

Saints alive

STORY AND PHOTO BY JOE BOLLIG



Ready for All Saints Day are: (from left, front) Martha Madden (Mother Teresa), Patrick Madden (St. Jude), William Madden (Pope John Paul II), Christopher Rziha (St. Charles Borromeo), Thomas Rziha (St. John of the Cross), and Joseph Rziha (St. Pope Pius X); (back row, from left) Maria Rioux, William Rioux (St. George), Debra Fuhrman, Marie Rioux (Blessed Virgin Mary), Adrienne Rioux (St. Lucy), Michael Rziha (St. Juan Diego), Charley Rziha (St. Benedict), and Julia Fassero (St. Elizabeth of Hungary). The Maddens, Rzihas and Fasseros belong to St. Benedict's Parish in Atchison. The Rioux family belongs to St. Joseph Parish in Nortonville.

CUMMINGS — Debra Fuhrman is under the gun. Barraged by orders arriving from Kansas, around the United States, and even overseas, Fuhrman is shipping out product as fast as she can.

With All Saints Day less than a month away, you see, it's high time for the saints — or rather, their costumes — to go marching out.

As best as Fuhrman can tell, Our Coats of Many Colors in Cummings, population 580 or so, is the Catholic children's costume capital of the world.

That's quite an accomplishment for Fuhrman, a member of the First Christian Church of Atchison. Until just a few years ago, she didn't know the difference between St. Tarcisus and tartar sauce.

For information about costumes from Our Coats of Many Colors, call Fuhrman at (913) 886-6501, or visit the Web site at: www.ourcoatsofmanycolors.com/store.

Fuhrman gives a lot of the credit for her success to her Catholic neighbor and friend, Maria Rioux, a member of St. Joseph Parish in Nortonville.

Fuhrman began her costume career in 1999 with "princess-style" dress-up clothes for her two daughters. When other parents began to ask her to make costumes for their kids, Fuhrman began a little bedroom-based business in 2002.

Initially, she only offered children's costumes of historical and literary figures. Then Rioux encouraged her to consider making saint costumes.

"I can't do that," said Fuhrman. "I'm Protestant. What do I

See **"Protestant"** on page 4

GET READY FOR THE NEW LEAVEN

Don't miss next week's issue of The Leaven. It will feature not only a redesign of the print edition, but a new Web site as well. Longtime readers will welcome the return of one of our most popular series ever, and new ones might like to take up The Leaven challenge. Stay tuned.

LIFE WILL BE VICTORIOUS

Month of the rosary highlights versatile devotion

I was truly pleased by the 20,000 Catholics who came to Kauffman Stadium on May 25, the feast of Corpus Christi, for an afternoon of eucharistic adoration and the praying of the Global Living Rosary for peace. I believe that everyone who came to the stadium that afternoon felt God's presence in a special way. Jesus promised to be where two or three gather in his name, so we can only imagine the power of his presence when 20,000 gather in his name.

Repeatedly, throughout the many months of preparation for the gathering on May 25, I expressed my conviction that the most important fruit of our efforts was not to gather a large crowd of people for one day to adore our eucharistic Lord and pray the rosary. My real hope was that the event on May 25 would serve as a catalyst to motivate many people throughout the Archdiocese to pray the rosary daily — individually or as a family — and to inspire many people to pray regularly in the presence of our eucharistic Lord in one of our churches or in one of the many eucharistic adoration chapels in our parishes.

Bishop Robert Finn of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph and I want to do a joint Corpus Christi procession each year. This annual feast of the church, celebrating the gift of the Lord's presence in the sacrament of his body and blood, is an ideal moment each year to strive to renew a love for the Eucharist manifested, in part, by eucharistic adoration. In 2009, the solemnity of Corpus Christi will be

celebrated on Sunday, June 14. Please mark your calendars now and plan to participate in the Corpus Christi procession that afternoon.

This coming Tuesday, Oct. 7, is the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. The entire month of October is a special month dedicated to fostering the frequent and devout praying of the rosary. I

commend the many throughout the Archdiocese who pray the rosary daily and encourage you to continue. I am certain that you have found entrusting the cares of each day, through the intercession of Mary to Jesus, provides a peace and strength in your heart.

For those for whom the rosary is not part of your daily prayer life, I suggest that you pray the rosary during this month of October. I encourage, whenever possible, praying the rosary as a family.

It is so important for children to witness their parents praying. The rosary is a prayer in which every member of the family, no matter their age, is able to participate. With very young children, it may be prudent to start them off by just praying a decade of the rosary and gradually introduce them to praying a full five decades. Before starting the rosary, it is good to allow each member of the family to express particular intentions. Each decade can be dedicated to a particular intention or intentions.

During the rosary, we recite the Hail Mary 50 times, allowing the words of this simple prayer to be impressed upon our heart. The first half of the Hail Mary uses

the words of the angel Gabriel and St. Elizabeth spoken to Mary as a means of contemplating the greatest miracle in human history — the Incarnation, God taking on our human flesh in the womb of Mary.

Pope John Paul II, in his 2002 apostolic letter — “On the Rosary of the Virgin Mary” — refers to the name of Jesus, concluding the first half of the Hail Mary, as the “center of gravity” for this powerful prayer. Pope John Paul II refers to a custom, previously highlighted by Pope Paul VI, of adding a phrase after the name of Jesus to focus attention on the particular mystery of the rosary. Personally, I have found this practice to be helpful in focusing my meditation on the moments in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus or on aspects of Mary's unique role in God's plan which are contained in each of the mysteries.

So, for example, for the first glorious mystery of the rosary — The Resurrection of Jesus — you might pray the Hail Mary as follows: “Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blest is the fruit of your womb, Jesus, who rose from the dead. “Holy Mary . . .”

The following are some of the phrases that I like to use for each of the glorious mysteries. Perhaps they will be helpful to you, or you may develop your own phrases that are much better. For most mysteries, I like to use three or more phrases that I rotate while praying each decade.

For the glorious mysteries, I use the following:

- 1) **The Resurrection of Jesus:**
 - a) Jesus, who rose from the dead
 - b) Jesus, who encouraged his disciples to be not afraid
 - c) Jesus, who consoled the apostles:

“Peace is my gift to you.”

2) The Ascension of Our Lord into Heaven

- a) Jesus, who ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father
- b) Jesus, who promised to be with his disciples until the end of time
- c) Jesus, who commissioned the apostles to make disciples of all nations

3) The Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles

- a) Jesus, who sent the Holy Spirit upon the apostles at Pentecost
- b) Jesus, who promised his disciples to send an Advocate
- c) Jesus, who assured the apostles the Holy Spirit would provide them what they were to say

4) The Assumption of Mary into Heaven

- a) Jesus, who brought you, his mother, body and soul to heaven

5) Jesus Crowns Mary Queen of Heaven

- a) Jesus, who crowned you, Queen of Heaven
- b) Jesus, who gave you, his mother, also to be our mother
- c) Jesus, who gave you to his disciples as the Mother of Perpetual Help
- d) Jesus, who entrusted John, the other apostles and their successors to your care

- e) Jesus, who gave you to our world as Queen of Peace

In next week's column, I will provide the phrases I like to use for the joyful, sorrowful and the luminous mysteries as well as conclude this reflection on the Rosary. Until then, I urge all of you to pray the rosary daily and offer one decade or at least one Hail Mary for your archbishop!



ARCHBISHOP
JOSEPH F.
NAUMANN



Ward sophomore Miguel Torres and his mentor Bruce Snider, a member of Church of the Ascension in Overland Park, share a light moment during their mentoring session. The two have become good friends, thanks to the Bishop Ward Theological Reflections mentoring program.

Leaven photo by Susan McSpadden

Mentoring builds special relationships

Ward program matches students with mentors and gets great results

By KARA HANSEN
Leaven staff

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — Combine good food, a high school teen, a seasoned adult, and a Scripture study, and you have the basic recipe for the Theological Reflections mentoring program at Bishop Ward High School here.

“We started the mentoring program last year and we really didn't know how it would turn out,” said Father Michael Hermes, president of Bishop Ward.

“But after one year, we now can see that this program is really special,” he said.

Unlike the typical mentoring programs that target at-risk teens, Theological Reflections is a spiritual mentoring program — and it's for students of all backgrounds and family situations.

“This is not for the at-risk students,” said Annie Tompkins, counselor at Bishop Ward High School. “It's for everyone.”

“There are students who do sports, students who are into music, students who are in honors classes. I'm a firm believer that every kid needs a mentor.”

“Our end goal is for every student

at Ward to have a mentor,” she added.

Currently, there are 64 students and mentors in the program. Participants start each session with prayer in the larger group, then break into their mentoring pairs for lunch, Scripture study, and discussion.

Rather than leave two practically perfect strangers on their own for an hour, assigned Scripture readings and discussion questions provide some structure to each session.

There is a different theme each month, often based on the liturgical year.

And, there is always food included.

“We try to create an opportunity for fellowship and hospitality by providing a family meal for both the students and mentors,” said Tompkins.

Originally, the mentors were all men from Church of the Ascension in Overland Park who had attended a Christ Renews His Parish retreat and wanted to give something back to others spiritually.

This year, the mentors have been drawn from a number of parishes in the Kansas City area.

“Each mentor commits to meet with their assigned student on a monthly basis for four years — the entire time that student is in high school,” said Tompkins.

For Ascension parishioner Bruce Snider, the commitment is well worth it. Snider is starting his second year of mentoring sophomore Miguel

Torres. Though he got involved to serve and share his Catholic faith, Snider feels he has received far more from the Theological Reflections program than he has given.

“It's really inspiring and encouraging to see Miguel in his faith walk and to see him looking at all his options for his life ahead of him,” said Snider.

“He's a great kid,” he added, “and I hope our relationship continues even after he's done with high school.”

Though the two had not known each other at all before the program began, they quickly discovered they had no shortage of things to talk about.

“We talk about our own families and about our lives with each other. It's a very positive thing,” said Snider. “We spent a lot of time getting to know each other last year.”

“Now that we know each other better, I can really see this relationship taking off for the next few years.” Torres said that while he had not known what to expect from the program initially, he has noticed its positive influence in his life.

“I feel like this has given me a positive attitude and decreased my stress level, too. I pray a lot more often and enjoy going to Mass more than I did before,” said Torres. “I'm really thankful for this program.”

