raising them Catholic, and being assured that the Lord was a central part of our lives together. These things are indeed part of what the sacrament of marriage means, but there is so much more that could have only been learned in the richness of these twenty three years together -- the joys, the pain, the crisis moments, the love. All the stuff of life that we as married couples daily face and struggle with are part and parcel of being married "in the Lord."

As a young bride I saw little connection between PAGE 14 / Miami, Florida / THE VOICE / Friday, June 12, 1987

the sexual expression of love, for example, and the sanctity and sacramentality of marriage. The idea of sex between a married couple being "holy" and "grace-filled" had never been explained or taught to me in catchism class.

At that time my life was compartmentalized, much like my antique roll-top desk, with special little places designated for my prayer life, my sex life, my work life, my life as mother, wife, friend, etc. If I spent several nights soothing a sick baby, that fell under the category of mother, but I never gave much, if any, thought that this was "spiritual" or "holy."

Thankfully, all of that has changed for me during the course of our marriage-- not because someone taught me differently, but because we learn through our life experience.

It is the experience of love, intimacy, warmth and closeness that I have lived with John and our sons that has showed me the love of God. Even during the difficult times of teen-age rebellion, marital misundertanding and conflict, family illnesses and deaths, somehow struggling together and emerging more whole than before is as "spiritual" for us as the more traditional practices of our religion (fasting,

formal prayer, novenas, First Fridays, etc.).

The "sacrament" of marriage is not a one-time event but a lifelong process. As we develop, grow and change, we redefine its meaning at each stage.

It is enfleshed in the efforts we as married couples make to grow in intimacy; to reach out to try to understand that other personality so very different from ourselves; to learn how to resolve our conflicts with each other; to enable the other to reach his/her full potential; and to trust in the power of the Lord.

It has often been stated that we as couples married "in the Lord" are living signs of the presence of Jesus in the world. That does not mean we wear halos, more often than not it means we wear aprons, baby-food stained shirts and K-Mart house shoes. But the effort we make in living our ordinary lives in an extraordinary way brings us closer to one another and to Him who is the source of all love.

This is truly the sacrament, the sign of divine love that we ministered to one another on our wedding day. We had hardly a glimmer then of what it meant, but it is gently unraveled and revealed to us day by day, year by year as we continue to choose to love.

## Religious videos offer alternative

Most people now own or have access to a video-cassette recorder (vcr). About one-third of us have one weighing down our TV sets; those who don't possess one can visit a neighbor to review Game 6 of last year's World Series or can find a machine at a parish,



school or library.

If you're looking for something a little more substantive than last night's "Johnny Carson Show" to play on your machine, I've got three suggestions for altar boys, and shows how the world's smallest nation handles such mundane matters as phone service and news delivery.

The premise of the video is accurate: We Catholics are pretty ignorant of how the Vatican works. We focus on the Pope without being aware of who and what are behind him, supporting him, guiding the Church and serving as the constantly-pumping blood supply to a faith professed by hundreds of millions.

"On This Rock" has been praised by Church leaders in the Vatican and by American Church communicators. It's perfect for home viewing by families or for such audiences as Confirmation classes, parish councils or adult study groups (there's a student discussion guide available as well).

For information about the tape, call 1-800-255-2255. The cost is \$49.95 plus shipping and handling. That's a little steep for some families to

'The premise of the video is accurate: We Catholics are pretty ignorant of how the Vatican works. We focus on the Pope without being aware of who and what are behind him...'

you. One will take you inside the Vatican; another travels with the Pope outside the Vatican to France; and the last one brings to your home one of the best documentaries on spirituality ever assembled.

1. "On This Rock. . . A look Inside the Vatican" is a must-see for Catholics. A 30-minute tour of the Vatican's inner workings, this video goes places tourists never wander and tells what goes on behind those marble walls.

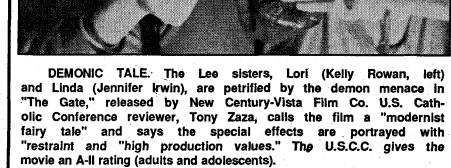
A production of Cineco-Centrill Media, "On This Rock" is narrated by actor Percy Rodríguez, who explains while the camera explores. Beautifully photographed, the tape shows the area where archaeologists believe St. Peter was buried, goes behind-the-scenes with the Swiss guards, visits a school for

foot alone, so consider getting several families together to purchase it for the parish or school or neighborhood.

