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## *Godspeed, class of 2011*



Top and bottom row, valedictorians of the archdiocese's 13 high schools. Center left, Kevin Fernandez receives his perfect attendance certificate at Msgr. Pace High School. Center right, Sabrina Cabrera receives her diploma at Mother of Our Redeemer's first-ever eighth-grade graduation. See more graduation stories, Pages A3, A7-12.

# Bishop Estévez installed as bishop of St. Augustine

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO

Special to the Florida Catholic

**JACKSONVILLE**—Calling himself “a link in a chain” that began when Spanish missionaries planted a cross on the sands of St. Augustine, Bishop Felipe de Jesús Estévez began his ministry in Florida’s mother diocese by urging the faithful to commit themselves to “proclaim anew the Gospel of the cross.”

“It was here that the Gospel message entered North America through the gate of Florida,” Bishop Estévez told a joyous crowd that filled St. Joseph Church June 2 for the two-hour, bilingual installation Mass that was televised live on EWTN, TVMartí (which broadcasts to Cuba) and live-streamed on the diocesan and archdiocesan websites. “Therefore it is not unusual that a Hispanic-American comes to you today, to continue with new vigor the glorious work of evangelization in Florida.”

Filled with the pomp and pageantry of 2,000 years of Catholic tradition, the Mass began with a long procession of deacons and priests from the Diocese of St. Augustine and the Archdiocese of Miami, where Bishop Estévez served as priest and auxiliary bishop for most of his priesthood. The procession continued with Knights of Columbus, Knights and Dames of Malta, and Knights of the Holy Sepulcher, followed by bishops from outside the United States—including Haiti and Cuba—around the country and the entire state of Florida.

Applause rang out when Bishop Estévez entered the church. Then, Msgr. Jean-Francois Lanttheaume, counselor of the apostolic nunciature and representative of the papal nuncio in the United States, read aloud the apostolic mandate by which Pope Benedict XVI “relieved” Bishop Estévez of his duties as auxiliary bishop of Miami and assigned him new “rights and responsibilities” as chief shepherd of the Diocese of St. Augustine.

Father Michael Morgan, diocesan chancellor, then showed the mandate to the diocese’s college of consultors and held it up for the congregation to see. Immediately afterward, Archbishop Thomas Wenski, metropolitan of the Province of Miami, and St. Augustine’s retired Bishop Victor Galeone, led Bishop Estévez to the presidential chair. They also handed him the crozier, or shepherd’s staff, symbolizing his new office.

The rite of installation concluded with representatives of various dioc-



Bishop Felipe Estévez greets the faithful as he processes out of St. Joseph Church in Jacksonville after his installation Mass June 2. (SCOTT SMITH | PRESS POOL)

esan groups and ministries—from the Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Augustine and students representing the diocesan schools to the chief of an ancient Appalachian tribe—walking up to greet the bishop and offer him their congratulations and welcome.

“As the new bishop of St. Augustine, I pray we are graced with a new Pentecost for the Church in America,” Bishop Estévez said during his homily. “The Church of the Eucharist needs to be born again and again, worshipping the living, triune God, the absolute priority of our lives.”

“True worship leads to true service,” Bishop Estévez continued. “Like the one who loved us and gave himself for us, we are called to humbly serve our neighbor. We are to love each person as Christ, who shed his most precious blood for everyone without exception. ... I pray that we might be energized by the Eucharist and always seek to honor the eucharistic Lord! I also pray that we might be a force to bring about a more civil and just society, a society of love that manifests the harmony and peace of the eucharistic kingdom in our midst.”

As a visible sign of that harmony, the prayers of the faithful were recited in a number of languages, including Spanish, Vietnamese, Tagalog (Philippines), French, Korean and English.

“He wants to be very inclusive,” said Carmen Valdivia, vice president of Operation Pedro Pan Group, the organization created by the children who came to the U.S. from Cuba via the Pedro Pan program in the early 1960s. Bishop Estévez is a “Pedro Pan,” as they call themselves, and continues to be involved in the group, which now dedicates itself to charitable works on behalf of children.

“We feel that everything is connecting. We’re very excited,” said Valdivia, who attended the installation Mass along with the group’s president, Carmen Románach, and second vice president, Juan Pujol. Valdivia was referring to the circular nature of the history that has brought Bishop Estévez to St. Augustine: Pedro Pan was facilitated by Msgr. Bryan Walsh, an Irish priest who worked in Miami and wound up helping Cuban immigrants; Father Felix Varela, who grew up in St. Augustine, was a Cuban priest who wound up helping Irish immigrants in New York; and now Bishop Estévez, a Pedro Pan, comes home to the diocese that nurtured Father Varela.

“He’s been walking with us as a spiritual leader,” Pujol said of Bishop Estévez. “We’re going to miss him.”

Sister Christine Zimorski, on the other hand, a Sister of St. Joseph of St. Augustine who worked in Miami, said she was “ecstatic” that Bishop Estévez has been assigned to St. Augustine.

Her general superior, Sister Jane Stoeker, who also worked many years in Miami, said she was “hopeful that he will share his holiness with us. I see him as a very strong man, very humble, and very holy. All of those graces will not only affect the Diocese of St. Augustine, but will have a very positive effect on our congregation.”

“It’s a big job,” said Jim Kersten, a parishioner of St. Joseph Church who attended the installation Mass. He was referring to St. Augustine’s 170,000 Catholics.

“That’s a large flock. I know God has chosen him for a reason,” Kersten continued, referring to Bishop Estévez. “He’s up to the task.” ■



Bishop Felipe Estévez greets his mother, Estrella Estévez, during his installation Mass. (ZACH THOMAS | PRESS POOL)



Archbishop Thomas Wenski of Miami, left, and retiring Bishop Victor Galeone of St. Augustine, with his back to the camera, lead Bishop Estévez to the presidential chair at St. Joseph Church in Jacksonville June 2. (ZACH THOMAS | PRESS POOL)

# Juggling sports and school

Four Olympic hopefuls, one aspiring race-car driver excel in academics at St. Brendan High

**ANNIE DIBERNARDO**  
Florida Catholic correspondent

**MIAMI** — So how do a professional race-car driver, three Olympic swimmers and one Olympic cyclist combine their vigorous training schedules with high school?

It's a balancing act between rigorous training, academics, being homesick and living in someone else's household. But thanks to St. Brendan High School, each of these international students has been given a chance to live their dream.

"When we have exceptional children we allow them to work at their exceptionalities. We hold them responsible for the academics, but we give them some latitude in school rules," said Marist Brother Felix Elardo, St. Brendan's principal.

Victor Carbone, 18-year-old high school student and professional race-car driver, competed in the Firestone Indy Lights series in Indianapolis at the end of May. Competitive swimmers Wayne Denswil, Evita Leter and Karlene Van Der Jagt head to the Tamiama swimming pool to train six days a week. Cyclist Jari Jestyv from Estonia travels to the velodrome at Brian Piccolo Park in

Pembroke Pines for training.

With the exception of Carbone, who is from Brazil, these unique students came to Miami from Suriname to attend high school and have a shot at success. Because they were able to meet all of their athletic and personal challenges while maintaining high academic standards, they were given special recognition at the St. Brendan academic awards ceremony held before the end of the school year.

"It's impressive that they can spend so much time with their coach and their school work is always done," said Mia Suarez, assistant principal of academics.

Suarez, who also used to be a coach, refutes the myth that sports interferes with academics. She said she thinks involvement in sports keeps students organized.

Carbone, who maintains a 3.8 grade point average, moved to Miami to follow his team. Now that he has graduated high school, he is moving to Indianapolis to pursue a career as a professional race-car driver. He plans to compete in the Indianapolis 500 in 2013.