The mentoring pairs discuss far more than their common faith, but always come back to the ways in

which their Catholic beliefs permeate whatever they do, a point which is not lost on the sophomore.

“I was kind of nervous entering high school, and in some ways I didn't think I could be completely myself,” said Torres. “This has really given me a lot of confidence and courage to be myself.”

Encouraging high school students to share and give voice to their faith in a different way is one of the key goals of the Theological Reflections program, said Father Hermes.

“One of the greatest benefits [of the program] is to have our students being able to speak out loud, openly, and proudly about their faith,” he said. “Some of our students don't get that chance to express their faith at home or in other parts of their lives, but they get that chance here at Bishop Ward, thanks to the spiritual mentoring program.”

Though the mentor pairs meet monthly, there are times when an adult mentor cannot make it during a particular month. But Tompkins said she has seen mentors go above and beyond to make up to their student for their absence.

“One of our mentors couldn't make the first meeting, so she came to the opening school Mass instead,” said Tompkins. “Others will e-mail me a note to pass along to their student [if they can't make a session].”

“I think it shows how much they enjoy their relationship and think it's important.”

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Archdiocesan women come together for 'A Day of Boundless Joy'

By BOB HART
Special to The Leaven

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — When you promote a retreat as a "Day of Boundless Joy," you've got your work cut out for you. But past participants in this annual retreat for women say there's nothing but truth in advertising going on here.

"It's a day that I look forward to each year," said Anne McGranaghan, a parishioner at Holy Spirit Parish in Overland Park. "It's a real spiritual awakening. It's one day when I get to share my faith with women of all backgrounds and ages."

The 6th annual retreat for archdiocesan women will be held at Savior Pastoral Center, 12601 Parallel Pkwy., on Oct. 18, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

It is intended as "a time for Catholic women to connect the everyday beauty of love, laughter and life with the deep tradition of our Catholic faith."

Katie Glynn, 82 years old and a parishioner of St. Bernard Parish in Wamego for 58 years, made the trek last year and said she enjoyed all the day's events, but treasured one in particular.

"Just the time to be quiet in the chapel," Glynn said. "It's hard to explain. . . . But that, I liked."

Mary Ellen Rusche, of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Seneca, enjoyed the day so much in the past that she's turned it into a family affair. This year, she will attend with her three daughters and two daughters-in-law, two of the younger generation coming for the first time.

"It's a very fulfilling day for all of us," Rusche said. "It's enlightening."

Speakers for this year's event include:

- Vickie Broxterman, of St. Matthew Parish in Topeka, is known for finding humor in one of God's greatest gifts: everyday life. Her topic is "Praying it forward while stumbling thru life!"

- Dr. Laurie Heap is a wife, mother and M.D. who believes women's medicine should not only uphold women's dignity, but help them to appreciate what an extraordinary gift it is to be a woman. Heap's presentation is called "Daughters of God: Made in His Image and Likeness."

- Msgr. Charles McGlenn, pastor of Curé of Ars Parish in Leawood, has



Vickie Broxterman of St. Matthew Parish, Topeka, will be one of the speakers at "A Day of Boundless Joy." The title of her presentation is "Praying it forward while stumbling thru life!"

been a priest of the archdiocese for 41 years. He is uniquely qualified to present "Scripture and Prayer" to the women in attendance.

- Wendy Unrein, a parishioner of Christ the King Parish in Topeka, is a talented singer/musician who says, "Anytime I can sing for the Lord, I jump at the chance."

Also included is a special 11 a.m. Mass celebrated by Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann, plus breakfast treats and lunch for all the participants.

"The food is outstanding. And, of course, we always look forward to celebrating the Eucharist," McGranaghan said. "I go with other parishioners from Holy Spirit. We usually have a couple of cars in our carpool, and we look forward to seeing all the friendly faces from past years."

"It's just such a wonderful experience. I think the best thing about it is just getting away from everything for one day — everything but our faith."

Cost for the day is \$35, or \$15 for those 18 and under. For more information or reservations, call Mary Anne Kierl at (913) 647-0345.

Protestant brings the saints to life

Continued from page 1

know about the saints?"

But Rioux didn't give up.

"The next year she said people in her e-group were asking where they could find patterns [for saint costumes], and there wasn't anywhere to go and buy or get a pattern," said Fuhrman.

Rioux was persistent. She was certain that there was a market out there among her fellow Catholic home-schoolers for well-made saint costumes for children. Those already on the market were mostly of the gag-type for adults — shoddy and vulgar. Parents hated them.

"I just didn't see how it could work," said Fuhrman. "I never tried to create my own patterns before. But the third time she asked, I said, 'Fine, you show me, and I'll try it, but I can't do this alone.'"

"That's when I told her that I'd help her with designs and any questions she had about a saint," said Rioux. "I'm just down the road; pick up the phone."

"We were picking up the phone all the time," Fuhrman added with a laugh.

Fuhrman began making saint costumes

in 2004, and the saints must be smiling on her, because business has been very good. Her first order — which she considered "huge" — was for 16 costumes. This year, she'll make and ship approximately 1,500 saint costumes before Oct. 24, the cutoff date for rush orders.

"We could double that if I had enough seamstresses," said Fuhrman.

Those first years, and costumes, weren't easy. Starting with patterns for a Benedictine monk, a Franciscan friar, and a Jesuit priest, Fuhrman sought both quality and authenticity.

The latter turned out to be more difficult than first imagined. A nun's cowl and the bishop's miter, for example, dealt her fits.

"I lost so much sleep over the miter," said Fuhrman. "It's very hard to do the middle section."

And the secret to making a good miter?

"I'm not telling," Fuhrman said with a laugh.

It didn't hurt that Rioux's husband John is a philosophy professor at

Benedictine College in Atchison.

"One of the monks let us use one of their habits," said Rioux. "Abbot Barnabas let us use his miter. Sister Debora Peters [at Mount St. Scholastica] took us all around the Mount and showed us all the Benedictine Sister habits."

About 90 percent of the costumes made by Our Coats of Many Colors are of saints, and the majority of those are bought for Catholic home-schoolers. Today, Our Coats of Many Colors offers 50 kinds of costumes, although the inventory is always in flux, said Fuhrman. Occasionally, the costumes of saints not often requested are replaced by those growing in popularity.

The company will, from time to time, take special orders as well.

"If I get more than three requests," said Fuhrman, "I call Maria."

"People keep asking for Padre Pio. Should we add him?" I'll ask.

"She'll say, 'Yes,' or 'Why don't we wait?'"

"Or I'll say that he's Franciscan, and we've already got that," said Rioux.

It was a special order that led Rioux to create unit studies for some of the costumes. A unit study is a popular method of teaching for home-schoolers. It begins with a central subject, like a saint, and branches out to explore related subjects. The first one was written for a rush order of a St. Gabriel the Archangel costume.

"We were so out of everything and we couldn't find wings anywhere," said Rioux. "We told [the customer] the problem, but we still wanted him to have something special."

Rioux wrote a unit study about St. Gabriel that was suitable for a seven-year-old. Soon, she was doing it for other saints.

Now that Our Coats of Many Colors is off the ground, Fuhrman is laying plans for her own clothing label as well. It will be called "V. Lorraine: Pure and Pretty" and will feature modest and attractive clothes for girls and young women.

"That's my grandmother, Velma Lorraine," said Fuhrman. "She's my inspiration."

ARCHBISHOP JOSEPH F. NAUMANN'S OCTOBER CALENDAR



- 1 Mass for schoolchildren for Mission Day
- 1 U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops task force on "Life and Dignity of the Human Person" — phone conference
- 1 Johnson County pastoral planning meeting
- 1 Meeting and dinner at residence with Bishop Pena from Colombia
- 1 Kansas Catholic Conference, Topeka
- 1 50th anniversary — Sister Josephine, Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George, Alton, Ill.
- 1 Sisters, Servants of Mary benefit dinner
- 1 Mass — Our Lady and St. Rose, Kansas City, Kan.
- 1 Project Andrew — Savior Pastoral Center
- 1 The Catholic Way radio taping
- 1 Administrative Team meeting
- 1 Priests Personnel meeting
- 1 Vespers and dinner — St. Benedict's Abbey, Atchison
- 1 5th-grade Vocation Day — Topeka
- 1 Catholic Education Foundation meeting — Resurrection School
- 1 Kenrick-Glennon Seminary board meeting — St. Louis
- 10-11 Conception Seminary board meeting
- 11 Mass — Blessed Sacrament, Kansas City, Kan.
- 12 Mass — Church of the Ascension, Overland Park
- 12 Project Andrew — Most Pure Heart of Mary, Topeka
- 14 U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Marriage and Family meeting — Chicago
- 15 Mass for development directors
- 15 Serran appreciation luncheon for priests
- 15 Meeting and dinner at residence with Bishop Prasad from India
- 16 Mass and lunch — St. James Academy, Lenexa
- 16 Vespers for Year of St. Paul — St. Joseph, Shawnee
- 17 Lead Donnelly College board retreat
- 17 Mass and give a talk at dinner — Region IX Serrans
- 18 8 a.m. pro-life Mass, procession and praying of rosary at abortion clinic, Kansas City, Kan.
- 19 Mass — Women's day of reflection at Savior Pastoral Center
- 19 Gaudeamus dinner benefit, Catholic Education Foundation — Overland Park
- 19 Mass — 150th anniversary and install Father Gerald Williams as pastor, St. Boniface, Scipio
- 19 Mass, 100th anniversary — St. Columbkille, Blaine
- 20-21 Jesus Caritas, bishops' prayer group — Wichita
- 21 Kansas University Campus, lecture and Q&A on "Faithful Citizenship"
- 22 Luncheon meeting with Project Rachel board
- 22 Confirmation — Holy Trinity Parish, Paola
- 23 Clergy Call to Share luncheon meeting
- 23 Catholic Charities board meeting
- 24 Mass and dinner — John Paul II convent
- 25-26 Pastoral visit — Church of the Nativity, Leawood
- 27 Visit — Horizon Academy
- 27 Finance Council meeting
- 28 St. Lawrence Catholic Campus Center advisory board meeting
- 29 Confirmation — Annunciation Parish, Frankfort; St. Monica-St. Elizabeth Parish, Blue Rapids; and St. Joseph Parish, Lillis
- 30 25th anniversary banquet, National Coalition for the Protection of Children and Families — Mason, Ohio
- 31 Install readers — John XXIII Seminary, Boston

ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS JAMES P. KELEHER'S OCTOBER CALENDAR