2. The second video focuses on the Pope, but, in this case, he's outside the Vatican. "Pilgrims and Friends" is a half-hour documentary on John Paul II's Visit to the ecumenical community at Taize, France, last Fall.

Produced by Journey Communications, "Pilgrims and Friends" suffers from a defect which could not be avoided: since the Pope and others in the video speak French, their words are simultaneously translated, robbing the speaker of his or her immediacy.

Otherwise, the video is a moving report on how one man, a Calvinist named Roger Schutze, founded a religous community of men dedicated



to ecumenical understanding, and how the Vicar of Christ came to visit him.

Special emphasis is given in the tape to young people, who find in the Taize community a sign of hope in a world torn by divisions. Several young adults are interviewed in "Pilgrims and Friends," making it especially useful for parish groups with that focus.

"Pilgrims and Friends" costs \$39.95 plus shipping. For details, contact Journey Communications at PO Box 131, Mt. Vernon, VA 22121 (phone: 703-780-9100).

3. The final tape is one many of you have already seen but will want for

your home or parish library: "Mother Teresa," the 90-minute biography which aired on PBS last winter.

After it aired, many readers contacted me to find out if the program was going to be sold on videocassette. The answer is yes. This excellent portrait of the woman who serves "the poorest of the poor" is inspirational, to say the least. Anyone who saw it wants to see it again; anyone who missed it should make sure they add it to their experiences in life.

The video cost \$59.95; for information, contact Today Home Entertainment, 9200 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90069.

## Bigfoot joins the family in new release

The very human sensitivities of a primal being given the name of Harry by the family which accidentally discovers him on the mountain roads of Seattle forms the spirit and substance of "Harry and the Hendersons" (Universal).

Starring John Lithgow as the uistic father, the fantasy directed with arm by William Dear is a whimsical story about one family's contact with a bigfoot primate who, after being run over by them, joins the family.

The somewhat silly plot revolves

around the Henderson family's efforts to protect the hairy critter from media and civil authorities. There's some slapstick humor and much cavorting about to avoid the police and a French-Canadian hunter (David Suchet) bent upon shooting what he perceives to be a beast.

Lithgow overdoes his scenes of recognition of the creature's human traits but does provide an image of a loving, compassionate parent who expresses concern for the value and meaning of life in all its forms.

Don Ameche, in a cameo as a retired naturalist, helps Harry return to

without a spiritual center as reflected in the behavior of wholly non-violent, vegetarian Harry, who turns out to be a family man. The U.S. Catholic

'Lithgow overdoes his scenes of recognition of the creature's human traits but does provide an image of a loving, compassionate parent...'

his natural habitat not the much wiser for having spent some harrowing time in civilization.

This contemporary family film, however, can't dispense totally with rather violent chase sequences and sight gags but does manage to remain essentially a tame, timid reminder that our so-called evolutionary past is not

Conference classification is A-II--adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-parental guidance suggested.

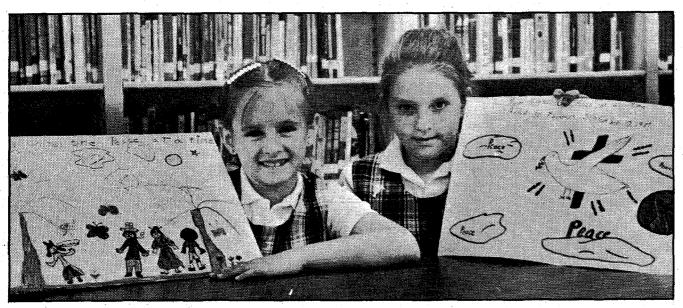
(Reviewed by Tony Zaza. Zaza is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Department of Communication)



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## What's Happening



CHILDREN UNITE. Catholic school children throughout South Florida have been busy drawing posters on the themes of unity and peace lately in preparation for the pope's arrival in Miami. A few of the posters from each school are put on display at Barry University as part of the South Florida Unites One Peace at a Time program sponsored by the university. The program will culminate in a ceremony of song, prayers and music on August 30th in the Broad Auditorium, at which time a "Flame of Peace" will be lit. First grade St. John Neumann School students, Brienne Calcote (above left) and Beatriz Munoz show their posters which are among those on display.