"I've been to a lot of schools over the years, but it was St. Brendan's that was very flexible and helped me so that I didn't fall behind," said Carbone.

The other four students are training to participate in the 2012 Olympics. They train from 6 to 9:30 p.m. every night and compete about every two weeks. They attribute their discipline to their parents, most of whom were also athletes.

Students cannot combine academics with sports in Suriname, so they came to South Florida as part

of a special program that sends athletes to the U.S. They found that St. Brendan was the only school that offered them this opportunity.

Wayne, 14, who started swimming when he was 5, said he likes the people and teachers at St. Brendan. He specializes in the individual medley (breast, freestyle, butterfly and backstroke.)

Van Der Jagt, 18, who began swimming at age 3, specializes in the 50-yard freestyle stroke. She said she really felt welcomed by the people at St. Brendan.

Evita, 15, also started swimming at age 3 and specializes in the 50-yard breast stroke. She said St. Brendan's teachers are very supportive and willing to help.

Tyon En Fa, 17, said he loves being on a bike and was attracted to the sport because he loves the speed. He said St. Brendan knows how to work well with international students.

"The reason why our school has such a loving sense of community is because Brother Felix exemplifies Christ and believes in the uniqueness of everyone," said Candice Barker, admissions director. "It makes a huge difference. Kids know they have someone to turn to. Brother Felix and Father José Alvarez, St. Brendan president, are a great team. They have the same focus on the best interest of the student. Everything is student-oriented."

It was "by the grace of God" that these students came to St. Brendan, added Barker. The first one came and then the word spread. But aside from their athletic abilities, "they are just great kids," she said. ■



Posing for a picture at the academic awards ceremony, from left, are Father José Alvarez, St. Brendan High School principal, swimmers Evita Leter, Wayne Denswil and Karlene Van Der Jagt, and Marist Brother Felix Elardo, St. Brendan principal. **ANNIE DIBERNARDO** | FC

## 53RD ANNUAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN CONVENTION



Diane Tugander, center, recipient of the Miami Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women's highest honor, the Our Lady of Good Counsel award, poses with Barbara Asfendis, left, archdiocesan president; Father Michael J. Greer, archdiocesan moderator; and Best Fassig-Bayer, Broward District president. The council women held their 53rd annual convention May 20-22 at the Hotel Sofitel in Miami, during which they also awarded four scholarships to young women seeking to continue their Catholic education in high school. Look for the story, and many more, online at [www.miamiarch.org](http://www.miamiarch.org). **(TONI PALLATTO | FC)**

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# John Jay College issues report on clergy sexual abuse

## Landmark research reveals no single cause, no predictor of which clergy would abuse

### U.S. CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

**WASHINGTON** — A landmark study by researchers at John Jay College of Criminal Justice of the City University of New York, which examined the causes and context of the clergy sexual abuse crisis in the U.S. Catholic Church, concluded that there was no single cause or predictor of sexual abuse by Catholic clergy. The report added that that situational factors and opportunity to abuse played a significant role in the onset and continuation of abusive acts.

"The bulk of cases occurred decades ago," said Karen Terry, John Jay's principal investigator for the report. "The increased frequency of

### MIAMI VIRTUS INFORMATION

#### Virtus training schedule

Virtus workshops help parents, teachers and anyone who works with children recognize signs of sexual abuse and spot abuses. Sessions are free. For information, call 305-762-1750 or email [trayburn@theadm.org](mailto:trayburn@theadm.org).

- Wednesday, June 23, and Thursday, July 21, 7 p.m., St. Kevin, Miami.
- Saturdays, July 30 and Aug. 27, 9 a.m., St. Jerome, Fort Lauderdale.
- Saturday, Aug. 20, 10 a.m., St. Mary Star of the Sea School, Key West.

#### SPANISH

##### Entrenamiento Virtus

El entrenamiento Virtus ayuda a los padres, a los maestros y a cualquiera que trabaje con los niños a reconocer las señales de abuso sexual e identificar a los abusadores. El entrenamiento es gratis. Para más información, llámanos al 305-762-1750 o envíar un correo electrónico a [jrayburn@theadm.org](mailto:jrayburn@theadm.org). Las próximas sesiones tendrán lugar:

- Miércoles, 23 de junio y jueves, 21 de julio, a las 7 p.m., en la iglesia St. Kevin, Miami.
- Sábado, 30 de julio y sábado, 27 de agosto, 9 a.m., en la iglesia St. Jerome, Miami.

#### Fort Lauderdale

• Sábado, 20 de agosto, 10 a.m., escuela de St. Mary Star of the Sea, Key West.

#### To report abuse

To report abuse by someone representing the Archdiocese of Miami, call the archdiocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator, Richard Turcotte, toll-free at 1-866-802-2873, or fill out the forms at [www.miamiarcb.org/vip.asp?op=PGC\\_General](http://www.miamiarcb.org/vip.asp?op=PGC_General).

To report abuse to civil authorities, call the Florida Abuse Hotline toll-free at 1-800-96-ABUSE (1-800-962-2873).

#### SPANISH

##### Para reportar abuso

Para reportar abuso sexual por parte de alguien representando a la Arquidiócesis de Miami, llamar al Coordinador de la Asistencia a las Víctimas, el Dكتور Richard Turcotte, al 1-866-802-2873 (llamada gratis), o llenar el formulario que se encuentra en el sitio web [www.miamiarcb.org/vip.asp?op=PGC\\_General](http://www.miamiarcb.org/vip.asp?op=PGC_General).

Para reportar abuso sexual a las autoridades civiles, llamar al Florida Abuse Hotline, 1-800-96-ABUSE (1-800-962-2873) — llamada gratis.

# John Jay College publica resultados del estudio sobre el abuso sexual

## Afirma que no hay causante único del abuso sexual por miembros del clero o factor que permitiera predecirlo

### CONFERENCIA DE OBISPOS CATÓLICOS

**WASHINGTON** — Una investigación histórica realizada por el John Jay College of Criminal Justice de la Universidad de la Ciudad de Nueva York, que ha examinado las causas y el contexto de la crisis del abuso sexual de menores por parte de clero católico en Estados Unidos, ha concluido que no hubo una causa única del abuso, ni patrones de comportamiento previo al abuso que permitiera predecirlo.

El reporte añade que factores situacionales así como oportunidades para el abuso jugaron un papel importante en el inicio y la continuación de actos abusivos.

"La gran mayoría de los casos ocurrió hace décadas", dijo la doctora en investigación Karen Terry, principal investigadora y autora del reporte de John Jay. "El incremento en la frecuencia de las incidencias de abuso en las

décadas de los '60 y '70 es consistente con los patrones de conducta desviada en la sociedad del momento.

También afirmó que "las influencias sociales se cruzaron con vulnerabilidades de sacerdotales individuales cuya preparación a una vida de celibato era inadecuada en aquel tiempo."

Igualmente, la investigadora afirmó que ni el celibato ni la homosexualidad son causas del abuso y que los datos recogidos en el historial de pruebas psicológicas, psicosexuales, de desarrollo, inteligencia y experiencia en el sacerdocio no permitían distinguir a candidatos al sacerdocio que más tarde cometieron abusos de otros que no lo hicieron.

El desarrollo del componente de formación humana en la educación de los sacerdotes en el seminario, sin embargo, tiene relación directa con la continuación

PLEASE SEE ABUSO, A6

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FROM AS

de un bajo nivel de abuso sexual de niños por parte de sacerdotes católicos en los Estados Unidos, dijo.