- 4 Confirmation, Latin Community — Blessed Sacrament Parish, Kansas City, Kan.
- 4 Mass and dinner — Holy Trinity, Lenexa
- 5 Confirmation — St. Joseph Parish, Wathena; St. Benedict Parish, Benden; and St. Charles Parish, Troy
- 7 Vespers and dinner — St. Benedict's Abbey, Atchison
- 8 Speaker at Serra Club luncheon, Kansas City, Kan.
- 10 Mass — Little Sisters of the Lamb
- 11 Mass and blessing of statue — Sacred Heart Parish, Mound City
- 12 Confirmation — St. Joseph Parish, Nortonville; Immaculate Conception Parish, Valley Falls; and Corpus Christi Parish, Mooney Creek
- 15 Serran appreciation luncheon for priests
- 18 Confirmation — Lansing Prison
- 18 Gaudeamus dinner benefit, Catholic Education Foundation — Overland Park
- 19-28 To Rome with Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulcher
- 31-Nov. 4 Bishops' prayer group — Florida

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Alice (Wempe) and Kenny Meyer, members of Sacred Heart Parish, Baileyville, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Oct. 12. The couple was married on Oct. 14, 1958, at Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Seneca. There will be a dinner for their family and invited guests and a reception and open house from 2 to 4 p.m. at Valentino's in Seneca. Hosts will be their four children and their spouses: Mike and Kristi Meyer, Baileyville; Laurie and Paul Strathman, Seneca; Jeanne and Tony Bruna, Hanover; and Dave and Heather Meyer, Olathe. They also have 12 grandchildren.

Charles and Vera (Hulsing) Hackett, members of Mater Dei Parish, Topeka, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 8 at the golden wedding anniversary Mass at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Kansas City, Kan. The couple was married on Oct. 4, 1958, at the Church of the Assumption in Topeka by Msgr. Eugene F. Vallely. Their children and their spouses are: Shawn and Jill Hackett, Tonganoxie; Brian Hackett, Topeka; and Lori Kloss, Hiawatha. They also have eight grandchildren.

Geraldine (Dekat) and Clyde



Ebert, members of St. Joseph Parish, Flush, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary with a reception in the parish hall after Mass on Oct. 5. The couple was married on Oct. 5, 1948, at St. Joseph Church in Flush. Their children and their spouses are: Dale (deceased) and Cindy Ebert, Daniel and Beverly Ebert, Nancy and Curt Leiker, Todd and Janet Ebert, all of Wamego; Pamela Bennett, Topeka; and Patricia Chrest, Burdette. They have 20 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

ANNIVERSARY POLICY

The Leaven only prints 50, 60, 65 and 70th anniversary notices. Announcements are due by 5 p.m. eight days (Thursday) before the desired publication date.

Announcements must be typed.

They are for parishioners of Catholic parishes in the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas.

Send notices to: The Leaven, 12615 Parallel Pkwy., Kansas City, KS 66109, attn: anniversaries; or send an e-mail to: Todd@theleaven.com. If you would like your photo returned to you, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Archbishop Naumann appointed as grand prior for order of chivalry

OMAHA, Neb. — Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann has been named grand prior for the Northern Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem. The appointment was announced at the annual meeting of the Northern Lieutenancy here.

The 900-year-old Knights of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem is an organization of Catholic laymen, laywomen, and clergy who have committed to sustaining the Christian presence in the Holy Land, as well as protecting the holy

places there, such as the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Archbishop Naumann was first invested in the order in 1996.

In his position as grand prior, he is the spiritual leader for some 1400 members in the Northern Lieutenancy, which includes an eight-state area. In the Holy Land, the organization provides support for the Catholic school system, which educates more than 18,000 primary and secondary students, as well as a wide range of humanitarian and social service initiatives.

Sisters of Charity offer motherhouse tours Oct. 12

LEAVENWORTH — Family, friends, former students and colleagues are invited to join the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth for a 150th jubilee open house at the motherhouse here, located

at 4200 S. 4th St., on Oct. 12, from 1 to 4 p.m. There will be tours of the motherhouse, jubilee displays and refreshments. The event is being hosted by the motherhouse SCLs.

University announces theater presentations

LEAVENWORTH — The University of Saint Mary fine arts-theatre department's 2008-2009 theater season includes the following productions: "Little Shop of Horrors" in October; "Babes in Toyland" in December; "Feiffer's People" in February; and "Macbeth" in April.

Season tickets are available for \$25 by contacting Danielle Trebus at (913) 758-6152, or by e-mail at: trebusd@stmmary.edu. Tickets to individual performances are \$10 for adults; \$5 for students.



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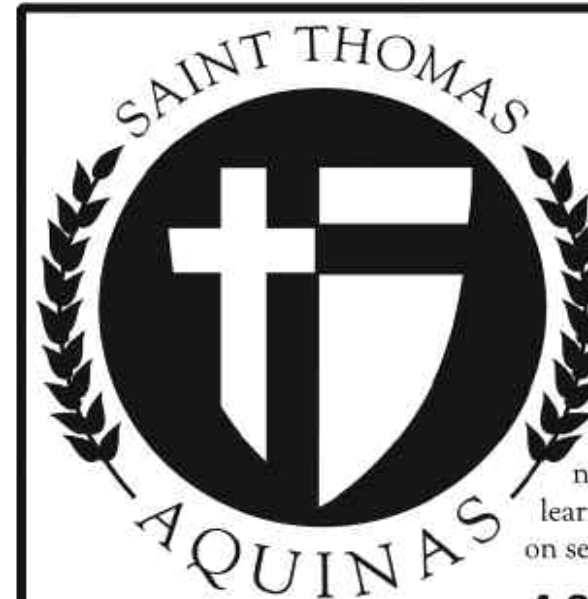
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“You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face.”

— ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

In September of 2002 I was diagnosed with breast cancer. I followed doctors’ instructions and received a “clean bill of health,” and yet it has returned two more times. In the past six years I have had nine surgeries, twenty-four chemo treatments, thirty-five radiation treatments, a collapsed lung, and broken ribs. I have lost my hair two different times. My eyebrows and eyelashes have fallen out. I have lost my fingernails and toenails. I have perfected the art of vomiting. I have had mammograms, ultrasounds, MRIs, X-rays, bone scans, echocardiograms, PET scans, and countless blood tests. I have spent weeks in physical therapy and waited hour upon hour to see a doctor.

Does it sound like I’m bragging? Perhaps I am. Surviving cancer has become my badge of honor. And yet I realize that we all have a badge of honor. Everyone has unpleasant or difficult issues in their lives. It might be health, finances, a job, a relationship, children, or parents. We all go from hill to valley to hill again. And in the depth of the valley, I’ve decided that cancer is not *all* bad.

During my surgeries and treatments, I was blessed to have a wonderful support system. My husband and family were with me every step of the way, doing whatever they could to help pick up the broken pieces of our fragile life. At times the focus was on caring for and distracting our children, ages five and seven at onset, planning fun outings, creating “no-germ” gift baskets, shuttling to soccer practice or trumpet lessons. This was completed with love to protect the innocence of childhood and to keep life feeling normal for the kids.

I had friends rush in before surgeries to clean house, run errands for me, catch up on laundry, and even pay my bills. I had other friends who picked up my carpool shifts. A friend organized a group of husbands to come move furniture the night my new mattress arrived. Another friend picked up my daughter from school each day while I finished radiation. When my hair started to fall out in clumps, my stylist welcomed me into her home on her day off and helped the kids shave my head.

I received gifts of flowers and angels, candles and lotion. My mailbox was jammed with thoughts of love and concern. Someone fasted for me, someone organized a meal-provider list, and others cooked for me. Neighbors and friends called before going to the grocery store so that they could pick up a few things. A designer friend helped orchestrate a bedroom makeover; another friend came to my house and gave me a massage. Books were left on my front porch, and gifts were left in the milk box. Bible verses and words of encouragement were left on my voice mail, soup was left at

my door, and hope was left in my heart.

And so many people prayed for me. Letters came from across the country telling of groups praying for me, people I didn’t even know. People prayed over me in bedrooms, living rooms, the grocery store, the doctor’s office, and church. I received the sacrament of healing and the anointing of the sick. A friend organized a rosary so that the Blessed Mother lifted me up in prayer as well. Another dear friend organized an opportunity to join together for the Stations of the Cross, somehow unifying my suffering with Christ’s.

Earthly angels visited me during chemo treatments, bringing delectable treats and hair barrettes for the times ahead. Friends transformed my living room into a garden oasis with hundreds of beautiful flowers. Some listened to me cry, some cried with me, and some cried for me so that I didn’t have to. Some gave me pep talks, others called me their inspiration. Friends looked into my sick, tired eyes and told me I was beautiful, and even though I didn’t feel beautiful, I could see in their eyes that they spoke truthfully.

You’re too tired for a Christmas tree? I’ll bring one over and decorate it. You can’t get the dishes done? No problem. You’re too sick to get out of bed? I’ll come over and start an IV. You want a milk shake? I’ll be right there! Another surgery? How about some new, comfy pj’s?