## St. Francis hosts sexuality workshop

"Feeling Good About Sex," St. Francis Hospital's Family Workshop's June 13 program, will feature Dr. Michael Carrera, *Glamour* contributing writer and Hunter College professor. He is the author of the textbook, "Sex: The Facts, The Acts and Your Feelings" which has been translated into 16 foreign languages.

Starting at 10 am at St. Francis

Hospital, the free seminars also include: "Looking for Love in the Right Places-Dating Pitfalls and Pleasures" by Bobbie Heiman, BSW, Ma; "Parenting Your Sexual Child" by Joan Levi, EdD, LCSW; "Staying in Love Forever" by Ralph Johnson, PhD; "Understanding Barriers to Male Intimacy" by Jim Petisci, EdD.

Family Workshop is sponsored by

## Lady of the Lakes raises funds for school

Because Our Lady of the Lakes in Miami Lakes is rapidly expanding, there exists a dire need to complete the school master plan which will provide a total of eighteen classrooms, a library and science lab. The school will then provide over six-hundred students, in double classes from Kindergarten through eight grade, the advantage of a

### Atkins new NCCJ head

The Miami Chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews (NCCJ) has selected U.S. District Judge, C. Clyde Atkins, as Chairman of the local NCCJ chapter.

Atkins has been a member of the NCCJ Executive Committee, serving in numerous capacities, for more than a decade. He received the NCCJ Silver Medallion for Brotherhood in 1959.

In his professional life he took senior status in 1983 remaining active as a trial judge in the district and sits periodically on the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. He served as Chief Judge from June 1977 through December 1982.

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"We find ourselves in something of a dilemma", said pastor Fr. Edmond Whyte. "We have more children seeking admission than we have classrooms to accommodate them."

While the pastor has expressed confidence in the outcome of the fund raising effort, he appeals to the community-at-large for their possible support of this objective. For further information, please write to Our Lady of the Lakes Church, 15801 N.W. 67th Avenue, Miami Lakes, Florida 33014.

## Corpus Christi opens registration

Corpus Christi school, located at 795 S.W. 32nd St. in Miami (Office: 635-8571; Rectory after school hours: 635-1331) is opening registration for Pre-K to 8th grade. There is a supervised After School program-- recreational and educational-- until 5 p.m. Transportation is available. Spanish classes are available.

## Becker Funeral Home

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Funeral Director Phone (305) 428-1444 1444 S. Federal Highway DEERFIELD BEACH St. Francis Hospital on Miami Beach. The Workshop is completing its first year of free community seminars. Since opening this past fall, programs have crossed the board from "Feeding the Generations" to "Creating the Child Wonderful." Notable speakers included renown author Judith Viorst and syndicated columnists Howard Halpern and John Rosemond.

For more information and reservations, please call Joyce Buck, RN, or Dr. Arlene Huysman at 868-2736.

## 'Celebration 87' performs benefit concert

They have played to packed audiences in Canada, Trinidad, Jamaica and come June 27 they will be here in Miami. "Celebration '87," a group of musicians led by Father Richard Ho Lung will be appearing at the Broad Center for the Performing Arts, Barry University, 11300 N.E. 2nd Avenue, Miami Shores, at 8:00 P.M. (Admission \$7 adults, \$4 children).

A unique group of dynamic musicians, their repertoire ranges from folk, jazz, reggae, calypso, pop revival music.

This group, formed by Fr. Ho Lung over 9 years ago has over eight albums to their credit.

The concert is being hosted by Friends of the Poor Miami, Inc., and proceeds will be donated to projects for the poor, handicapped and disabled; these projects are run by Brothers of the Poor in Jamaica, headed by Fr. Ho Lung.

### **Prayer petitions**

"Call to me and I will you" Jer. 33:3. The answer employees of the Archdiocese of Miami Pastoral Center gather each Monday morning to pray for intentions of you. brothers and sisters of the Archdiocese. Petitions will be included in our individual daily prayers each week as well as during this special time of community prayers. Anyone with a prayer request is invited to write to: Prayer Petition, Archdiocese of Miami, 9401 Biscavne Blvd., Miami, Fl. 33138.

