

# FLORIDACatholic

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OF MIAMI



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At left, marking the start of the season of Lent last year, Deacon Richard Turcotte imposes ashes on the forehead of Pastoral Center employee Jan Rayburn during a midday Mass celebrated by Archbishop John C. Favalora. Above, a young parishioner looks at Deacon Turcotte after getting ashes on his forehead during the same Mass. See archbishop's column on A4.

## Helping hope 'bloom' in Haiti

Local partners are investing time and money in projects aimed at promoting self-sufficiency in Miami's sister diocese

**MELODY REGALADO**  
Florida Catholic correspondent

**MIAMI** — Long before the devastating earthquake hit, seeds of hope for the future were being planted across the poorest region in Haiti. Scattered as they are, those seeds might point the way to recovery in the present.

Three years ago, Catholic Relief Services, *Amor en Acción* (Love in Action) and St. Thomas University established a partnership called the Global Solidarity Committee. Their goal: to assist the people of Port-de-Paix, the sister diocese of the Archdiocese of Miami, through three long-term sustainable projects — a fair-trade coffee cooperative, a women's artisan initiative and a solar energy project.

"Rather than sending money to Haiti periodically, we wanted to look at more long-term and self-sufficient projects that would begin making an impact on our sister diocese for the future," said Anthony Vinciguerra, coordinator of the Center for Justice and Peace at St. Thomas University.



COURTESY | ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY

Aleus Cadet, president of the COCANO Fair-Trade Coffee Cooperative, displays some Haitian coffee beans.

They chose projects that would empower the people, help them care for their families and stimulate Port-de-Paix's economy.

"These projects are more important than ever right now," said Vinciguerra. "The northwest has been

flooded with tens of thousands of refugees from Port-au-Prince, and as the northwest is so remote there has been little to no international aid to the region.

"Thus we're redoubling our efforts with the university and *Amor*

*en Acción*," he continued, "to both get some immediate relief to the region, and even more so to focus on these projects ... as they will provide jobs and the infrastructure to absorb the newly arrived into the northwest's already very limited economy."

"This area is particularly important to Miami because many people from our community are from the northwest, which is the launching point for many who come to Miami by boat," said Teresa Gonzalez, executive director of *Amor en Acción*, a lay missionary group whose members have spent more than 30 years building relationships and giving assistance to people in the Diocese of Port-de-Paix.

Port-de-Paix is an area highly affected by deforestation, and there are no good roads connecting the north to the south. It takes hours to travel across the island, and there is little electricity.

Gonzalez said working in northwest Haiti is a big challenge because "the fruits won't be seen easily. The

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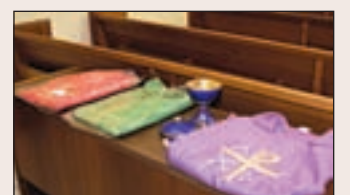
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# Alumnus-turned-ambassador returns to St. John Vianney

Miguel H. Díaz, U.S. envoy to the Holy See, delivers annual 'faith and reason' lecture at Miami seminary

**ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO**  
Florida Catholic correspondent

**MIAMI** — He is the first theologian to be named U.S. ambassador to the Holy See, and he chose St. John Vianney College Seminary as the site of his first public talk on U.S. soil.

Ambassador Miguel H. Díaz, 45, has deep roots in south Florida, but St. John Vianney is where he remembers "falling in love with philosophy," he told the *Florida Catholic* after delivering the annual *Fides et Ratio* (Faith and Reason) lecture at the seminary Feb. 5.

The Havana-born, Miami-raised son of Cuban exiles spent a year at St. John Vianney before moving on to the University of Notre Dame, where he obtained his doctorate in theology. That ultimately led him to a position at the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn., where he was teaching when President Barack Obama called last year.

"No one expected it. Not even him," said Jose Antonio Solís-Silva, dean of the philosophy department at St. John Vianney, Díaz's former professor and now friend, who was instrumental in bringing him to the seminary for the *Fides et Ratio* lecture.

This was the 11th in a series of lectures that began in 1999 in response to Pope John Paul II's encyclical by the same name.

Díaz was the first alumnus of the seminary to deliver the lecture and Msgr. Michael Caruthers, the seminary's rector, welcomed him by saying, "You once engaged in the great conversation of this house as a student. We are thankful for your continued contributions to the conversation, now from your new office."

During a question-and-answer period after the lecture, Díaz said one of the reasons he accepted the ambassadorship was because it offered him the opportunity "to engage a diverse group of people ... for the sake of getting something actually accomplished."