El estudio "Causas y Contexto del Abuso Sexual de Menores por sacerdotes Católicos, 1950-2010," realizado por un equipo de investigadores de John Jay College, fue publicado el 18 de mayo en Washington. Terry presentó el reporte a Diane Knight, presidenta del Comité Nacional de Revisión (National Review Board), un grupo compuesto de católicos laicos que supervisó el proyecto, y a Mons. Blaise Cupich, de Spokane, Wash., presidente del Comité de Obispos para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos.

El estudio también encontró que la respuesta inicial de los obispos a mediados de los '80 a las alegacio-

nes de abuso estuvo concentrada en buscar ayuda para el sacerdote-abusador. A pesar del desmoronamiento de los '90, de un amplio plan de respuesta a las víctimas y a los datos causados por el abuso sexual, la implementación por parte de las diócesis en aquel tiempo no fue consistente ni rigurosa. Sim embargo, la disminución de la incidencia de casos de abuso sexual por parte de miembros del clero fue más rápida que en la sociedad en general.

- Knight, una trabajadora social de Milwaukee, alabó el trabajo realizado por John Jay. "Mediante este extensivo proceso de recolección de datos y análisis estadísticos, los investigadores hallaron que la crisis del abuso sexual de menores por sacerdotes católicos es un problema localizado particularmente en un periodo histórico", dijo.

Y añadió: "Los investigadores han concluido que mucho de lo que se ha implementado a través

del Estatuto representa un modelo de respuesta para la prevención del abuso infantil. Sin embargo, de ninguna manera eso debería llevarnos a caer en la complacencia".

El Estatuto para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes fue adoptado por los obispos de EE.UU. en 2002 y ha guiado su respuesta al abuso sexual de menores por miembros del clero.

El obispo Cupich encontró esperanza en el progreso documentado, el cual demuestra que "lo que estamos haciendo funciona" para abordar el abuso sexual de menores. También dijo que la incapacidad para predecir actos individuales de conducta sexual desviada "hace los programas de ambientes seguros todavía más valiosos y necesarios". Y añadió que la Iglesia Católica ha adoptado una postura de "cero tolerancia" de cualquier clérigo que pudiera abusar sexualmente de un niño.

"Esa decisión protege a los niños", dijo, "pero también a decenas de miles de sacerdotes que han sufrido tremendamente durante esta crisis, aunque han seguido sirviendo calladamente con honor y auto-sacrificio cada día".

El camino hacia adelante para los obispos debe estar marcado por la humildad y la colaboración con otros, dijo Mons. Cupich. "La vergüenza de haberle fallado a nosotros gema permanecerá con nosotros por largo tiempo. Así debe ser. Ese aguijón debe mantenernos resueltos en nuestros compromisos y humildes para que nunca olvidemos la perspectiva que ganamos hace casi una década en Dallas. No podemos hacer nada de esto solos o por nosotros mismos", afirmó.

El reporte (disponible en inglés), puede encontrarse en: <http://www.usccb.org/nr/causes-and-context-of-sexual-abuse-minors-by-catholic-priests-in-the-united-states-1950-2010.pdf>

**SPANISH**

FROM A4

solicitantes de asilo y a familias. Y al ampliar los programas 287 (B) y Comunidades Seguras, la administración -de hecho- les ha dado carta blanca los gobiernos locales para aplicar las leyes federales de inmigración, lo que en algunas jurisdicciones ha dado lugar a redadas y a la discriminación racial.

Esta carrera hacia el fondo en ambos extremos de la Avenida Pensilvania puede dar buenos resultados con ciertos grupos de votantes, pero no promueve el bien común. De hecho, la falta de acción sobre una reforma más amplia a nivel federal, ha dado lugar a una abdicación de facto en la cuestión, dejándola en manos de los gobiernos estatales y locales, que están mal preparados para abordarla de manera efectiva y humanitaria. Ahora, la política de inmigración se está llevando a cabo de diferentes maneras por cientos de gobiernos locales, no sólo por uno. Esto puede parecer un cambio, pero no es el tipo de cambio en que debemos creer y no es ciertamente para mejorar.

¿Cuál es el resultado de aplicar este enfoque exclusivamente política a la inmigración, en términos humanos? Además de destruir a familias inmigrantes — muchas de ellas con hijos que son ciudadanos de Estados Unidos —, ha transformado negativamente la relación entre las comunidades de inmigrantes y el resto de la nación, tal vez de forma permanente.

Las familias inmigrantes viven en el miedo, y las relaciones de trabajo y de confianza que una vez existieron de manera efectiva entre la policía y los vecindarios de inmigrantes, se han erosionado seriamente. Estas políticas no sólo

han afectado a los inmigrantes indocumentados, sino también los inmigrantes legales y a ciudadanos estadounidenses: no es una buena manera de fomentar integración local y nacional de los inmigrantes.

En caso de que la reforma migratoria se deje de lado indefinidamente, y de que la aplicación estatal y local de las leyes de inmigración continúe sin control, el tejido social del país comenzará a desgastarse, en detrimento de todos los estadounidenses.

El gobierno de Obama actuar de manera prudente si tratara de evitar un legado semejante, reconsiderando sus estrategias para aplicación de las leyes de inmigración, y reorientando sus esfuerzos políticos hacia la generación de un clima favorable a la reforma en Congreso. Los senadores de la Florida, Marco Rubio y Bill Nelson, como la delegación de la Cámara de Representantes de la Florida, deben trabajar con el presidente para forjar un consenso bipartidista.

Parte de la responsabilidad nuestros funcionarios electos educar a sus electores, y dirigir el discurso si eso significa correr el riesgo de perder algún tipo de apoyo político potencial, al menos a corto plazo. A eso se le llama ser estadístico y así se ha ayudado a nuestro país para que haga frente a cuestiones difíciles en momentos importantes de nuestra historia. Así se ha convertido a hacer de nosotros un gran nación.

En cuanto a la inmigración, camino actual es gravemente deficiente. Sobre esta cuestión, y muchas otras, esperemos que nuestros líderes nacionales despierten y acuerden por qué fueron elegidos *Mons. Wenski es miembro de Comisión de Migraciones de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos.*

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# 'Trailblazing' online school holds first graduation

4 students from St. Andrew's CSK12 virtual school walk alongside school students for the first time

**HOLLY LOEFFLER**  
Florida Catholic correspondent

**CORAL SPRINGS** — Eighth-grade graduates from a brick-and-mortar school came together with some of their virtual counterparts from around the world for a historic first graduation of CSK12 — St. Andrew's K-12 virtual school.

CSK12 is an online school created by St. Andrew in the hope of providing a Catholic education to those who could not afford it otherwise. CSK12 became the first accredited Catholic virtual school this year. It currently has more than 3,000 students enrolled in various courses and more than 350 students enrolled as full-time virtual students. Those enrolled have access to 17 Advanced Placement courses and to a curriculum that best fits each student.

The graduation ceremony June 3 marked the first time that the eighth-grade graduating class of St. Andrew School walked alongside the middle school and high school graduates of the CSK12 virtual school. The graduation took on a virtual personality when CSK12's middle school valedictorian, Marcos Alberdi, addressed his graduating class through video chat.

"This is hopefully the beginning of many, many more (graduations) to come," said Father George Puthusseril, pastor of St. Andrew.

Although there were 15 students graduating from both the eighth grade and high school of CSK12, only four were in attendance at the commencement ceremony.

"Our hope is that many more will come to the graduation ceremony in the future," Father Puthusseril said.

CSK12 currently educates students not only throughout the United States but in China, Venezuela, Spain, Canada, and Belize.