## It's a date

St. Bernadette in Hollywood will host a rummage sale on June 27-28 (Sat.: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sun.: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.). Clothing, household items, kitchenware. Refreshments.

L.I.F.O. (Living Instruments of Others), a missionary group, is hosting a fashion show on June 20th from noon to 4 p.m. at the Sts. Peter and Paul Auditorium (1435 SW 12th Ave.) for the benefit of the poor in the Dominican Republic. Donations are \$5. All clothes for sale after show. Ticket info call 554-6776.

The Archdiocese Young Adult Office has announced a party at Pizazz nightclub in Ft. Lauderdale on June 19 (must be 21 or older). Tickets and information available through the office at 525-5157 (Broward) or 757-6241 (Dade).

AARP is conducting sa

driving courses for those who are 55 and older for a nominal charge for insurance deductions. Call Charles Stewart at 754-6318 for more information.

Court Holy Spirit #1912, C.D. of A. will hold their regular business meeting on June 12th at St. Elizabeth's Gardens at 1 p.m. Noon installation Mass. If anyone wishes to become a member or transfer contact 941-5546.

Boystown of Florida, 11400 SW 17th Ave., will hold a "huge" flea market on June 20 from 9 a m to 3 p.m.

St. Timothy Catholic Church, 5400 SW 102nd Ave. in Miami hosts meetings for divorced, separated, widowed, and all singles every Monday at 7:30 p.m. All faiths welcome. For more information call 274-8224.

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## **Black Catholics...**

(continued from page 7) incorporated into the national document.

But Father Mason's position is not fulltime, in that he also serves as pastor of St. Francis Xavier Church, Miller said black Catholics are ready to step into positions of responsibility whenever an Archdiocesan office for them is created.

According to statistics compiled by the St. Martin de Porres Association, there are approximately 4,000 black-American Catholics in the Archdiocese. The number is upwards of 10,000 when

black Catholics from the Bahamas, Haiti, and other parts of the Caribbean are included. Cooper said.

She noted, however, that black Catholics are scattered throughout various areas of the Archdiocese. Evidence of that is in the locations of the parishes which sent representatives to the national congress: St. Francis Xavier in Overtown; St. Vincent de Paul in northwest Miami; St. Hugh in Coconut Grove; Holy Redeemer in Liberty City; St. Philip in Opa-Locka; and Christ the King in Perrine.

### Son of Miami couple ordained Jesuit priest

On June 6, Louis P. Sogliuzzo, son of Louis and Margaret Sogliuzzo of Miami, was ordained a priest in the New York Province of the Society of Jesus by Bishop Martin J. Neylon, SJ, Bishop of the Caroline-Marshall Islands. Fr. Sogliuzzo grew up in New Jersey, will be returning to that

#### Mercy seeks volunteers

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region in his first assignment after ordination, the Jesuit Retreat House in Morristown.

### Serra Essay winners

On May 19 at the regular meeting of the Serra Club the following Essay Contest Winners were presented cash prizes. Essay winners and parents were guests at the Serra Luncheon meeting: 6th grade, Suzanne Vidal, Epiphany Parish, "Why we call a priest Father"; 7th-8th grade, Jennifer Dagdag. "What makes good priests and religious": 9th-12th Grade, Jennifer Basila and Sandra Villalobos, "Is the priest and religious needed in modern day society?"

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#### 5 A Novenas

Thanks to St. Jude for prayers answered. Publication promised. L.M.G.

Thanks to St. Jude for prayers answered. Publication promised. Yola DiPol

#### 5A - Novenas

#### ST JUDE NOVENA

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us. St. Jude, maker of miracles pray for us. Thank you for prayers answered. Publication prayers answered. F promised. P.A.M. C.S.I.

Thanks to St. Jude for prayers answered. Publication promised.

Thanks to St. Jude for favor granted. Publication promised. L.M.F.

Thanks to St. Jude for prayers answered. Publication promised. A.R.M.