"Of course I miss the classroom. I'm a teacher at heart. But I'm trying to transfer those skills in human pedagogy to diplomacy," Díaz said.

In his lecture, he described



ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO | FC

Miguel Díaz, U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, listens to Archbishop John C. Favalora after delivering the sixth annual *Fides et Ratio* (Faith and Reason) lecture at his alma mater, St. John Vianney College Seminary, Feb. 5.

the Vatican as "one of the most important listening posts in the world" because of its diplomatic ties to nearly every nation on earth.

As the ninth U.S. ambassador to the Holy See, "I am committed to be a bridge-builder, to bridging human differences" between people of faith and people of no faith, as well as among people of different faiths, Díaz said.

He repeated that later, when asked about the Obama administration's pro-choice stand on

abortion, and how he deals with other issues where Catholic teaching and the Obama administration differ.

A pro-life Democrat, Díaz emphasized that his role is to represent the U.S. in foreign policy, not domestic matters such as the debate over abortion.

But echoing the theme of his lecture, he said, "We don't have to agree with each other. But we cannot start questioning the integrity and start from the beginning demonizing the other."

## SOUTH FLORIDA TIES

- When he was sworn in on Aug. 21, 2009, Miguel H. Díaz became both the first Hispanic and the first theologian to be named U.S. ambassador to the Holy See. He and his wife, Marian, have four children: three boys and a girl.

- His ties to south Florida include: obtaining his bachelor's degree at St. Thomas University in Miami Gardens; obtaining a certificate in pre-theology from St. John Vianney College Seminary in Miami; teaching theology at Barry University in Miami Shores; serving as professor and academic dean at St. Vincent de

Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach.

- Díaz, who speaks Spanish, English, Italian and French and also reads in Greek, Latin and German, was on the board of the Catholic Theological Society of America and was former president of the Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the U.S.

- He is the author of "On Being Human: U.S. Hispanic and Rahnerian Perspectives," and co-editor of "From the Heart of Our People: Latino/a Explorations in Catholic Systematic Theology."

'Yes, we can advance the cause of peace, human dignity and the common good. Yes, we can join human efforts of faith seeking common action in this new era of responsibility.'

*Miguel Díaz*

good will can commit to for the sake of future generations."

He listed four areas where the Vatican and the U.S. are working closely together: global health, religious freedom, human rights, and peace and security.

Global health, Díaz said, is where "care of persons and care of the earth ... ecology and anthropology meet."

Both the Vatican and the U.S. support new technologies that provide more nutritious, resilient food crops while at the same time eliminating the need for pesticides that are harmful to people and the environment.

He called religious freedom "a cornerstone for every healthy society," and quoted Secretary of State Hillary Clinton as saying it is "a universal value, not just an American value."

On peace and security, he said both the Vatican and the U.S. agree that religion cannot be a pretext for violence. "No holy war is a just war," Díaz said.

The effort to protect human rights also has led both the U.S. and the Holy See to fight against human trafficking, which counts 12.3 million victims around the world, 56 percent of them female.

He said the U.S. embassy to the Holy See helped create the "first-ever intercongregational effort" against human trafficking back in October 2009, when 30 women religious from 26 nations formed the International Network of Religious Against Trafficking in Persons.

"Yes, we can advance the cause of peace, human dignity and the common good," Díaz said. "Yes, we can join human efforts of faith seeking common action in this new era of responsibility." ■



# More than 'I do'

Experts from Rome explain the deeper meaning of the symbols, rites used during wedding ceremonies

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO

Florida Catholic staff

**MIAMI GARDENS** — A wedding is a day, a marriage is a lifetime.

That teaching is contained in the rite of marriage itself. The rings, the vows, the readings, all point to what the Church teaches about the sacrament of marriage: its indissolubility and its mirroring of divine love.

But few people — including, often, those getting married — stop to think about the deeper meaning of the marriage rite.

"We all have been to so many weddings," said Msgr. Terence Hogan, rector of St. Mary Cathedral and director of the archdiocesan Office of Worship and Spiritual Life. "There are so many parts of the ritual of marriage that we sometimes scratch our heads and wonder: Is it worth it? Is it necessary?"

For that reason, Msgr. Hogan invited two experts from Rome to speak about the "Liturgical Spirituality of Matrimony" Feb. 6 at St. Thomas University. This was the sixth annual symposium which brings experts from Rome to south Florida.