One family made the trip all the way from Venezuela to watch their son, Esieban Serrano, walk across the stage to receive his high school diploma. Serrano, salutatorian of CSK12's senior class, took his courses electronically from his home in Venezuela. He explained that although learning a new language was a challenge, his experience at



CSK12 student Daniel Bolchoz, center, receives his high school diploma from the online school's principal, Trina Trimm, left, and St. Andrew pastor Father George Puthusseril at the combined graduation of St. Andrew School and St. Andrew's CSK12 virtual school June 3 in Coral Springs. (HOLLY LOEFFLER | FC)

CSK12 was excellent and taught him self-discipline.

Serrano said he chose to attend a Catholic school because he wanted an education that reflected the values with which his parents and family had raised him.

The flexibility of online learning, he said, "has allowed me enough time to participate in my tennis," which resulted in a full scholarship to St. Thomas University in Miami Gardens.

CSK12's senior class valedictorian was Daniel Bolchoz from Jupiter. He has attended traditional school, been home-schooled, and finally attended virtual school.

He explained that he enjoyed the change from textbooks to an online curriculum because "our access to information is limitless."

Bolchoz was able to hold two full-time jobs while getting his high school diploma. "It gives me the opportunity to work at my own pace,"

PLEASE SEE ONLINE, A12

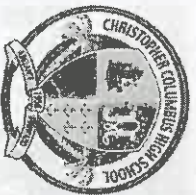
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# Mother of Our Redeemer makes history

'Small school with big heart' celebrates first graduating class

**ANNE DIBERNARDO**  
Florida Catholic correspondent

**MIAMI** - When Yarisbeth Bradford first visited Mother of Our Redeemer five years ago, she thought it was a very small school and did not know what to expect. But as time passed, the school grew larger and became her second home.

Yarisbeth, who earned the title of Valetictorian, made history when she and her 12 eighth-grade class-



Valetictorian Yarisbeth Bradford speaks to her classmates.



Salutatorian Jose Mercado speaks to his classmates.

mates took part in Mother of Our Redeemer School's first graduation ceremony May 11.

Addressing a graduating class was a first for the parish's pastor, Father Jaime Acevedo, too. His send-

off to the small group of smiling students garbed in royal blue caps and gowns was reflective. He told them to remember that no matter what the future holds, Jesus will never reject them.

"If you ever feel down and confused about high school, or work or marriage and you forget everything we taught you, remember that you can always come back to him and ... Jesus will never ever reject you! You can always come back to him and he will receive you with open arms. Don't forget. ... There is no such thing as a road traveled so far away that you cannot find your way back," he said.

"I've been crying since last week, but they are tears of joy," said Mother of Our Redeemer's Principal Evelyn Salinas.

The school has grown since first opening its doors in 2003. Known as "the small school with the big heart," it began with about four or



Sabrina Cabrera receives her diploma from Father Jaime Acevedo. Composed of 13 eighth-graders, the class of 2011 of Mother of Our Redeemer School made history, becoming the school's first graduate. Mother of Our Redeemer was founded in 2003. (PHOTOS BY ANNE DIBERNARDO | FC)

five students.

"There are 13 students in the eighth-grade graduating class and some have been attending since the school opened its doors in 2003. The school has classes for pre-K to eighth grade, but when the school began in 2003, it started with the first grade. With the exception of the eighth-grade inaugural class, the average class size is between 20 to 23 students," said Salinas, who has

been the school's principal for the last six years.

"There is something amazing about walking through the hall and being able to name each and every face that passes me by," said Yaribeth. During her speech she reminisced with her class about the days and reflected on their last year in the eighth grade.

"We are the first graduating class of Mother of Our Redeemer Catholic School," said Jose Mercado, who earned the title of salutatorian.

During his speech he thanked Mother for helping him pick Mother of Our Redeemer for his middle school. "Everyone at Mother of Our Redeemer has become my family. To my classmates, we know that are on our way. ... We will say goodbye for now but will see each other in our coming future."

"Everyone knows each other and timid, but by bringing them and allowing them to speak activities, you can see the development of where they were and who they are now. Older students have been groomed to be leaders and watch over the younger students. They are fine role models."

During her speech, Salinas told the class, "You will overcome every obstacle placed in front of you; you will go on to flourish. Trust yourself and in your spirit. Do not hide from challenges. Instead, let them head on, and always remember the FROG (Fully Rely On God) philosophy. Always remember you can fully rely on God for anything at any time. I thank you for allowing me to be your principal, to role model in the last six years that have been here, to be able to be a mentor, and above all, to be a saint in Christ." ■

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# 'Look, mom, iLearning!'

St. Hugh School experiments with iPads as supplement to traditional teaching methods

MARLENE QUARONI

Florida Catholic correspondent

**COCONUT GROVE** — Marcos Meja, 6, was sitting at a round table with other students, completely absorbed in a math game and wiggling his fingers as he counted.

Like his classmates, the St. Hugh kindergarten was wearing noise-filtering earphones and tapping on an iPad.

"I'm learning to read and I especially like math games," Marcos said, lifting off his headphones for a moment. "My favorite app is Piggy HD Math."

The students are part of an iPad pilot program at the Coconut Grove school that is really taking off, according to St. Hugh's principal, Antonio Cejas.

"We are testing the waters for future implementation," said Cejas. "The animation, the schemes, the phenomenal color resolution are engaging to younger kids. The students get an immediate response to the object of their lesson, whether it's math computation or phonetic awareness."

Unlike older generations that had to transition into new technology, these kids were born into it, said Cejas.

"It's natural for them to use computers," he said. "Kids gravitate toward new technology. Most kids today don't know what an encyclopedia is. The means of accessing knowledge has changed."

Although teachers were open to the idea, they were a little hesitant because they had the impression

that iPads were used for entertainment, Cejas said. Instead, they have found it to be a valuable educational tool. But the iPads are not doing away with traditional methods of education.

"We haven't eliminated traditional teaching," Cejas said. "The younger kids still play with blocks, work and color in workbooks, write on the chalkboard and play house-keeping."

In order to get the best results out of iPad use, the teachers in pre-K-3 and 4 and kindergarten get together and sort through the applications that will be beneficial to their students, said Mary Fernandez, kindergarten teacher. Among the applications they use are "ABC Alphabet," "Jump Start" and "BB Magic" No. 1 series.

When they respond correctly, the students receive a coin or a sticker. After a certain number of correct responses, the application rewards them.

"There are millions of apps and thousands more are being created daily," Fernandez said. "We choose applications tailored to individual students' needs. We track the students' scores and record their progress. This way, we are able to see their strengths and weaknesses."

Fernandez said there should be a balance between technology and "old school" teaching.

"iPads are a phenomenal tool," she said. "However, kids need social interaction. Technology is the way of the future, but kids must learn to use it in a positive way. They need to communicate face to face with others verbally. New technology should be a complement to lessons taught by a teacher."