#### **PRAYER TO** THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit you who solve all problems. Who light all roads so that I can attain my goal You who give me the divine gift to forgive and to forget all evil against me and that in all instances of my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things and to confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you, even in spite of all material illusion. I wish to be with you in Eternal Glory. Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine. Publication promised. I.C.

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Oh, Holy St. Jude, Apostle and martyr, great in virtue & rich in miracles, near kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg you to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance Such great power to come to my assistance.

Help me in my present and urgent petition.

In return I promise-to make your name known and you to be invoked with Our Fathers, Hail Many's and Glory Be's. Amen.

I have had my request granted. Publication promised. Thanks for answering my prayer.

#### 5 A Novenas

Thanks to St. Jude and Sacred Heart for prayers answered. Publication promised.J.G.C.

Thanks to the Sacred Heart and St. Jude for prayers answered. Publication promised. A. B. & T.S.

Thanks to St. Jude for favor granted. Publication promised, M.I.

I love you Blessed Mother and Jesus. Thanks for prayer answered Pub Promised N.P.

Thanks to St. Jude for prayers answered. Publication promised. T.S.

Thank you Jesus, Holy Mother and St. Jude for blessings. Publication

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## **Talking** with teens at home

By Katharine Bird NC News Service

At 18, the high school graduate told his mother he wanted to spend the months until college living with his father in New England -- "so I can get to know him." But, Chris added, "I want to talk with you about it."

"He knew I would have feelings about his leaving and was concerned I might be hurt or angry." said his mother, Carolyn Hall (not her real name) of Washington, D.C. She was delighted by her son's sensitivity, saying: "That's the kind of maturity I

> 'I want the children to see me as a person. It's important for me to have the right to be angry or hurt with them. It gives them the freedom to have the same emotions with me. We realize we love each other. Having feelings doesn't change

want from my child."

Her daughter Jill is 17.

"I want the children to see me as a person. It's important for me to have the right to be angry or hurt with them," Hall said. "It gives them the freedom to have the same emotions with me. We realize we love each other. Having feelings doesn't change that."

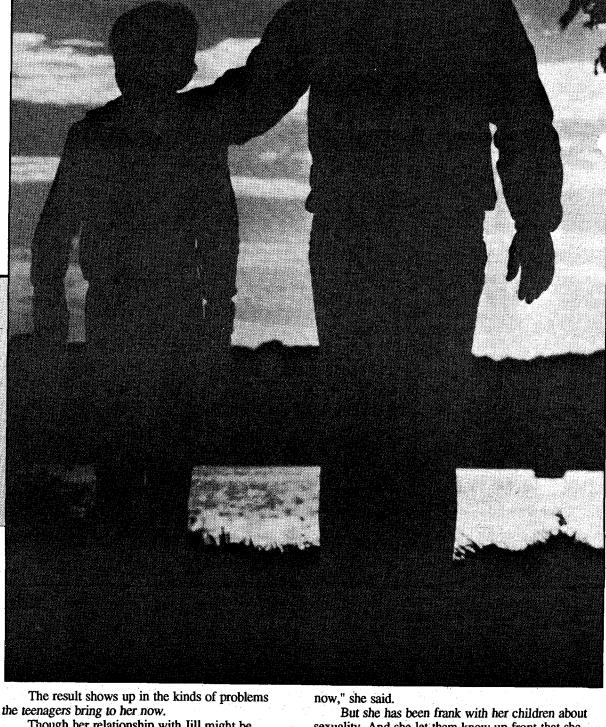
The early years were a struggle to make ends meet as Hall attended law school at the University of Notre Dame, spent a year in London living in a basement flat, then began her career. She is assistant general counsel for a federal agency.

But no matter how busy or tired, she made time for her children. "I wanted to play a part in shaping their values, what is important to them, how they

treat people," she said. Having dinner together was a priority. "The kids and I have always talked a lot," she said --about school and work, telling jokes and sharing

"I made sure they listened to what was happening in my life, too," Hall explained. "It's selfish to always talk about yourself. I wanted them to be sensitive to others."

Hall tried to give her children a sense that "I would always be there for them," even when it was inconvenient. She made Halloween costumes when up to her eyebrows in law briefs and tried to be ready to listen when they were upset.