BEFORE MY ILLNESS I had always judged my day based on how much I’d accomplished from my list of “things to do,” my German work ethic spurring me on to accomplish more each day. The amount of help I re-

Pray it Forward

A gift from a cancer survivor

BY CHRISTINE KREITLER MELLIN

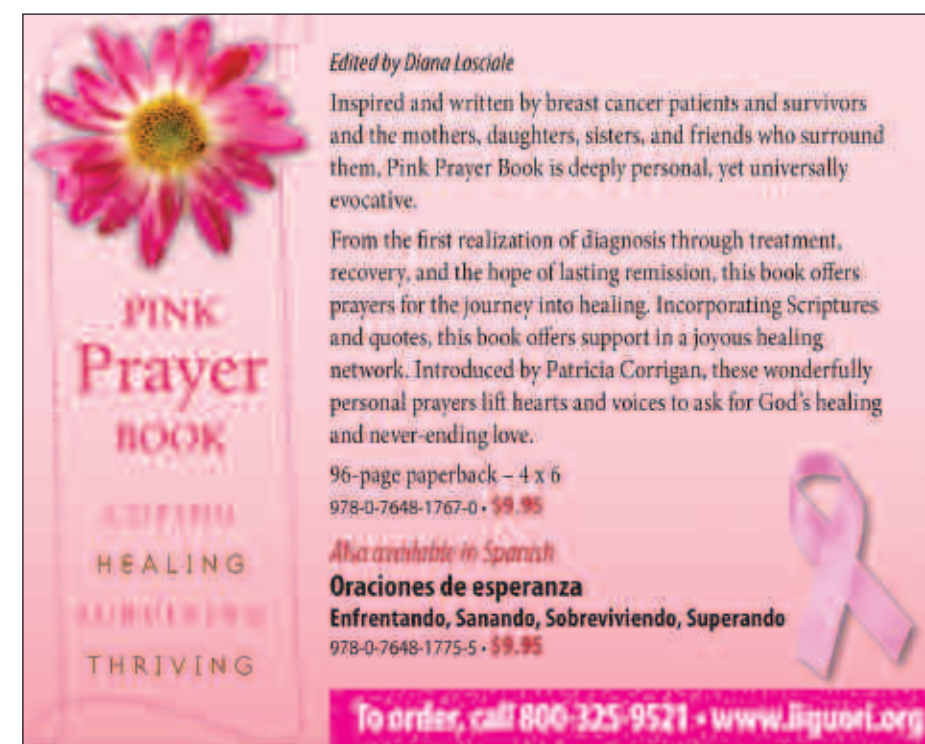


Christine Kreidler Mellin (far right) and her family enjoy the Greeley Independence Stampede and Rodeo in July 2007.

ceived following my diagnosis was often overwhelming because I felt the need to repay the favors. To this day, I don’t like to have a feeling of indebtedness. During that time, however, I found myself too tired to refuse.

I have since gotten better about ac-

cepting help. It is humbling to need the help of others. I wanted to do things for myself! I found my days void of the hustle and bustle that once dominated. I had to reconcile my worth to myself. I couldn’t accomplish my unending list of tasks. I had no



strength for housecleaning, was too tired to focus on the office work, had no energy to volunteer in the classroom. Even taking a shower left me exhausted.

What could I do? I was angry and felt sorry for myself. My irritation toward caring family members and other individuals surfaced despite the knowledge that they only meant the best. And then I would become upset with myself for feeling anger when I should have been feeling gratitude. I didn’t want help, but I wanted things done. I didn’t want pity, yet I wanted others to acknowledge the daunting position I was in. I felt left out of the party, left out of tennis, left out of the conversation at carpool, left out of a normal life.

As I lay in bed with a terrible headache, unable to read because the smell of the ink nauseated me, I felt utterly useless. It was then, in spite of my ailments, that I started reading a book from a friend. I still haven’t finished it, but it provided a solution: Pray! I found my worth in intercessory prayer. How silly that it took me so long to discover this simple answer. All of a sudden I was once again a productive member of society. I prayed for my husband, for my family, for my friends, for my children, for their teachers, for my priest and our parish, for our political leaders and our country, for the man who had just called the wrong number. And with each gift of prayer, with each gift of service, I saw the face of Jesus in the family and friends who were caring for me, loving me, hurting with me, sharing my burden. And as I allowed Jesus to enter my life through the service of others, my load was lessened, my burden diminished.

SO WHO’S THE LUCKY ONE NOW? I am ready for the hills and valleys of life, still stumbling at every pass. I continue to pray to be cured of this disease so that I can participate in the care and instruction of my children. I’ve let my mind wander down the path of death, and it was real enough to be very scary; it was real enough to make me take a hard look

at how I was spending my days. My cancer gave me the insight to discern what is important to me. It provided a conduit for deepening my faith. Friendships take time. I have been blessed with the time to spend with our Lord. The time that would otherwise have been swallowed up in the busyness of life was traded for a bit of suffering and a nice, long coffee break with Jesus. So for me, I see now that cancer has not been *all* bad.

So what are my goals now? I have a to-do list that includes things like photo albums, Scripture study, family vacations, decorating, hanging out with the kids after school, and family dinnertime. But more than that, I am working on *becoming*. I want to become the person I was meant to be. I want to try very hard to avoid getting caught up in this life. We all have a limited time here.

~I want to *become* confident in my ability to know what is important each day.

~I want to *become* comfortable with my departure.

~I want to *become* aware of the limited control I have on my children’s future.

~I want to *become* trustworthy of my Benefactor and his ability to care for the children he has temporarily entrusted to me.

~I want to *become* a reflection of the suffering servant, Jesus Christ. When someone looks at me, I hope they can see a little bit of Jesus.

When others are faced with daunting difficulties, I hope they are able to see the value in suffering. I want to validate the gifts I have received from family and friends, not by sending out thank-you notes or by repaying the favors, but by being a good mom, a good wife, a good friend, a good sister, a good daughter, a good example. Maybe if I *become*, someone else will believe and be encouraged to also *become* what God has intended.

Christine Mellin lives in Greeley, Colo., with her husband and two children. She is now in permanent treatment and says the doctors are quite optimistic.

ON COPING...

God,
Please give me the strength to fight and the strength to heal.
Please keep watch over my children;
allow them the courage to endure the stages of my healing.
Thank you for your loving support
and for the encouragement
from those around me.
And guard my sense of humor
so I can maintain balance.
Amen.
KATHERINE WELSH, SURVIVOR

ON HEALING...

O God,
Since you had counted
every hair on my head
(and there were a lot),
Count now my bald head
as precious
As was my newborn child’s.
SHEILA M. CHIBNALL-TREPTOW, SURVIVOR

ON SURVIVING...

Dear God,
Please put me where you
want me to be...
And give me the strength
to be there.
SUSAN THOMPSON, SURVIVOR

ON THRIVING...

I know I was spared to reach out
to some other frightened soul
who has just heard the dreadful sentence.
I thank you for the chance to say to her.
“You, too, can make it.”
My blessings are too numerous to count;
and I am grateful for them all.
It is with deep love and gratitude
that I offer my praise to you, dear Lord.
EVELYN STAFFORD DANIELS, SURVIVOR

National Pink Prayer Day

OCTOBER 15

NATIONAL PINK PRAYER DAY WAS INITIATED BY
LIGUORI PUBLICATIONS.

Greeting

In the name of Jesus Christ, I welcome all of you to this first annual National Pink Prayer Day.

Let us begin, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Opening Prayer

Let us pray: Creator God, you sent your Son as Lord of Life, filled with compassion and mercy. We beseech you to hear those who cry out to you. Draw them near and bid your Son to touch and heal them, that they might give you praise and sing your glory to the nations.

All: Amen.

Reading: Jas 5: 13-16

(Alternate reading Mt 4: 23-24)

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Suggestions for Reflection

- Someone might wish to offer a reflection on the word or Jesus’ healing ministry.
- A breast cancer survivor might offer a reflection about her journey.
- Someone might want to share how breast cancer has affected him or her.

Prayer of the Faithful

• Lord, may your Church continue to proclaim the good news of your healing grace. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

• Lord, may all who suffer from breast cancer and all other ailments find solace and strength in your loving embrace. Heal them in body, mind, and spirit. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

• Lord, we pray in a special way for (insert names). Continue to heal her/them, and give strength to her/their family, friends, and caregivers. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

• Lord, may all who this day struggle to survive find your disciples to be generous of heart and sharers of blessings. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

• Lord, we pray for all who have gone before us, especially those who have died from this disease. Wrap them in your eternal embrace, and pour your grace upon us who remain. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Prayer (from Pink Prayer Book)

You are truly the God of the light and of the dark.

From each of the low places to which I’ve been dropped, You have lifted me up with great blessing. The love, kindness, and thoughtfulness that surrounds me is the amazingly tangible experience of you.

---Sheila M. Chibnall-Treptow, Survivor

Our Father or Hail Mary

Closing Prayer

Let us pray: Lord of Life, your heart was moved with pity at the suffering of God’s children, and so you healed the sick and gave your disciples the gift and mission to do the same. May we be true ambassadors of your healing grace and lift up all who suffer.
All: Amen.

Dismissal

Let us go in the peace of Christ, sharing with one another some sign of God’s peace and strength.

BRIEFLY

Congressmen outline proposal to ban sex-selection abortions

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Despite evidence that sex-selection abortions may be occurring in the United States, U.S. law affords “less protection from sex-based feticide” than India or China do, according to proposed legislation, the Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act, that is to be introduced soon in the House of Representatives. Republican Rep. Trent Franks of Arizona said, “Today we put forth a principle that all Americans of good will can warmly embrace — that no child should be marked to die based on their sex or their race. And we put it forth in the backdrop of over 100 million little girls having been aborted simply because they were little girls instead of little boys. It is also put forward in the backdrop of the mind-numbing reality that today in America half of all African-American children are being aborted before they are born.”

Economy, low media coverage cause scant storm relief gifts

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Destruction from the hurricanes and tropical storms that have devastated U.S. communities and Caribbean nations in the past few months has exceeded the damage Hurricane Katrina inflicted on New Orleans in 2005, but donations for relief efforts this time are drastically less. “I believe a combination of the recent economic crisis and the media attention, or lack thereof, have presented challenges to us,” said Patricia Hvidston, senior director of development for Catholic Charities USA. “We have gotten donations, and we’re grateful to everyone who has made donations, but it’s significantly lower than the response to Katrina.” Donations to Catholic Charities in response to Katrina averaged \$890 each from more than 180,000 contributors, but donations in response to the series of storms that have crippled communities along the Gulf of Mexico, Florida and elsewhere have only averaged \$159 each from fewer than 1,000 supporters, Hvidston reported.

Porziuncola reproduced ‘stone-for-stone’

By DAN MORRIS-YOUNG
Catholic News Service

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — A rock-for-rock, stone-for-stone, fresco-for-fresco replica of St. Francis of Assisi’s tiny Porziuncola church near Assisi, Italy, now graces a building adjoining the National Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi in San Francisco.

The Sept. 27 dedication of the structure capped a nearly 15-month construction effort that has pulled together the efforts of a team of international artists, stone masons, metalsmiths, muralists, tile experts and others — including students earning their master’s degree of fine arts at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco.

U.S. Cardinal William J. Levada, prefect of the Vatican’s Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and former archbishop of San Francisco, presided and Archbishop George H. Niederauer of San Francisco was principal celebrant at the morning dedication rite.

Housed within what was formerly the gymnasium of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, the Porziuncola Chapel will be designated an archdiocesan shrine in its own right.

Built on a scale of 78 percent of the original to accommodate available space, the structure features duplications of a 14th-century fresco, of original doors and windows, and of other details of its Italian forerunner.