The school purchased five iPads at the beginning of the school year, said Fernandez. That number has since increased to 20 thanks to donations from parents. In the afternoon, when the younger kids are napping, students in first through fourth grades borrow the iPads. The upper grades have their own computer lab. ■

Sadie Arce, a Pre-K4 student, works on an ABCs lesson. St. Hugh School experiments with iPads to help students learn. (MARLENE QUARONI | FC)

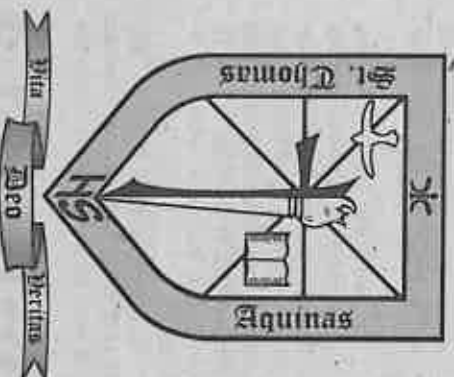


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Valdictorian  
David Martin Smith



Salutatorian  
Valentina Eivira Vincentelli

### National Scholarship Awards 2011

24

#### NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

-Finalists

- Emily Ahles
- Mallory C. Baron
- Sarah V. Beauchamp
- Carina C. Blanco
- Nicole E. Boehm
- Kelly A. Conley
- Alexandru B. Constantinescu
- Rebecca C. Dupree
- Bracy A. Fertig
- David Fontenot
- Dylan J. Herman
- Jenna M. Herrington
- Oscar E. Lafarga
- Ariana P. Lopez
- Elizabeth Moccia
- Ryan N. Montgomery
- Elizabeth C. Moore
- Thomas V. Mulhine
- Jennifer G. Noyola
- Elizabeth P. Ray
- Natalie Saenz
- Julie D. Saperstein
- David M. Smith
- Autumn M. Waryias

17

#### NATIONAL MERIT COMMENDED SCHOLARS

- Alicia J. Angelbello
- Christian A. Bazan
- Alexandra Browder
- Andrew Bybordi
- Julie A. Flicker
- Mitchell Gentile
- Clement J. Gurrey
- Nha-Uyen J. Hua
- Andres Iriarte
- Shantel Jairam
- Sarah E. Legg
- Francisco Noyola
- Joanna M. Platzer
- Frances Rodriguez
- Andrea Salomon
- Eric Sillis
- Valentina E. Vincentelli

26

#### NATIONAL HISPANIC SCHOLARS

- Anacarina Aguerrevere
- Christopher Alonso
- Alicia Angelbello
- Christian Bazan
- Carina Blanco
- Nicole Boehm
- Richard Borrello
- Alexandru Constantinescu
- Maria DeCastro
- David Fontenot
- Gabriel Ibrahim
- Andres Iriarte
- Oscar Lafarga
- Ariana Lopez
- Jesus Najera
- Francisco Noyola
- Jennifer Noyola
- Bianca Rodrigues
- Frances Rodriguez
- Natalie Saenz
- Andrea Salomon
- David Smith
- Valentina Vincentelli
- Nicholas Wagner
- Autumn Waryias
- Jose Zozaya

#### NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

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Jordan William King  
Lanita Shanice Patton  
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## ONLINE

FROM A7

## Catholic schools garner Silver Knights

pace," he said of the online education.

His two jobs at different restaurants also gave him experience in the culinary field and paved the way for his full scholarship to the Culinary Institute of America in New York.

At CSK12, students are actively engaged both in academics and in their relationship with Jesus Christ. Bolchoz said one of his favorite things about attending a Catholic virtual school is that "teachers are not afraid to discuss and relate issues back to Jesus and the Bible."

The virtual school students are able to watch St. Andrew's weekly liturgy through an online web-cast so that all those enrolled can learn and participate in the Mass. Trina Trimn, principal of both St. Andrew and CSK12, said they are "trailblazing Catholic education into every home."

Trimn also has implemented the idea of a virtual classroom into the brick-and-mortar St. Andrew School, which has transitioned from textbooks to an entirely electronic curriculum.

"We teach them (students) how to utilize the technology to their advantage and to avoid all the negatives out there," Trimn said. The school also educates students on how to prevent cyber-bullying. ■

2 students win,  
10 earn honorable  
mentions in  
recognition of  
scholarship and  
community service

FLORIDA CATHOLIC  
STAFF REPORT

Catholic school students in Miami-Dade and Broward counties garnered two Silver Knights and 10 honorable mentions in the annual

competition sponsored by *The Miami Herald*, which recognizes high school seniors for outstanding achievements in academics and community service. An awards ceremony is held in each county, with students from both private and public schools among the nominees.

The two Silver Knight winners this year were Maximilian Sanchez of Belen Jesuit Prep in Miami, who won in the category of Journalism; and Courtney Bran of Archbishop Edward McCarty High School in Southwest Ranches, who won in athletics.

Sanchez devised a book, "My Hat Off to Me," that prompts cancer patients to record their thoughts

and experiences while undergoing chemotherapy. He has logged hundreds of hours of community service and won first place for his poetry at the Miami-Dade County Youth Fair and Exposition.

Bran, a soccer and volleyball player, has served countless meals and packed numerous lunches over the past four years to the homeless who come to the Cooperative Feeding Program of Broward. She volunteers there during Thanksgiving and hosts a toy drive for the children every Christmas.

Receiving honorable mentions in Miami-Dade:

- From Belen: Frank Oliva in drama.
- From Christopher Columbus

## He never missed a day of school

Kevin Fernandez  
has logged 2,340  
days of perfect  
attendance.

for me. And then once I started getting perfect attendance, it became a goal for me to see how far I could take it."

But wanting to get perfect attendance and being able to achieve it is another matter.

"We were blessed with a very healthy son. Being able to go to school every day wasn't an issue in that regard," said his proud father, Abel Fernandez. "Of course, it certainly didn't hurt that we never had to drag him out of bed to get him to go to school, either."

By the time Fernandez graduated from eighth grade in public school in 2007, he was among a group of only 176 students (out of 348,000 eighth-graders that year) who had achieved perfect attendance since kindergarten. When he attended Pace High from ninth to 12th grades, he also maintained

perfect attendance — one of only two students with that distinction for the four years of high school, and the only one in his class since kindergarten.

Studies have found a high correlation between perfect attendance and student success and, in Fernandez's case, that appears to hold true. He is a member and officer in various clubs and honor societies at Pace. In addition, he is a National Merit Commended Student, National Hispanic Recognition Scholar, an AP Scholar of Distinction and the salutatorian for the class of 2011.

"Kevin is an amazing young man," said Ana Garcia, Pace's principal. "This accomplishment speaks about much more than not missing a day of school in 13 years. It speaks of his character, dedication, work ethic and values." This fall, Fernandez will join



Principal Ana Garcia poses with Kevin Fernandez and Supervising Principal Father Paul Vuturo during the graduation ceremony.

the class of 2015 at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind. Will his perfect attendance streak continue as a college student? Sure, said Fernandez, "unless I get snowed in." ■

Reigosa is special events and public relations coordinator at Mgr. Edward Pace High School.

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# News/briefs

## Retreat trains youths to be leaders

MorningStar Renewal Center will host the 2011 Peer Ministry Leadership Retreat beginning Sunday, July 17, at 7 p.m. and concluding Friday, July 22, at 1 p.m. The retreat is for teens who are already active leaders or show the potential to be active leaders.

"We are looking for those who are ready to continue to build their relationship with God and look forward to chances to help others do the same," said Sue DeFerrari, director of MorningStar Renewal Center.

The cost of the retreat is \$150 for the entire week. The retreat center is located at 7275 S.W. 124 St., Miami. For more information, call 786-255-6218 or email Alex Jesurun at alex@morningsstarrenewal.org.

## Retrouvaile retreat to help your marriage

Has your marriage grown strained and distant? Do you share little meaningful communication? Are you separated, divorced or thinking about it? Retrouvaile, a diocese-sponsored program for struggling marriages, can help. The next program begins Friday, July 8, at St. Pedro Center, Winter Park (Orlando area).

The program consists of a weekend and six follow-up sessions. This is not group therapy or counseling but a spiritually-based program. For information and registration, call 407-977-8136. Anyone interested in helping to restart the Retrouvaile program in the Archdiocese of Miami also should call 954-558-6151.

## Missionaries meet in Miami

The U.S. Catholic Mission Association will hold its 2011 Mission Conference here in Miami Oct. 28-30. The conference's theme is "Push out into the deep ... Communion and missionary discipleship," and it will include a Mass celebrated by Archbishop Thomas Wenski at Notre Dame d'Haiti Mission in Miami Oct. 29.