Though her relationship with Jill might be described as prickly at times, Jill comes to her mother when she feels depressed or unhappy. Of course, there have been arguments, often around the issue of trust.

Jill thinks "I don't trust her when it's really that she wants to take on an adult experience I don't think she's ready for," Hall said.

She suspects trust is important for Jill "because it is part of the process of learning to trust herself. If she sees I trust her she has more self-confidence.

The trust between the lawyer and her children is demonstrated in their ability to discuss sexual morality. It is never an easy topic, Hall commented.

She told of reading a book on sexuality to her children when they were 4 and 5, getting embarrassed and skipping a page. "The kids tease me about it

sexuality. And she let them know up front that she disapproves of sexual relations for teens. In a recent lengthy conversation Chris asked her why.

"I found it hard to explain to one so young all that is involved in sex," she admitted. "But I emphasized it is an experience that involves a lot more than a bodily act and how much potential there is for one person to feel used by another." Hall believes that "teens aren't prepared to handle sex. It's dynamite. They don't anticipate the ramifications."

Asked how Chris responded, she said he listened intently and appeared to believe her. Her worst fears about how such a conversation might go were not realized. It was a source of satisfaction to her, for she has worked hard for many years to be able to discuss anything and everything with her children.

## **Scriptures**

It's easier to see God in an office with a window...

#### By Father David K. O'Rourke, OP **NC News Service**

Ed (not his real name) works for a bank, high in a San Francisco building. He can look out over Fisherman's Wharf, Alcatraz and the Golden Gate. He loves the view. He can see the fog roll in and the

But that will change. A young man with trim good looks and a tennis racket strapped to his briefcase is moving into Ed's office. Ed is going to a cubicle with no window. Only 20 feet away, it is a humiliating move into a new world of insignificance.

Ed used to travel on business. But then his wife Elaine pleaded with him not to leave her alone. Elaine did not cope well. Under the best of circumstances, just getting through the day was an

With Ed away Elaine lived in anxiety bordering

on panic. Their children were difficult teenagers and she just could not handle the stress anymore.

So Ed's young assistant went to the out-oftown meetings. He was a clever young man bent on advancement. Now he was moving into Ed's office.

A few weeks before the young man had moved into a bachelor apartment so he could devote all his time to his career. "Meg and I are not together any more," he told Ed, who was never quite clear whether Meg was his wife or live-in girlfriend.

"We just weren't growing together," he explained.

Ed couldn't remember how long it had been since there had been any growth in his marriage.

"We're really two different people," the younger man said.

Ed wondered how much he and Elaine had in common

'We needed our own space."

## Know Your Faith

# Teens and God

## How parents can pass on their faith

By Margaret Steinfels NC News Service

"Well, uh, we pray here. I hope you don't mind."
My adolescent son's warning to our dinner
guests summed up many of the feelings our culture,
and our teenagers, have about religion. It's a little
embarrassing in front of strangers. And it's especially
touchy when you know that your guests, or fellow
students, or the neighbors, don't share your views
or, at least, your denomination.

Well, our friends didn't mind. "We think grace before meals is just dandy." But my son, the great debater, was probably a little disappointed not to be able to launch into an argument about imposing your views and prayers on others --another taboo of our culture and, it seems, our teenagers.

The fact is, a prayer before meals, or a sturdy debate on how cheating in school used to be a sin, or helping to set up the beds for a neighborhood shelter for the homeless, are the daily means parents have of drawing their adolescent children onto the paths that lead toward Christian maturity.

Of course it all begins much earlier. But there is no doubt that part of the real test of our willingness and ability as parents to pass on Catholicism comes with how far we are willing to push and pull our adolescent children and, at other moments, just to leave them alone. We challenge and test our children, but we also challenge and test ourselves.

Do we pass up Sunday Mass on vacation because the only place we can tolerate is our own parish? Or do we search out the wooden church at the edge of a lake?

In criticizing our children's friends, do we leave room for the affection and compassion our children may feel for someone who is having a hard time making sense out of life?

Of course, every family is different and so, just as we have different ways of passing on to children our enjoyment of baseball or basketball, of Jane Austen or Charlie Chaplin, we have different ways of sharing our deepest beliefs about God, about the teachings of Jesus, about the Church.