The original Porziuncola was restored in the 13th century by St. Francis and his followers, and today draws thousands of pilgrims annually. It is contained in a nave of the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli near Assisi.

A featured aspect of the Porziuncola in San Francisco is the encased display of a stone used more than eight centuries ago in the repair of the original Porziuncola, perhaps by St. Francis himself.

The 72 Franciscan friars of the Assisi community met in 2006 and agreed to donate the relic to the San Francisco shrine. Members of that community delivered the rock in late April of this year and representatives were present



CNS photo/Dan Morris-Young, Catholic San Francisco

REPLICA OF PORZIUNCOLA — A replica of the famed Porziuncola church of St. Francis of Assisi, Italy, is seen at San Francisco’s National Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi Sept. 11. U.S. Cardinal William J. Levada, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome and former archbishop of San Francisco, dedicated the replica Sept. 27.

for the dedication Mass.

A San Francisco attorney and former president of the board of supervisors, Angela Alioto, spearheaded the \$2.9 million Porziuncola undertaking; it is part of a larger Renaissance Project of which she is director and vice chair.

She and others see the Porziuncola Chapel as a major step toward generating local, national and global interest in the National Shrine of St. Francis.

“Our goal is to transform this beautiful but sadly underutilized facility into an international spiritual center where people of all faiths — or even no faith — can come and feel the power of St. Francis’ message of universal love,” said Alioto, a native of San Francisco and the daughter of former Mayor Joseph Alioto.

“This will change San Francisco,” said Father Robert Cipriano, the shrine’s rector. “We’ll have a depth of

spirituality not yet experienced here. It will open pathways to ecumenical dialogue, a welcoming of all people.”

After the dedication, he said, “people will start to come, perhaps slowly at first.”

“First it will be the poor of San Francisco, then the people of California, then the people of the West Coast, then the people of the United States, and then it will become world-known,” he told Catholic San Francisco, the archdiocesan newspaper.

“It’s absolutely magnificent that we have this holy place now. Francis is so loved by people, even non-Christians,” he said.

In a reflection on the Porziuncola replica written for Catholic San Francisco, Cardinal Levada also called attention to the ecumenical and inter-religious appeal of St. Francis, saying he hoped the new structure will be “a place where Catholics and all people of good will would feel spiritually at home.”

It was Cardinal Levada as archbishop of San Francisco who oversaw the reopening of St. Francis Church in 1998 as the St. Francis Shrine Church. A year later, the U.S. bishops’ conference recognized the church as the National Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi.

Having two official church shrines — one national, one archdiocesan — sharing the same location is perhaps unique in the church, archdiocesan officials said.

The Porziuncola Chapel’s frescos, doors and marble floors were created by artisans in Assisi and in Citta del Castello, in Umbria, Italy, according to a Renaissance Project fact sheet.

An original mural in the style of medieval artist Giotto di Bondone adorns the entrance to the building which houses the Porziuncola Chapel.

Alioto also has helped found the Archconfraternity of the Knights of St. Francis of Assisi, an organization of individuals who are committing themselves to provide security for the Porziuncola Chapel and National Shrine of St. Francis.

Crisis shows failure of ‘new economy’

By CAROL GLATZ
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The current financial crisis pummeling the United States and beyond is a sign that the so-called “new economy” and its risky investments have failed, the Vatican newspaper said.

The booming growth of financial markets did not correspond to real growth or concrete development for society because it created an artificially robust gross national product, said a Sept. 24 article in L’Osservatore Romano.

The only real growth registered in this crisis has been “the commissions, profits of the banks and bonuses for the managers,” it said.

The article, with the headline “A costly illusion,” was written by Ettore Gotti Tedeschi, an Italian economist and professor of financial ethics at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan, Italy.

The U.S. financial meltdown has been blamed on “the greed of managers and lack of regulations. But curiously, no one ever refers to the indirect responsibility of the government’s economic policy” which, he wrote, tried to cover the lack of any real economic development with a booming Wall Street.

He said the U.S. government’s proposed bailout may stave off any worst-case scenario for its troubled financial markets, but it will not repair the root causes of the crisis.

The West has “not succeeded with its new economy project, it did not succeed with accelerating growth in Asia by transferring low-cost production [there], and it did not succeed after inventing a boom in the GNP through risky financial models that were poorly conceived and badly regulated,” it said.



CNS photo/Eduardo Munoz, Reuters

WOMEN CARRY FOOD — A Haitian woman in Gonaives receives bags of food Sept. 22. The food was donated by CARE and the World Food Program after Haiti was hit by four hurricanes within several weeks.

Vatican evolution congress to exclude creationism

By CAROL GLATZ
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Speakers invited to attend a Vatican-sponsored congress on the evolution debate will not include proponents of creationism and intelligent design, organizers said.

The Pontifical Council for Culture, Rome’s Pontifical Gregorian University and the University of Notre Dame in Indiana are organizing an international conference in Rome March 3-7 as one of a series of events marking the 150th anniversary of the publication of Charles Darwin’s “The Origin of Species.”

Jesuit Father Marc Leclerc, a philosophy professor at the Gregorian, told Catholic News Service Sept. 16 that organizers “wanted to create a conference that was strictly scientific” and that discussed rational philosophy and theology along with the latest scientific discoveries.

He said arguments “that cannot be critically defined as being science, or

philosophy or theology did not seem feasible to include in a dialogue at this level and, therefore, for this reason we did not think to invite” supporters of creationism and intelligent design.

Archbishop Gianfranco Ravasi, president of the Pontifical Council for Culture, said the other extreme of the evolution debate — proponents of an overly scientific conception of evolution and natural selection — also were not invited.

He reiterated that evolutionary theory “is not incompatible with the teachings of the Catholic Church or the Bible’s message.”

Gennaro Auletta, professor of philosophy at the Gregorian, said organizers hope the encounter will help theologians and philosophers be “a bit more humble and learn to listen a bit more” to what science is unveiling about humanity and the world.

Auletta said Popes Pius XII, John Paul II and Benedict XVI have expressed “a fundamental interest” in the theory of biological evolution.

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EMPLOYMENT

Finance office coordinator - For Most Pure Heart of Mary Parish, Topeka. Responsibilities include: coordinating the day-to-day operations of the finance office; providing an accurate filing, record keeping, and reporting system for all parish financial matters; processing of payroll and payroll taxes; month-end reconciliations and financial reports. Preferred qualifications include a college degree in business administration, finance, or accounting, plus five years work-related experience. Pertinent work experience may be considered in lieu of college degree. Knowledge of accounting principles and practices is required. Knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Church and its mission are required. Send resume and cover letter to: Most Pure Heart of Mary Search Committee, 1800 S.W. Stone, Topeka, KS 66604.

Co-assistant manager needed - To job share on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at Dennis Uniform Company, 6322 College Blvd., Overland Park. For information or to apply, call Pat at (913) 381-6500.

Two workshop facilitators needed - For the Catholic Charities "Marriage for Keeps" program. One facilitator must be bilingual, English/Spanish. The responsibilities include: co-teaching the program's curriculum to married adults; assisting the family support specialist with intake and support sessions; and facilitating additional programs as needed. Both positions are on a per-need basis and require evening and/or weekend hours. Must be available to attend a four-day out-of-town curriculum training. The main office is located at Catholic Charities, 2220 Central Ave., Kansas City, Kan. However, this position may require work at other locations as needed. If interested, forward cover letter and resume, via e-mail to: jcolbert@ccskcs.org, or fax to Jeannie at (913) 371-6951.

Bookkeeper - Regents Flooring Co., located near 99th and Lackman in Lenexa, is seeking a full- or part-time bookkeeper with flexible hours. Construction industry and timberline experience would be helpful. E-mail your resume to: brandy@regentsflooring.com, or fax to (913) 469-1372.

Preschool teachers - The Goddard School, located in northwest Olathe, is looking for qualified lead, assistant, and substitute teachers. Full- and part-time positions are available. Candidates should be prepared to plan and facilitate lessons and communicate effectively with children, families, co-workers and administrators. Lead teachers must have an early childhood education degree, a CDA, or a degree in a related field with an emphasis in early childhood education. Prior experience in a child-care setting is preferred. Send resume via e-mail to: goddardolathe2@everestkc.net, or fax to (913) 768-4414. Owners are members of Ascension Parish.

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Piano and voice lessons - For ages 3 and up. For more information, call (913) 206-2151, or send an e-mail to: mamurick@rockhurst.edu.

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On the beach - St. Petersburg, Fla. 4-star condo/hotel. May be rented as a 1 BR for \$99/night or a 2 BR with kitchen for \$225/night. Sleeps 4 - 8. Call Chuck at (913) 710-2597. For details, visit: www.justletgo.com.

Winter Park, Colo. - Ski week (2/28/09 - 3/7/09); 2 BR, 2 BA condo, with kitchen; sleeps six. Very nice. Inn at Silvercreek. \$700/week. Call (913) 649-7596. To view, visit the Web site at: www.silvercreekgranby.com.

Bahamas beachfront condo - Enjoy the crystal clear waters, beachfront pool or the beautiful sunrises from our newly remodeled condo that sleeps four. \$125/night; \$750/week. Local owner will rent to mature adults and families. Visit the Web site at: www.coralbeach1602.com, or send an e-mail to: coralbeach1602@gmail.com.

Lake of the Ozarks rental - Osage Beach, million-dollar view, fully furnished; 2 BR, 2 BA; sleeps six. No smoking, no pets. For special winter rates, call Steve or Sheryl Roederer at (913) 244-2022, or take a visual tour at: www.visualtour.com/shownp.asp?T=338261.

Ski cabin in Winter Park, Colo. - 2 BR, 1 BA, on free ski shuttle route. \$110/night. Call (785) 832-1518. For pictures, visit the Web site at: cabin.forcadeassociates.com.

Ski vacation - Winter Park, Colo. 2 BR, 1BA, sleeps 6. Fully furnished, fireplace, rec. center with pool & hot tub. \$125/night; \$750/week. Call Joe Frederick at (913) 385-5589.

REAL ESTATE

Colo. ski condo for sale - 2 BR, 2 BA; located in Winter Park. Fully furnished; full kitchen; gas fireplace. On first floor; close to clubhouse amenities; and on the free, public bus route to ski resort. Call 1 (800) 824-8438, or send an e-mail to: kmeyer@meyermountainreally.com.