Three world-renowned speakers and authors will be keynote presenters at the conference:

- Miguel Diaz, U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See and a theologian who grew up in Miami.
- Father Steve Bevans, Society of the Divine Word, one of the leading missiologists in the world.
- Sister Madge Karecki, Sisters of St. Joseph-Third Order of St. Francis, director of the Office for Mission Education and Animation in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Registration may be done online at [www.uscatholicmission.org](http://www.uscatholicmission.org), or call 202-832-3112 for more information.

## JOHN JAY

FROM A5

abuse in the 1960s and 1970s was consistent with the patterns of increased deviance of society during that time."

She also said that "social influences intersected with vulnerabilities of individual priests whose preparation for a life of celibacy was inadequate at that time."

Ferry said that neither celibacy nor homosexuality were causes of the abuse, and that priest candidates who would later abuse could not be distinguished by psychological test data, developmental and sexual history data, intelligence data, or experience in priesthood. The development of human formation components of seminary preparation for priesthood is associated with the continued low levels of child sexual abuse by Catholic priests in the United States, she said.

The report — "The Causes and Context of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Catholic Priests in the United States, 1950-2010" — was presented May 18 to Diane Knight, chairwoman of the National Review Board, a group of lay Catholics who oversaw the project, and to Bishop Blase Cupich of Spokane, Wash., who chairs the U.S. Bishops' Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People.

The study also found that the initial, mid-1980s response of bishops to allegations of abuse was to concentrate on getting help for the priest-abusers. Despite the development by the mid-1990s of a comprehensive plan for responding to vic-

tims and the harms of sexual abuse, diocesan implementation was not consistent or thorough at that time. Yet, the decrease in incidence of sexual abuse cases by clergy was more rapid than the overall societal patterns.

Knight, a social worker from Milwaukee, lauded the work of John Jay. "Through its extensive processes of data collection and statistical analyses," she said, "the researchers found that the crisis of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic priests is an historical problem."

She added that "researchers also concluded that much of what has been implemented through the Charter is consistent with a model response to the prevention of child abuse. However, this in no way should lull us as a Church into complacency."

The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People was adopted by the U.S. bishops in 2002, and has guided their response in dealing with sexual abuse of minors by clergy.

Bishop Cupich found hope in the documented progress that shows that "what we are doing works" in addressing child sexual abuse. He said that the inability to predict individual sexual deviance "makes the safe environments programs valuable and necessary." He added that "the Catholic Church has taken a position of zero tolerance of any cleric who would sexually abuse a child."

"Such a position protects children," he said. "But it also protects the tens of thousands of priests who have suffered greatly in this crisis, all the while quietly serving with honor and self-sacrifice every day of

## BY THE NUMBERS

55,611 — Total number of employees (including clergy and religious), volunteers, contractors and vendors fingerprinted in the Archdiocese of Miami from the time the program began in 1998 through March 2011.

24,661 — Number of employees (including clergy and religious), volunteers, contractors and vendors fingerprinted in the Archdiocese of Miami between January 2009 and March 2011.

87,000 — Number of employees (including clergy and religious) and volunteers who received training in Virtus since the program began in 2004. 37,000 are currently users of Virtus online.

30,382 — Number of adults (employers, clergy, religious and volunteers) who received training in Virtus between January 2009 and March 2011. That is the number with active Virtus accounts; approximately 6,000 more have been trained but have

their lives." The way forward for the bishops must be marked by humility and partnerships with others, Bishop Cupich said. "The shame of failing our people will remain with us for

a long time. It should. Its sting can keep us resolute in our commitments and humble so as to never forget the insight we came to nearly a decade ago in Dallas. We cannot do any of this on our own." ■

not registered online. 23,319 of those trained and registered were volunteers.

135,518 — Approximate number of children in archdiocesan schools and religious education programs who received Teaching Tolerance Safety classes between January 2009 and March 2011. (Children in every grade receive the lessons each year.)

280 — Number of Virtus training sessions held in the Archdiocese of Miami in 2010 — the most ever held in a single year.

20th — Archdiocesan rank nationwide for number of Virtus sessions held (out of 110 Catholic dioceses that use Virtus).

13th — Archdiocesan rank nationwide for number of adults trained in Virtus.

6th — Archdiocesan rank nationwide for number of facilitators trained to teach Virtus.

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**COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**Summer "Fun Runs,"** Tuesdays and Thursdays through Aug. 4, 6:30 p.m., Miami Shores Recreation Center, 9617 Park Drive, Miami. Join a group of runners or walkers for Archbishop Curley Notre Dame Prep's 15th annual Summer Fun Run series. [icorcoran@aand.net](mailto:icorcoran@aand.net). 305-751-8367.

**Giant used-book sale,** Friday, June 17, Sunday, June 19, De Paul Center, St. Vincent Parish, 6350 N.W. 18 St., Margate. Stock up on all your summer reading for adults and children. 954-972-0434.

**"Un Dia Sin Zapatos,"** viernes, 1 de Julio, 9401 Biscayne Blvd., Miami; auspiciado por la *Cofradía de la Virgen de Chiquinquirá*, para solidarizarnos con los niños pobres que no tienen zapatos. 954-564-6665 o [communications@virgendechiquinquirana.net](http://communications@virgendechiquinquirana.net).

**Dance to bring a smile,** Mondays, 7:30 p.m., St. Martha Parish hall, 9221 Biscayne Blvd., Miami. Learn to dance while raising funds for needy children in Mozambique, \$10 per person per class. 305-898-5564.

**FAITH EDUCATION**

**SEPI (Southeast Pastoral Institute),** 7700 SW 56 St., Miami. Clases en español a través del año. 305-279-2333. [sepi@miami@aol.com](mailto:sepi@miami@aol.com).

• **Maestría en Ministerio Pastoral Hispano,** acreditada por Barry University. Cursos presentan una reflexión teológica sobre realidades y contextos culturales hispanos; exploran la herencia cultural y teológica hispana; promueven la formación para el ministerio laico, y ofrecen oportunidades de crecimiento personal y espiritual.

**Life issues workshop,**

Saturday, June 25, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., St. Bartholomew, 8005 Miramar Parkway, Miami. Defend the sanctity of human life at all stages; learn the Catholic Church teachings on the critical life issues of our day. Respect Life Office: 954-981-2922.

**Sacramentality Day, part 1** of 2 of the marriage preparation required for couples getting married in the Archdiocese of Miami. This program lays the foundation by diving deeper into the sacramentality of marriage, its special significance, and exploring how — through God's teachings and grace — living in a truly joy-filled marriage is God's plan for every marriage. 305-762-1148. [joyfilledmarriage@gmail.com](mailto:joyfilledmarriage@gmail.com).

• **Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m.,** June 21 ("What Am I Saying 'I Do' To?"), June 28 (Sacramental sexuality and natural family planning); Pastoral Center, 9401 Biscayne Blvd., Miami Shores.  
• **Saturday, June 25, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.,** St. Agatha, 1111 S.W. 107 Ave., Miami.

• **Saturday, July 9, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.,** All Saints, 10900 W. Oakland Park Blvd., Sunrise.

**Life Skills Day, part 2** of 2 of the marriage preparation required for couples getting married in the Archdiocese of Miami. This day (also known as Engaged Encounter) explores topics such as expectations, family of origin, communications, finances and more. 305-762-1148.

• **Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m.,** July 5 (communications), July 12 (finances), Pastoral Center, 9401 Biscayne Blvd., Miami Shores.  
• **Saturday, July 16, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.,** St. Bartholomew, 8005 Miramar Parkway, Miramar.  
• **Saturday, Aug. 20, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.,** Our Lady of Lourdes, 11291 S.W. 142 Ave., Miami. 305-386-4121.