Some families talk a lot --about the Sunday homily, about abortion, about moral choice or standing up for what you believe. Other families are deeply involved in parish activities and children see their parents taking responsibility for liturgy planning or for organizing a soup kitchen.

In a variety of ways, adolescents pick up our beliefs and practices, or our lack of them.

But let's admit it: Even if our own religious practices, sense of compassion and hopefulness about Church and world are strong, that's not enough. We keep hearing that the family is the chief influence on a child's religious views. But it is clear that the family cannot do it alone.

Adolescents also need education: information and its about Scripture and doctrine, about Jesus and the



The real test of our willingness and ability as parents to pass on Catholicism comes with how far we are willing to push our adolescent children and, at other moments, just to leave them alone. (NC sketch)

Church. Like all of us, adolescents need a larger community to confirm and sustain their beliefs and practices. Adolescents in the process of leaving childhood and family may need such a community most of all

Fortunate then, those families that live in a parish like St. James in Arlington Heights, Ill., which has a small group program for adolescents - and when they go off to college keeps in touch by sending them copies of the lively and informative parish bulletin.

Parish staff members make it a point to visit three campuses a semester where St. James' parishioners are going to school, organize a party over Christmas vacation and run a summer program called "Theology on Tap."

Or a parish like St. Anthony's in Nanuet, N.Y., where a Young Christian Servants program provides some 250 teenagers each year with a small group in which to pray, to talk, to reflect on Scripture and to live out the Gospel in services to the community.

Of course, that larger community that adolescents need can sometimes be the high school or a peer group or a youth organization. What's important is that our adolescents be able to find them.

And adolescents will only find them if we adults -some of us parents, some of us not-- are willing to
create and sustain them.

## Inviting teens to Mass

By Father Patrick Collins NC News Service

"But Mom, why do I have to go to Mass?"

That's what many parents hear from their young people. How do you respond? Some parents simply say: "You will go as long as you live under this roof because I say so." Others let their young people drift away in hope that some day when they find some meaning in the Mass they will return.

Why do young people have difficulties with Roman Catholic liturgy? Father Don Kimball of youth ministry fame gave me three reasons. First, teens and young adults often find liturgy too slowly paced. Their lives and music are on the go. The liturgy just doesn't look or sound like the other six days of their week.

Second, they find the Mass too wordy. They function best in the language of images --in fact, multi-images like music video.

Third, youths sense that in parish liturgy they are worshiping with strangers. Young people don't know how to become part of a community made up

of people of many ages and backgrounds, especially if they are having difficulty feeling at home in the family.

What to do? Do we solve youths' problem with slow pacing by celebrating Mass in an entertainment rhythm? Do we hurdle their feeling that the Mass is wordy by just having music and a multimedia event? Do we overcome their feeling of estrangement at Mass by having separate youth liturgies? Yes and no.

Although it should never drag, good parish liturgy involves a reflective pace, not a rock rhythm. Good parish liturgy does rely greatly on images

and symbols, minimizing words. The intuitions of youth are on target here.

In regard to feeling like strangers at a parish Mass, their intuitions are again on target. Good parish liturgy is founded on good community, community which embraces different kinds of people.

Parish community-building events which regularly include youth, not just events for youth, may be one way of helping young people to feel more welcome and less estranged.

Space? Poor Elaine clung to Ed. "And I just wanted out."

Ed was afraid even to think along those lines. It was that conversation that brought Ed to see me. He didn't really want advice or counseling, just someone to talk with.

"I had a choice between my career and my family and I put the family first," Ed said, as though making excuses. "But she's my wife," he went on, really thinking out loud. "She's a good person and she tries so hard to do what she thinks is right."

"Even so," he said, "going home each night is really hard for me."

California is not a land of faith. Using religion as a stage set for personal growth and a prop for self-interest is very common.

But faith is different. It is a living "yes" to the most basic of questions. Did God truly become

human in the person of Jesus of Nazareth? Are his words the words of God? Should I really try to live what he said?

It is faith, a God-given ability, that moves us to say "yes" to these questions.

Faith also addresses questions much closer to

'Faith also addresses questions much closer to our own homes. Is my family more important than my job? Do they really deserve prime time?'

our own homes. Is my family more important than my job? Do they really deserve prime time? Are those confused teenagers my responsibility?