Overland Park ranch home - 3 BR, 2 BA, combo LR/DR, family rm., eat-in kitchen, beautiful hardwood flrs., full bsmt., two-car garage, central air, attic fan, gutter shields. Near Catholic church and school. Call (913) 839-8693.

Oakshire townhome - 3 BR and 2 BA of spacious living; new carpet and interior paint, a two-car garage, and basement. This is the best cared for, maintenance-free complex in Overland Park. Close to shopping and great highway access. Holy Spirit Parish. \$179K. Call Rosemary Connors, Reece and Nichols Realty, at (913) 669-1229.

Lake house for sale - Beautiful and private Lake Kahola, less than 2 hours from the KC area. Only 10 miles off I-35 at the Emporia exit. This home sleeps 10+ with a 2-car garage, plus a private boat ramp and dock. Located at the water's edge on a quiet cove with great neighbors. Call Cy at (316) 262-0888.

Holy Trinity family - Is looking for three other families to share in their 60-acre retreat with nature. Enjoy hunting, fishing, hiking or just relaxing on the huge covered porch overlooking the lake. Home is six years old, with two bedrooms, and has all the amenities. Property is located south of Ottawa and is less than a one-hour drive from Lenexa. Call Susan for details (913) 345-2577.

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For sale - Four cemetery plots at Mt. Calvary Cemetery, KCK. Lot 74; section 4; graves 3, 4, 6, and 7. May purchase individually or as a group. Offered at considerably lower than current value. Call Pat at (913) 592-4264.

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Meetings

The **Johnson County Unos** will hold their **monthly meeting and potluck dinner** at 6 p.m. on Oct. 3 at **St. Pius X Church**, 5601 Woodson, **Mission**. Bring meat casseroles, salads, vegetables or desserts — enough to feed 8 — or \$5 to pay for your meal.

Miscellaneous

St. Joseph Medical Center, I-435 and State Line Rd., **Kansas City, Mo.**, will host a **fall bazaar and bake sale** from 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Oct. 3 in the medical mall.

The **Holy Women series** for October will feature "Madeleine L'Engle" on Oct. 9 from 1 - 3 p.m. at the **Keeler Women's Center**, 2220 Central, **Kansas City, Kan.** For information or to register, call (913) 906-8990, or visit the Web site at: www.mountosb.org/kwc/.

Family, friends, former students and colleagues are invited to join the **Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth** for an **open house** on Oct. 12 from 1 - 4 p.m. in celebration of the 150th anniversary jubilee at their **motherhouse**, 4200 S. 4th St., **Leavenworth**.

The **Knights of Columbus** will hold their annual **Tootsie Roll drive** after Masses during the weekend of Oct. 11 - 12.

Catholic men 18 years of age or older may join the **Knights of Columbus** at a **first-degree ceremony** on Oct. 14 in the **Council No. 2332 Hall**, 11512 Johnson Dr., **Shawnee**. For information, call Gary VanDeBerghe at (913) 962-1407.

The **Keeler Women's Center** will present "Clarina Nichols: Freedom Fighter (1810-1885)" at 11 a.m. on Oct. 15 in the **Donnelly College meeting room** at the **Keeler Women's Center**, 2220 Central Ave., **Kansas City, Kan.** For information or to register, call (913) 906-8990.

The **women's organization of Prince of Peace Church**, 16000 W. 143rd St., **Olathe**, will host a **fall craft market** featuring holiday gifts and decor from 9 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 18 and from 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Oct. 19.

Save the date for the third annual Hope Benefit, a **fundraiser for the Sanctuary of Hope Prayer and Retreat Center**, 2601 Ridge Ave., **Kansas City, Kan.** It will be held on Nov. 8. For information, visit the Web site at: www.hopebenefit.org.

The **Singles of Nativity** will gather for **round-robin-style tennis** at 3:30 p.m. on Sundays throughout the fall at the **Indian Creek Recreational Center**, 103rd St. and Marty, **Overland Park**. Everyone is invited, even if you do not play tennis. For information, send an e-mail to Jane Zaccardi at: service@son-ministry.org.

Religious events

The **Singles of Nativity**, for all singles 35 and better, welcome newcomers to their weekly **Bible study** on Sundays at 9

a.m. in the **Nativity conference room**, 119th & Mission Rd., **Leawood**, followed by 10:30 a.m. Mass. For more information or questions, send an e-mail to Tom or Mike at: Spiritual@son-ministry.org.

Retreats

A **Cursillo weekend** is a personal encounter with Christ that helps you experience your Catholic faith in a whole new way. The men's fall weekend will be held from Oct. 4 - 7; the women's fall weekend will be held from Oct. 25 - 28. Both weekends will take place at **Savior Pastoral Center**, 12601 Parallel Pkwy., **Kansas City, Kan.** For information, call David Woodriddle at (913) 526-9570, or visit the Web site at: www.kccursillo.org.

Sophia Center, 751 S. 8th St., **Atchison**, will host "Inner Healing: Freedom Through Reconciliation," presented by Sister Constance Krstolic, OSB, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Oct. 11. The cost is \$50; advance deposit of \$10. For information or to register, call (913) 360-6151.

Savior Pastoral Center, 12601 Parallel Pkwy., **Kansas City, Kan.**, will host a **mini-retreat** entitled, "Blessed Are You Who Are Mourning, For One Day You Will Laugh" on Nov. 1. The retreat director will be Mary Kay Whitacre, who has over 30 years experience in professional ministry in the church. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m., followed by the program and lunch. The cost is \$25; reservations may be made through Oct. 24. For information, contact (913) 721-1097, or visit the Web site at: www.archkck.org (click on the Savior Pastoral Center link).

Social

Curé of Ars Parish, 9300 Mission Rd., **Leawood**, will host a "Saturday Night Fever" **singles dance** featuring Carl the DJ from 8 p.m. - midnight on Oct. 4 in the **school cafeteria**. The cost is \$18 at the door; \$15 if prepaid. Mail check to: P.O. Box 116, Shawnee Mission, KS 66201.

The **Our Lady of Guadalupe Society of Queen of the Holy Rosary Church**, 7023 W. 71st St., **Overland Park**, will host a **taco dinner** from 1 - 6 p.m. on Oct. 4 in the Carl Zawacki Hall. The cost is \$7 for adults; \$3 for children.

Sacred Heart Parish, 555 W. Warren St., **Gardner**, will host **Oktoberfest** from 3 - 9 p.m. on Oct. 4 and from 11:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Oct. 5. A 5 p.m. **Mass** will be celebrated on Oct. 4. There will be live music, a taekwon do exhibition, a beer garden, concession stands, and a children's play area. The cost is \$5 per person. The children's play area and food and drink cost extra. A **Sunday dinner** featuring American and German foods will be served from 11:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the parish center located at 122 W. Warren St., followed by a silent auction, craft show, a cakewalk, raffles, bingo and more. The cost for dinner is \$7 for adults; \$4 for children ages 4 - 12. For information, call (913) 856-7781.

St. Boniface Church, Scipio, will host its annual **fall bazaar** from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Oct. 5 in the parish hall. The cost is \$8 for adults; \$4 for children. A roast beef and chicken-and-noodle dinner with all

the trimmings will be served. Carryouts will be available.

St. Theresa Church, Perry, will host its annual **fall bazaar** on Oct. 5. A **turkey and ham dinner** will be served from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. The cost is \$7 for adults; \$3 for children. Carryouts will be available. There will be children's games, a silent auction, bingo, a raffle, baked goods, and crafts.

St. Joseph Parish, 307 Iowa St., **Olpe**, will host its **fall festival** on Oct. 5. A **roast beef and ham dinner** with all the trimmings will be served from 3 - 6:30 p.m., followed by bingo in the Knights of Columbus Hall. The cost of dinner is: \$8 for adults; \$3 for children ages 6 - 10; and \$1 for children under 6. Carryouts will be available.

St. Francis Xavier Parish, Mayetta, will host its annual **bazaar** on Oct. 5. A **roast pork and turkey dinner** will be served from 3 - 6 p.m. The cost is \$7 for adults; \$3 for children 10 and under. There will be a silent auction, a quilt raffle, games, bingo, and a cakewalk.

Sacred Heart Parish, 1405 2nd Ave., **Leavenworth**, will host a **fall festival** on Oct. 5. A traditional **turkey and ham dinner** will be served from noon - 3:30 p.m. There will be a country store, a cakewalk, an auction, games and more.

The **Kansas City Lithuanian Community** will host a fall picnic from noon - 4 p.m. on Oct. 5 at the **Wyandotte County Park**, Shelter J, 126th and State Ave., **Bonner Springs**. A meat dish, soft drinks, and Lithuanian beer will be provided. Please bring a side dish to share. There will be activities and games for children and adults. All are welcome. For information, contact Sally Zematits Dannov at (913) 384-0580; send an e-mail to her at: sallyzd@aol.com; or visit the Web site at: www.kclith.org.

The **Topeka Catholic Singles Fellowship** will host a **citywide dance** on Oct. 11 from 7:30 - 11:30 p.m. at **Christ the King Church**, 5973 S.W. 25th St., **Topeka**. The cost is \$10 per person; \$8 if you bring a snack or pop to share.

Sacred Heart, Tonganoxie, will host its annual **turkey dinner and bazaar** at the parish, Highway 24/40 and Washington, from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Oct. 12. Tickets cost: \$7.50 for adults; \$3 for children 3-10; children 2 and under eat free. Carryouts will be available until 3:30 p.m. For orders, call (913) 369-8697.

St. Benedict Parish, Atchison, will host its annual **fall fiesta** on Oct. 12 in the old gym at **Atchison Catholic Elementary School**, 2nd and Division. A **barbecue or chicken dinner** will be served from 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. There will be a country store, children's games, a silent auction, and a raffle.

St. Bede Parish, Kelly, will host a **soup supper** on Oct. 12 from 4 - 7 p.m. There will also be games, a country store, and an auction beginning at 8 p.m.

St. Aloysius Parish, Meriden, will host a **bazaar and turkey and ham dinner** on Oct. 12 from 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$7 for adults; \$4 for children ages 4 - 12; free for children under 4. There will also be games, a silent

auction, crafts and a raffle.

Holy Cross Parish, Emmett, will host its annual **turkey dinner** with all the trimmings on Oct. 12 from 3:30 - 7 p.m. The cost is \$7.50 for adults; \$4 for children ages 5 - 11; free for children 4 and under. There will also be a raffle, a silent auction, and bingo.