**Post-Camino del Matrimonio,** reuniones el segundo miércoles de cada mes en el SEPI, 7700 S.W. 56 St. Miami. Continuación de la preparación matrimonial con charlas para mejorar la vida espiritual y diaria de los matrimonios. Presentado por Cammino del Matrimonio. 305-226-4664.

**Pre-Cana II,** Saturday, July 16, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., St. Maximilian Kolbe, 201 N. Hibiscus Road, Pembroke Pines. Life skills component of the marriage preparation program for couples getting remarried in the Catholic Church. Course explores helpful relevant topics such as merging households; the shadow of the former spouse; communications; finances and more. Couples also need to register separately for Sacramentality Day. 305-762-1148.

**MASSES/PRAYER SESSIONS**

**Songs and prayer in the spirit of Taizé,** Tuesday, June 21, 7:30 p.m., Barry University, Cor Jesu Chapel, 11300 N.E. Second Ave., Miami Shores. 305-899-3650 or 305-458-9919.  
**All-night adoration vigil with the Blessed Sacrament,** Friday, July 1, 7 p.m.-Saturday, July 2, 7:30

**MIAMI ARCHDIOCESE COMMUNITY PAGE SUBMISSION DEADLINES**

The Florida Catholic welcomes calendar items of parish/organization events that are open to the whole archdiocese. There is no charge but items must be in the Miami office at least eight weeks before the event. To list an event both on the website and in the newspaper, go to [www.miamiarcb.org](http://www.miamiarcb.org), click on the banner "announce your event for free" and follow the instructions. For publication dates and deadlines, go to [www.miamiarcb.org](http://www.miamiarcb.org) and click on "news." Notices December be sent by email: [arcotol@theadom.org](mailto:arcotol@theadom.org); fax: 305-762-1132; mail: The Florida Catholic, 9401 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, FL 33138.

a.m., Blessed John XXIII, 16800 Miramar Parkway, Miramar. 954-392-5062, 954-646-5708.  
**Great vigil in honor of the Pierced Heart of Jesus and Mary,** Friday, July 1, 8 p.m.-Saturday, July 2, 6 a.m., St. John Vianney College Seminary, 2900 S.W. 87 Ave., Miami. Praying especially for religious and priestly vocations. Begins with Mass of the solemnity of the Sacred Heart, followed by all-night exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with prayers, intercession and meditations. Concludes with Mass in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. 305-444-7437, [siervas@corazon.es.org](mailto:siervas@corazon.es.org).

**Mass of thanksgiving for Jamaica's independence,** Sunday, July 24, 2:30 p.m., Good Shepherd, 14187 S.W. 72 St., Miami. Celebrates Emancipation Day and the 48th anniversary of Jamaica's independence. Celebrants: Father Brian Kerr of the Missionaries of the Poor in Jamaica, and Father Jesus Avias, pastor of Good Shepherd. Reception follows. 305-551-8813.

**Presentación de los bebés en el templo,** iglesia de St. John Bosco, 1349 W. Flagler St., Miami. Los bebés aún no bautizados pueden ser presentados al altar el primer domingo del mes durante la misa de 12:30 p.m. Para inscribir a su bebé, visite la oficina parroquial de lunes a viernes, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., y 1-5 p.m. 305-649-5464.  
**Jueves del Santísimo,** iglesia de St. John Bosco, 1349 W. Flagler St., Miami, a las 7 p.m. con adoración al Santísimo, misa y procesión. 305-649-5464.  
**First Saturday Communion of reparation,** devotion to Our Lady of Fatima, St. Andrew, 9950 N.W. 29 St., Coral Springs. Prayer of the rosary, 15 minutes of meditation on the mysteries of the rosary, and Holy Communion. 954-753-1280, [diquejela@gmail.com](mailto:diquejela@gmail.com).

**Eres un amigo de Don Bosco?** Reunión mensual de los Salesianos Cooperadores, primer sábado, 2 p.m., colegio de Inmaculata-La Salle, 3601 S. Miami Ave., Miami. Se invita al público en general. 305-298-2103.  
**Noche de oración y formación,** Movimiento Castos Por Amor, miércoles de 8 a 10 p.m., salón parroquial de la iglesia de St. Dominic, 5909 N.W. 7 St., Miami. Se invita a jóvenes y adultos, casados y solteros, de 18 años en adelante, a compartir un encuentro sobre la sexualidad humana a la luz de las enseñanzas de la Iglesia. 305-599-2996, [buazoncastos@yahoo.com](mailto:buazoncastos@yahoo.com).

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# 'No apology' for faith

Archbishop Wenski, UM president tell lawyers to focus on 'what is right'

**GAIL BULFIN**  
Florida Catholic correspondent

**FORT LAUDERDALE** — Archbishop Thomas Wenski returned to St. Anthony Parish May 25 to celebrate the 22nd annual Red Mass sponsored by the St. Thomas More Society of South Florida.

Led by the stirring chords of a bagpiper, the archbishop reminisced that it was at this altar one year ago almost to the day that he was welcomed by the legal community in his first official Mass in Broward County upon becoming archbishop.

"As men and women of faith, we invoke the help of the Holy Spirit on our legal profession. We do so with no apologies," Archbishop Wenski said. "We Christians are citizens of both the city of God and the city of man."

He delivered a similar talk the next day to lawyers in Miami-Dade County, convened for a similar Red Mass by the Miami Catholic Lawyers Guild. (See photo, this page and coverage online at [www.miamiarch.org](http://www.miamiarch.org).)

Drawing from the documents upon which the U.S. was founded more than 200 years ago, Archbishop Wenski reasoned that the principles memorialized then are even more important today as the nation struggles with issues of immigration, abortion, parental rights and choice in education.

"Our Founding Fathers got it right," he said. They did not "pretend they were building heaven on earth." With their document of checks and balances, they set up a system that would best serve the people, limiting the power of the state in matters of religion. It was meant "to keep the state from dictating to the Church," he said.

The archbishop challenged the dozens of judges and political officials in attendance to be engaged and to allow their faith to be their conscience. "The stakes are high," he said. "The failure to be truly human ... has social consequences."

This year's Mass was celebrated with 11 other clergy led by Father Jerry Singleton, pastor of St. Anthony, the oldest Catholic Church in Broward County.

"It's an honor to host the event because we have a shared history with the St. Thomas More Society," he said.

St. Thomas More was a lawyer, philosopher and political leader who reached the position of speaker of the House of Commons in England during the 1500s. But it was his role as adviser to King Henry VIII for which he is most



Archbishop Thomas Wenski poses with the Honorable Lurana S. Snow, Federal Magistrate for the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida, the recipient of the St. Thomas More Society's annual Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy Award. (GAIL BULFIN | FC)

recognized. More refused to sanction the king's spit with the Church and set into motion a path that would lead to his beheading. His last words, "The king's good servant, but God's first," are, even today, an inspiration to Catholics around the world.

Locally, the St. Thomas More Society takes inspiration from their patron saint and sponsors two events over the course of the year — the Red Mass and a legal ethics seminar.

Society president Mike Styles said he likes the inclusiveness of the events sponsored. "We do get a significant number of non-Catholics at our events."

He said he feels it is important for the legal community to come together because "once or twice a year, it is reinvigorating to exercise your faith."

Johanna Saxton Shields, a partner in the firm Klauber & Shields, P.A., is both a St. Thomas More Society board member and a parishioner at St. Anthony. She said she loves the involvement of the whole family in the annual celebration. A highlight each year for many parents in the Catholic legal community is the inclusion of the children of local lawyers and judges in the liturgical celebration. Shields' son, a first-grader,

has a few years to wait before he can become an altar server and participate in the Mass, but she said he "can't wait."