Ed knew that his answers regarding his own wife and children came from his faith. He knew that Elaine and his teens had to come before business.

But it was not easy to live that faith. Part of him wanted to go out with the boys rather than go home, and to go ahead and put the business trips to Seattle and Los Angeles first.

But he really believed that his faith called him to make the decision he had made.

Ed's goodness left me at a loss for words. So I stammered something obvious about seeing God in these situations, perhaps even in the change of offices.

"Maybe, so," he replied. "But it's easier to see God in an office with a window."

## Laity tell Vatican: Listen to us more

sons want the Vatican to take into account their experiences before making moral and doctrinal statements affecting them, said an American participant at a meeting to prepare for this fall's world Synod of Bishops.

The American, Francis J. Butler, is president of Foundations and Donors interested in Catholic Activities, or FADICA. He cited the call for lay input after returning from the May 21-25

meeting in Rome.

He was one of 150 lay persons, including four Americans, who were invited to the meeting, which was sponsored by the Pontifical Council for the Laity. Participants came from 56 countries for the meeting, at which 35 cardinals and bishops were observers.

The world Synod of Bishops on the laity is scheduled for Oct. 1-30.

Lay people at the May meeting felt that the church needed "more participation of laity in formation of church teaching," Butler said.

Participants acknowledged that the church does not rely on public opinion polls in deciding doctrine but felt the church needed to look at the "beliefs and practices of the faithful" in formulating its statements, he said.

Such consultation, he added, coincides with the tradition of "sensus fidelium," the sense of the faithful.

Butler said that people at the meeting were particularly critical of the recent document from the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith which condemned all forms of in vitro fertilization.

"Some felt there was not enough discussion with childless couples,' Butler said.

The participants, who were invited to share their "experience as laity," also felt that a "sense of ownership" of the church "is missing" among Catholics, Butler said.

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They complained that a "sense of elitism" marks the church and leads people who feel that they have failed through divorce, for example — to say that they "no longer feel a sense of belonging in the church."

Because the church is "too concerned with the integrity of the faith," he said, "we push people outside." Meeting participants stressed a need for reconciliation within the church.

The group, which comprised people from various professions, including medicine, education, law and journalism, also said the laity want to do more in the church, Butler said. They said that clergy have to "let go" and said that currently priests "try to play every instrument instead of being orchestra leader."

The group also called for the church to be politically astute and said the church "seems to be having less and less impact in society," Butler said.

They want the church to "set the agenda for society" and be "more involved in politics," that is, "be out there leading," said Butler. The church has to do more "to enable laity to get out and influence society."

## More U.S.Catholics, fewer priests, nuns

WASHINGTON (NC) — The U.S. Catholic population went up about one-half of 1 percent last year, but the number of priests and nuns serving them declined, according to statistics in the 1987 Official Catholic Directory.

The 1987 directory, issued in early June, reported an increase in the total U.S. Catholic population from 52,654,908 at the start of 1986 to 52,893,217 at the start of 1987. Catholics make up about 22 percent of the country's total population.

In the same period the number of diocesan priests dropped from 35,155 to 34,471, for a loss of 684, or just under 2 percent.

The number of religious brothers was stable, registering a total loss of only 11, from 7,429 to 7,418. The number of sisters declined 1 percent, from 113,658 to 112,489. Permanent deacons rose, from 7,562 to 7,981

The reported number of religious-order priests was down dramatically, from 22,028 to 18,911, but a change in reporting procedures seemed to be responsible for a major part of the apparent loss. Dioceses were not asked to report separately on religious priests working in foreign missions, and lack of data in that area made it imposs?" to determine immediately what the total of religious priests actually was this year.

The publication depends on reports from dioceses and religious orders for its data. As a result, large fluctuations sometimes represent changes in the ways of counting or reporting rather than in the actual situation.

In other data reported by the new directory, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles remains the nation's largest with a Catholic population of 2,659,000, followed by the archdioceses of Chicago, Boston, New York and Detroit.

The 1987 figures also showed slight declines from the previous year in numbers of recorded infant baptisms, converts, marriages and deaths.

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