The youth group of **Immaculate Conception-St. Joseph Parish, Leavenworth**, will host its annual **art auction** on Oct. 17, featuring art in all media and price ranges brought in from Marlin Art of New York. Proceeds from this event will benefit the parish youth group. Tickets cost \$5 in advance; \$10 at the door. The wine and cheese preview will begin at 7 p.m.; the auction will begin at 8 p.m. For information or tickets, call the parish office at (913) 682-3953.

The **Knights of Columbus** will host an **Autumn Blaze Days barbecue smoke-off and pumpkin festival**, sanctioned by the Kansas City Barbecue Society, on Oct. 17- 18 at the **Anderson County Fairgrounds, Garnett**. For information, call Ted Uhler at (785) 448-5357, or visit the Web site at: www.garnettkofc.com.

The **Singles of Nativity** will host a **Halloween dance** on Oct. 18 from 7 - 11:30 p.m. in the church hall at 119th and Mission Rd., **Leawood**. Join the fun and come in costume! The cost is \$15 for members; \$20 for nonmembers. Beer, wine, snacks, and great music will be provided! Volunteers are needed for setup, sign-in table, drink table, and cleanup. For information or to volunteer, contact Rosanna or Rita at: social@son-ministry.org.

Our Lady of Unity Alumni Association will host a **dinner dance** on Oct. 18 at the **Sacred Heart Church hall**, 2646 S. 34th St., **Kansas City, Kan.** Tickets cost \$20 each; \$30 per couple. To purchase tickets, contact Rod at (913) 262-4919, Doug at (913) 963-9095, or Ed at (913) 631-4206.

Support Groups

The **Keeler Women's Center** will host a six-week **loss support group** on Tuesdays from 3 - 5 p.m., beginning Oct. 14, at 2220 Central, **Kansas City, Kan.** For information or to register, call (913) 906-8990 or visit the Web site at: www.mountosb.org/kwc/.

Project Rachel is offering weekly support groups throughout October in the KC metro area for those hurting from an abortion. Registration is required. For information, call Patricia at (913) 621-2199 or 1 (888) 246-1504. All calls are strictly confidential.

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Publication No. (ISSN) 0194-9799

Published weekly September through May, excepting the Friday the week after Thanksgiving, and the Friday after Christmas; biweekly June through August. Address communications to: The Leaven, 12615 Parallel Pkwy., Kansas City, KS 66109. Phone: (913) 721-1570; fax: (913) 721-5276; or e-mail at: sub@theleaven.com.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Leaven, 12615 Parallel Pkwy., Kansas City, KS 66109. For change of address, provide old and new address and parish. Subscriptions \$18/year. Periodicals postage paid at Kansas City, KS 66109.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

TWENTY-SEVENTH WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME

Oct. 5
TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Is 5: 1-7; Ps 80: 9, 12-16, 19-20; Phil 4: 6-9;
Mt 21: 33-43

Oct. 6
Bruno, priest; Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher, virgin
Gal 1: 6-12; Ps 111: 1b-2, 7-9, 10c; Lk 10: 25-37

Oct. 7
Our Lady of the Rosary
Gal 1: 13-24; Ps 139: 1b-3, 13-15; Lk 10: 38-42

Oct. 8
Wednesday
Gal 2: 1-2, 7-14; Ps 117: 1bc, 2; Lk 11: 1-4

Oct. 9
Denis, bishop, martyr, and his companions,
martyrs; John Leonardi, priest
Gal 3: 1-5; (Ps) Lk 6: 9-15; Lk 11: 5-13

Oct. 10
Friday
Gal 3: 7-14; Ps 111: 1b-6; Lk 11: 15-26

Oct. 11
Saturday
Gal 3: 22-29; Ps 105: 2-7; Lk 11: 27-28

MARK MY WORDS

Place the sick in the Master's hands

Ever hear of Ole Bull? Yeah, me neither. I would have guessed that it was a funny, improvised name had I not come across it in a favorite book of religious stories and quotations.

Apparently, Ole Bull (1810-1880) was a self-taught, brilliant Norwegian violin virtuoso and composer, who toured Europe and America with great success. The story I stumbled upon told of him getting lost once in the forests of Europe.

As night fell, he was fortunate enough to come upon a log hut, the home of a hermit. The old man took him in, fed him, and invited him to sit and warm up in front of a blazing fire. After getting settled, the hermit pulled out a battered, screechy violin and picked out some crude tunes on it.

When he'd finished, Bull asked politely, "Do you think I could play on that?"

"I don't think so," replied the hermit. "It took me years to learn."

"Please let me try," Bull said.

Then he took that old violin in his hands, drew the bow across the strings, and the hut was filled with such beautiful music that the hermit sobbed like a child. (Adapted from "Nelson's Complete Book of Stories, Illustrations & Quotes" by Robert J. Morgan.)

The narrator of Bull's story, a Mrs. Charles E. Cowman, goes on to comment: "We are battered instruments. . . . Yet, if we will only let Him take us and touch us, from this old, battered, broken, shattered, marred instrument, He will bring forth music fit for the angels."

Those words came to mind after reading the center spread on pages 8 and 9 in this week's issue. We have Father Tom Dolezal, pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in Lenexa, to thank for alerting us to

it. And we're deeply grateful as well to Liguori Publications for allowing us to reprint this article from the current Liguorian magazine.

So, what's the deal? Well, all of the pink on pages 8 & 9 is a good clue. Most people today think of breast cancer awareness when seeing that color, and that's exactly what Liguorian is promoting. Using the story of one breast cancer survivor, the magazine is launching a prayer campaign for all cancer patients, especially those suffering from breast cancer.

Father Dolezal, himself a cancer survivor, was so impressed by the Liguorian article that he called Leaven managing editor Anita McSorley to inform her of his plan to celebrate this day of prayer in his parish. He's also going to use the day — Oct. 15 — to lift up all health-care providers in

prayer. That started the ball rolling here.

The Liguorian article moved me to tears. The author, Christine Kreitler Mellin, writes a captivating, first-person account of her ordeal with breast cancer. A wife and mother of two young children, she was first diagnosed with the disease in 2002.

Her words are neither flowery nor sugarc coated. She bares her heart and soul in this article. And while her Catholic faith has sustained and inspired her, it's by no means been an easy journey. Hers is an honest and touching story, from one who's been there.

It's fitting that this call for prayer from Liguorian comes during October. Not only is it Breast Cancer Awareness Month, but for Catholics, it's Respect Life Month. Praying for, visiting, and assisting those who are ill, especially those who suffer from chronic or terminal illnesses, is an excellent way to mark this month.

Christine Kreitler Mellin's story of growth, hope and redemption will always be linked in my mind to Ole Bull and what he was able to do with that seemingly broken violin. Beautiful music can emerge if it's in a master's hand. As Christine Kreitler Mellin has placed herself ever more deeply into the Master's hands, he's brought forth "music fit for the angels" for all of us to hear.

THE GOSPEL TRUTH

Vineyard parables often misunderstood

Twenty-seventh Sunday
of Ordinary Time
Mt 21: 33-43

A few years ago, I traveled to Europe on vacation. That trip included a visit to Alsace, in eastern France.

One day we hiked through vineyard after vineyard. Of course, we had to stop for liquid refreshment, to taste the local production. I decided that I liked visiting vineyards.

For the past few Sundays, by means of parables recounted by Jesus in the Gospel reading, all of us have visited a vineyard. On Sept. 21, Jesus told the parable of the workers, who spent different amounts of time in the vineyard, yet were all paid the same. On Sept. 28, Jesus told the parable of the man who sent his sons out to work in his vineyard. This Sunday, we hear the parable of the absent landlord, who rented his vineyard out to tenants. They abuse and kill his servants, who are trying to collect his share of the crop, and finally even his son.

The vineyard is the common thread that runs through all these parables and links them together. But what is it?

As a fictional location, that vineyard

remains anonymous, like the characters who populate it. However, Sunday's first reading, Is 5:1-7, offers a clue to its identity: "The vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel."

While Isaiah's statement about the vineyard may offer us a clue to the identity of the vineyard in Jesus' parables, that does not necessarily mean that it is the answer. Isaiah's understanding of the vineyard serves as the starting point for Jesus, but he goes beyond it. As Jesus tells his stories about the vineyard, he develops his own understanding of it. Through Jesus, the meaning of the vineyard grows as luxuriantly as any real grapevine.

In Jesus' stories, the vineyard no longer is defined as the exclusive preserve of any one ethnic group. It becomes the arena of operations for God's work, the place where human beings collaborate with God to bring about God's reign on earth.

That broadened understanding reaches its high point in this Sunday's Gospel, which concludes: "The kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit."

Some Christians interpret this

statement as proposing that God will replace Israel with the church. This theory is called "supersession." It claims that since Israel has failed in its mission, God has turned to the Gentiles, formed into the "new" Israel, the church.

The Catholic Church rejects this theory as overly simplistic. The theory ignores the continuing covenant between Israel and God (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 839). And in the case of the parable from this Sunday's Gospel, the supersession theory relies upon a serious misunderstanding.

Jesus is challenging the chief priests and elders of the people through this parable. They are identified with the tenants who will be rejected by the landowner when he returns. The chief priests and elders of the people will lose their authority and be replaced by other leaders. The parable speaks to a change in leadership, not the abandonment of a people.

Nonetheless, the parables of Jesus open the door to the Gentiles to also enter into the vineyard, to share in God's work. They form part of the proclamation of the good news, which is meant for all. We also can work in the vineyard of the Lord.

Father Stubbs is the pastor of St. Francis de Sales Parish, Lansing.



FATHER
MARK
GOLDASICH



MATT
KARR

Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction."

These are not the words of an evangelical preacher; rather, they are the words of Pope Benedict XVI. The Catholic faith is based on a living encounter with Jesus Christ. This encounter is decisive in our lives as Catholics.

The encounter starts with love. God tells his people: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving kindness" (Jer 31: 3). The

whole of human history is ordered toward the love that never ends (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 25). God reveals his plan for us when he says: "For I know well the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future (Jer 29: 11). God's plan for you is to live with him forever.

However, there is a problem: sin. St. Paul writes: "All men have sinned and are deprived of the glory of God" (Rom 3: 23). It is because of our sin that we have ruptured our relationship with God and forfeited eternal life. The wages of our sin is death and we cannot mend the relationship with our

own power (see Ps 49:8-9).