The Mass is followed by a reception and dinner, where the highlight is the keynote speech followed by the presentation of the Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy Award.

Fort Lauderdale Mayor Jack Sailer, a St. Thomas More Society board member, introduced the evening's speaker: University of Miami President Donna Shalala, quoting a *Washington Post* story saying she was probably "the most successful government manager of all time."

Shalala spent eight years as a cabinet member in the Clinton administration, running the Health and Human Services division. As a practicing Catholic, she took pride in never missing a Red Mass during her service in Washington.

In her talk, Shalala focused on the challenges of decision-making in health care and the need to have honest debate. "It shouldn't be ideology. It should be about what is the most appropriate. Like St. Thomas More, what is the right thing to do?"

Echoing the archbishop in his homily, Shalala said that Catho-



During the annual Red Mass sponsored by the Miami Catholic Lawyers Guild, Archbishop Thomas Wenski awards the "Lex Christi, Lex Amoris" award to Appellate Judge Vance Salker for his pro-bono work when he was an attorney. (MARLENE QUARONI | FC)

lics have a responsibility to the most vulnerable, to engage in reason-filled debate and to ask the right questions. Before closing to standing-room applause, Shalala looked out at the packed room and said simply, "I hope there are some more St. Thomas Mores."

For Judge Lurana Snow, the Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy award winner, the day was particularly rewarding and humbling. Adopted by working-class parents who believed in the power of education, she recalled that St. Thomas More was not only the patron saint of lawyers, politicians and statesmen, but also the patron saint of adopted children.

"My parents had no formal education but they raised me to understand that I could be anything I wanted to be," she said. They saved to send her to the best school money could buy. Chuckling, she added, "Notre Dame didn't accept women in those days so they sent me to Harvard." She graduated from Harvard University in 1972, followed by Harvard Law School three years later.

She was both an assistant federal public defender and assistant U.S. attorney before taking the bench as a federal magistrate judge for the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida in 1986. Her judicial responsibility stretches from the federal courts in Fort Lauderdale to the southern Keys.

Snow was brought up in a Catholic home, learning to recite her catechism and to follow the rules of the Church. But as she grew older, she became more curious about the Bible and wanted to learn more. "I wanted the grown-up version," she said.

Midway through her career, and 20 years past her law school graduation, she entered Barry University, receiving a master's in theology in 1998.

In introducing her Father John F. O'Grady, her professor of biblical studies at Barry, said, "She always asked good questions," while never doubting her faith. "She loved and believed in the word of God."

Snow is an active parishioner at St. Peter Parish in Big Pine Key where she has served as organizer since 1999. She is president of the Key West Pops Orchestra and founder of Musical Dreams Inc., a New York organization dedicated to raising funds for scholarships for children who cannot afford instruction in piano and voice.

In accepting the award, Snow closed by saying, "Somebody in 1951 realized unselfishly that she couldn't raise a baby by herself. If I had a wish, it would be that every little child would have those same opportunities I was given." ■

For more information about the St. Thomas More Society, go to [www.redmass.com](http://www.redmass.com)

# The good earth

Organic gardens at St. Thomas the Apostle yield lessons for students, food for the homeless

**ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO**

*Florida Catholic staff*

**MIAMI** — Maybe it's holy ground. Or maybe it's good earth that has been sanctified by the growers' intentions.

Either way, the organic gardens at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish and School are yielding abundant fruits — and vegetables — while helping to feed Miami's homeless.

"We want to give the best quality product to the Sisters of Charity," said math teacher Carmen Garcia, referring to Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity.

Parents and children from the school deliver a cartload of fresh produce each week to the sisters' homeless shelter near downtown Miami.

"Father (Kubala) also has chickens so he donates those eggs as well," said Garcia, referring to St. Thomas the Apostle's pastor, Father Daniel Kubala, whose love of nature is evident in every corner of the parish grounds.

The property provides a habitat for birds and deer, and "the whole school is a butterfly garden," Garcia said.

Her fifth- and sixth-grade math students help plant and pick the crops and weed the gardens. In doing so, they learn hands-on math lessons: "perimeter of garden, area of garden, mean distance between plants, the rate of growth," recited Garcia while standing feet away from an area budding with celery, okra, green peppers, cabbages, tomatoes, onions, carrots, parsley, beets, lemon basil and two different varieties of eggplant.

Science teacher Cristina Salup also makes the gardens an integral part of her curriculum, teaching the fifth- and sixth-graders the scientific names for all the crops along with their growing cycles. The students also learn about nature's exquisite balance, since no pesticides are used in the gardens. Ladybugs are released to keep insects away.

"We like the crops to be organic so we can provide the less fortunate with the best that we can provide," said sixth-grader Laura Dominguez. "Not only is it organic, but it tastes really good."

"You'll never see them this big in the county," said Nicholas Villar, pointing to a handful of Swiss chard. "It must be Mother Teresa or something."

Villar is the green-thumbed gardener whose expertise has



Fifth-grader Sofia Guisasaola harvests an eggplant from the organic garden at St. Thomas the Apostle School. The garden teaches fifth- and sixth-graders about math, science and nature while helping feed the homeless at the Missionaries of Charity shelter in Miami. (PHOTOS BY ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO | FC)

helped the 3-year-old garden grow — a garden named after Blessed Teresa of Calcutta.

He came on board last year and "basically has guided us throughout the whole project," said Garcia.

"He's really taught the kids a lot about the crops," said Salup.

Villar interacts with the students, pointing out the distinction between a poisonous and nonpoisonous bug, and sharing nutritional words of wisdom, such as: "Everything slimy is healthy," referring to okra; "It

has the highest vitamin C of all the cabbage family," referring to kale; and "here's no Cuban cuisine without this," referring to cilantro.

Villar has planted banana trees around the perimeter of the school and parish grounds, and lemons, limes, papayas, tangelos and star fruit in the larger of the two gardens. As many as 50 different crops might be growing at one time, including pumpkins for Halloween.

He supervises the children's weeding, planting and harvest-

ing work in keeping with the seasonal nature of the crops. The only thing the children are not



See a slideshow of pictures of St. Thomas' gardens at [www.miamiforch.org](http://www.miamiforch.org).

allowed to do is water the plants. "It turned into a water fight," explained Garcia.

Most of the planting and growing takes place between October and April, coinciding perfectly with the school year — and explaining the (harvest) reason for summer vacation.

"The limes that are grown here are the best, so full of juice," said assistant principal Angie Ayan-Novo.

"I love bananas," said sixth-grader Alejandro Gonzalez, while taking a bite out of one Villar had just picked off a tree.

"I didn't like it that much," said fifth-grader Philip Corrales after trying a star fruit. "But I thought it was pretty healthy 'cause it doesn't taste good."

Fifth-grader Sofia Guisasaola said she has become "an expert" at picking weeds. She also accompanies her mom to deliver the produce to the Missionaries of Charity shelter "on Fridays if I don't have school."

Sofia said her family's involvement in the project has piqued their interest in growing their own vegetables.

"My mom is having construction (done) and we're going to have four gardens in the back," she said.

"The kids are very enthusiastic and proud of working in the garden," said Garcia. "It's an example to everyone, so they can continue this in their homes. It's probably the first time these children have been exposed to a farm."

Aside from science and math, the garden project reinforces the Catholic values taught at the school, said Salup. "We strive for them to understand that it's very important for them to help the less fortunate, and this is an easy way to do it. The science and math just come. I don't think they even realize it." ■

"I love bananas," said sixth-grader Alejandro Gonzalez as he stands next to one of the banana plants that grow all along the perimeter of St. Thomas the Apostle School.