But despite our sins, God still loves us. The Father sent his only son, Jesus Christ, to become one of us and take care of our sin problem and restore us to relationship with the Father. This is proof of God's love.

As St. Paul says: "But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom 5: 8). Jesus Christ suffered and died for your sins. However, death could not hold him down, and he rose triumphantly over the grave. The Father has now raised up Jesus as both Lord and Messiah.

We are invited through faith and the Holy Spirit to enter into a relationship with Jesus Christ and make him the center of our lives. Jesus tells us:

"Yes, God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him may not die but may have eternal life" (Jn 3: 16). You are invited to enter into a real personal relationship with Jesus.

However, Jesus will not force an encounter with you. You must decide if Jesus Christ will be the center of your life. This sober encounter sets the decisive direction for life. Jesus demands that we be "all in" with him. After encountering Jesus, the disciples "immediately left their nets and followed him" (Mt 4:20). You are invited to do the same.

Matt Karr is the consultant for the office of evangelization and catechesis. He can be reached at: ecat@archkck.org.

DO UNTO OTHERS

Citizenship starts with voting, culminates in advocacy

I have it on good authority, meaning something I heard once somewhere, that once upon a time in this country some bishops would assign a priest to teach on hell.

This itinerant priest would travel to all the parishes and preach "fire-and-brimstone" at Mass, so the faithful would learn about the grave dangers to their souls. But since he was an outsider, this priest would save the pastor the risk of alienating the parishioners.

Sometimes, outsider presenters can be more effective at reaching an audience. No prophet is accepted in his own country and such.

While the subject may not be so grim, the archdiocesan pro-life and so-

cial justice offices have teamed up to offer a similar service. "Forming Conscience for Faithful Citizenship" is the title of the talk we are offering this election season.

Voting in a morally responsible way is difficult and can sometimes be confusing. Many politicians and groups are claiming to hold Catholic positions when, in fact, they are contrary to

church teaching. As well, because too few candidates support a full range of policies in conformity with all of Catholic social teaching, it becomes difficult as to how to prioritize. If your parish or church group would like information on how our faith helps us vote, contact Ron Kelsey in the pro-life office or me and we'll be glad to come talk to

your group.

Here's what you can count on with this talk. First, the information given will be an authentic presentation of church teaching through the lens of Archbishop Joseph Naumann's pastoral letters. Second, the information will be nonpartisan. We Catholics were nonpartisan before nonpartisan was cool, as our archbishop pointed out — since the time of the very first Catholic bishop in the United States. Third, this information will be challenging.

One of the reasons people get cynical about "Faithful Citizenship" is because they take what I call a "horse race" mentality. This mentality means a person approaches voting as if all one has to do is pick the right representative and then let them do all the work.

I think it is fair to say that this is precisely how we have found ourselves in

an election where both Democrats and Republicans are thoroughly dissatisfied with our government. "Faithful Citizenship" starts with voting but it culminates with advocacy, which means you talk to your representatives — no matter their party — and compel them to do the right things.

We have been blessed by God's providence to live in this great country and have the power to vote. Jesus will hold us accountable for our stewardship of this power. So make sure you're registered to vote and take some time to learn about what our archbishop and the church are saying about how to exercise this awesome power.

Bill Scholl is the archdiocesan consultant for social justice. You can e-mail Bill at: socialjustice@archkck.org.

FAMILY MATTERS

Grandson opens columnist's eyes to the comfort of the Lord

The Bible clearly identifies the kingdom of God and its relationship to children. Children possess an innate goodness that is pleasing to God.

I do not pretend to trespass on the great work of biblical scholars, but I would like to share a grandmother's experience.

I have been privileged to be present as the seed of wisdom sweetly tumbles from the mouths of babes. Jesus called the children to himself and said, "Let the children come to me and do not prevent them." He proceeded to reveal that the kingdom of heaven is for "such as these." Precious children innocently speak words of wisdom which often

connect us with the love of God.

Last Saturday, following morning Mass, my husband and I met our three-year-old grandson, Christopher, and his mother for breakfast.

As we were getting ready to depart and sail off into the sea of Saturday chores, I was treated with a big boy hug and a goodbye kiss.

He then said to me, "Grandma, are you crying?"

My brain went through a quick rotation of thoughts: Do I explain that the eyedrops I use cause my eyes to be red and dry, or do I try to use a childlike approach? I chose the latter saying, "Christopher, I'm sad, because I will miss you when I go home."

He then patted me on the hand and said, "You be OK. When you get home, your mama will hug you and make you feel better." Then, the tears from my tenderized heart leapt into my eyes and became proof that I was indeed tearful. His empathy softened my world.

There is wisdom in the words of small children and to journey with them through life is to embark on a road that allows us to see the world through the eyes of innocence. It allows us to delight in a ladybug with a deeper joy than any object we have ever owned. It lets our heart giggle and savor the simplest — yet, sweetest — moments of life. We gain a new perspective as we are immersed in wonder and delight that only a child's eyes can see.

If a child feels safe, protected, strengthened, secure, happy, and at peace, in the arms of his mother or father, then what must it feel like to rest in the arms of God. His arms are open, he invites me to come and rest awhile with him. But the chores of life, the busyness of everyday living jumps in front of me as I walk toward him.

Still, God beckons. But do I long for his embrace as sweetly as a three-year-old longs for his mother's arms?

I have miles to go and lessons to learn if I am to enter the kingdom of God. I am blessed that I have many great and young teachers to lead me.

I must schedule another breakfast meeting soon.

Jacki Corrigan is the archdiocesan consultant for the office of family life.

WORD OF LIFE

Longtime supporters of Catholic education to be honored



Leaven photo by Susan McSpadden

Third-grade teacher Linda Macek works with student Donovan Corrigan Jr. at St. Patrick School in Kansas City, Kan., as Ben Zarda, Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann and Esther White look on. White and Zarda are being honored by the Catholic Education Foundation for their contributions to Catholic education.

By JILL RAGAR ESFELD
Special to The Leaven

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — More than 600 guests — almost double last year's attendance — are expected at the sixth annual Gaudeamus dinner and recognition celebration to be held Oct. 18 at the Overland Park Convention Center.

And that's music to the ears of the sponsor's executive director, Michael Morrissey.

"Last fiscal year, the Catholic Education Foundation provided 969 scholarships for kids in the archdiocese as a part of our foundation school group," he said. "We're projecting to provide over 1100 in the upcoming school year."

Gaudeamus — Latin for "let us rejoice" — will indeed be an occasion for joy as the CEF continues to build on last year's theme "Angels Among Us" by honoring two new angels — Esther White and Ben Zarda.

Morrissey said the two are being recognized for more than their financial support.

"They're not just providing resources," he said, "but are actively involved."

The Gaudeamus evening will kick off with the auction of a single item, said Morrissey — a once-in-a-lifetime op-

portunity to enjoy dinner for eight at the archbishop's residence, hosted by Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann, Archbishop Emeritus James P. Keleher, and Abbot Barnabas Senecal.

"There are a lot of dinners and lunches that go on with these guys individually," said Morrissey, "but nowhere else can you get the trio together to do this."

Superintendent Kathy O'Hara will also present the annual Archbishop's School of Excellence Award that night, which goes to the CEF school that has demonstrated an outstanding school-wide focus on its Catholic mission, academics, resource management and stewardship.

The evening's entertainment will be provided by the St. Thomas Aquinas choral group, in conjunction with vocalist Ron Gutierrez.

Through Gaudeamus, the CEF hopes to recognize all the angels who keep this organization alive and to highlight the amazing accomplishments of CEF schools.

"Our foundation provides scholarships for kids who otherwise wouldn't have the opportunity to get a Catholic education," said Morrissey. "And the same can be said for Ben and Esther."

"Without their help, there's a lot of kids that wouldn't have the opportunity to go to Catholic schools."

To purchase tickets to the Gaudeamus dinner or for information, visit the Web site at: www.cefks.org; call Michael Morrissey at (913) 647-0383; or send an e-mail to: mmorrissey@archkck.org.

THE HONOREES

Esther White

Queen of the Holy Rosary parishioner Esther White said she was shocked and humbled when she found out CEF wanted to honor her at this year's Gaudeamus event.

White said she shares the award with her husband Bob, who passed away just over a year ago.

Always active in their Catholic faith, Bob and Esther White belonged to the Legion of Mary for 40 years and were also members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem.

But White has always had a special love for children.

"I wanted eight of my own," she said, "but God only sent me one, so I had to adopt two more."

She understands how difficult it is for some families to afford a Catholic education and is eager to help make that quality education available to every child who wants it. That's why she believes in CEF.

"That's one of my things — to help kids get a Catholic education," she said. "I went to Redemptorist [in Kansas City, Mo.] and everything those nuns taught me about faith, I remember. I just think [CEF] is a marvelous organization and it's going to save a lot of children."

White's Catholic faith has sustained her through many trials. Last year, within a four-month period, she lost her husband, her son, and her sister.

"It's amazing, but you carry on," she said. "People say, 'How do you do this?' And I say, 'I have faith. God is in charge. I say my rosary every day; I have morning prayers, noon prayers and night prayers."

"I always tell people, 'If I'm not working, I'm praying.' My faith sustains me completely."

Ben Zarda

As part of the Zarda dairy family, St. Joseph in Shawnee parishioner Ben Zarda is a well-known businessman, but he believes the most important accomplishment of his life is helping build a Catholic high school.

"The fact that I was involved in building St. Thomas Aquinas is what I'm most proud of," he said.

Zarda, too, knows the importance of a Catholic education. His parents came here from Germany. Though his father spoke some English, his mother did not, and so he and his siblings started at St. Joseph Grade School at a great disadvantage.

"The nun who taught us had to teach us English before she taught us arithmetic or the ABCs," he said. "But I'll tell you, by third grade we were reading and doing our arithmetic."

Zarda, who shares the CEF honor with his wife Betty, sent all six of their children through Catholic schools. He believes that all parents who want to do the same should be able to. Because, he said, Catholic schools are exceptional.

"I think Catholic schools are particularly important today with the moral decay of society," he said. "When they talk about bringing the morality back, I think, 'We never lost it in the Catholic schools!'"



Chances—Will you take one?

Project Andrew is for young men ages 15-21 who are open to the Priesthood. Pray with priests, hear their call stories, ask questions, have dinner and be encouraged by Archbishop Naumann.

Courage—Do You Have it?

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