Speaking in English was Benedictine Father Ephrem Carr, president of the Pontifical Institute of Liturgy; and speaking in Spanish was Benedictine Father Juan Javier Flores, rector of the Pontifical University of Sant'Anselmo.

Those in attendance included

priests and laity involved in marriage preparation or in movements that support married couples.

In his talk, Father Carr emphasized that getting married in the Church "presupposes and demands faith. Otherwise, it's not a sacrament."

He also emphasized the need for couples to receive adequate preparation, even if they have been married for years under civil law.

"They know what living together is all about. They don't know what Christian marriage is all about. We have to be demanding that they know what Christian marriage is all about," Father Carr said. "If they really want a Christian wedding, they have to know what it is they're committing themselves to."

He said the rite of marriage points to the fact that "authentic marriage love is caught up into divine love."

"Marriage is not a human creation," Father Carr said. "Married couples have their own special grace, gift, among the people of God. It is a charism."

More importantly, marriage is supposed to lead to the couple's "mutual sanctification."

"It's not the Church bringing them to holiness but they themselves bringing one another to holiness through their married life and the raising of children," Father Carr said.

He outlined some of the essential



ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO | FC

Benedictine Father Ephrem Carr, president of the Pontifical Institute of Liturgy in Rome, speaks during the symposium on the "Liturgical Spirituality of Matrimony" held Feb. 6 at St. Thomas University.

elements of the marriage rite, including: the "irrevocable consent" of each spouse, "freely bestowed"; their pledge of faithfulness to each other; and their consent to having children and raising them in the Catholic faith.

"If it's not a free choice, it's not a sacrament of marriage," Father Carr said.

Similarly, the second question asks the spouses, "Are you capable of being faithful to each other?"

"Faith in God is essential. You cannot have a marriage, however, if there's no faith in one another," Father Carr said. "This promise (of fidelity) covers the mountains and the valleys of human and married life."

Father Carr also emphasized that the role of community is important in sacramental marriage.

"This is a public promise. A wedding is not a private ceremony. The wedding doesn't just involve the man and the woman. It involves the parents, it involves society and it involves God. It's not just a ceremony

with flowers and music and nice clothes. There are far more things going on," Father Carr added.

Among those present for the symposium was Father Eric Zeeger, parochial vicar at All Saints Parish in Sunrise, who lamented that most of the couples he sees "don't have a life of prayer that they share beyond Sunday Mass."

"For most women today, it's the tradition (of a church wedding). They don't really understand what is happening," said Monique Marie Prado, a member of the group *Castos por Amor* (Chaste Out of Love), who also attended the symposium.

"I think you have to grow in your relationship with Jesus before you grow in your relationship with another human being," said Nicole Ocasio, another *Castos por Amor* member. ■

## Making marriage last

Family Life Ministry strives to prepare engaged couples, help married couples weather the storms of conjugal love

TERESA MARTINEZ

Florida Catholic correspondent

**MIAMI** — Love and marriage: It may start off as a fairy tale, but in order for a marriage to succeed, a lot of time, dedication, patience and faith are needed.

That was what more than 200 couples from Miami-Dade and Broward counties represented when they gathered at St. Mary Cathedral on Feb. 13 to celebrate milestone anniversaries. Their marriages withstood the test of time.

But according to the National Center for Health Statistics, 2,197,000 couples got married in

PLEASE SEE MARRIAGE, A5

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# Lent is an attitude

My dear friends,

On Ash Wednesday, we began another season of Lent; another season of "giving up" chocolate or candy or alcohol or any other vice that might be harmful to our health or our waistlines.

As Catholics, we certainly are called to give up meat on the Fridays of Lent. But the physical act of "giving up" something is not as important as what it symbolizes. There is nothing wrong with meat in and of itself, just as there is nothing wrong with candy or chocolate or even alcohol when consumed in moderation.

The phrase "giving up" implies surrender. It is an admission that something needs to change; that we need some form of discipline to regain control over whatever controls us. Anyone with a love of chocolate understands that temptation to indulge even when we know we are doing so to excess — and to our own detriment.

But the "giving up" of Lent goes deeper than that. Because the one thing we all have in common is the temptation to sin. Because of our human condition, sin often controls us.

We find it very hard to "give up" sin — the sin of gossiping and damaging someone else's reputation, for example; the sin of mistreating our neighbor or our spouse; the sin of selfishness, where our wants come before the needs of others; the sins of anger and impatience, be it at rush hour on the road or while finding a parking spot at the mall; the sins of greed, of adultery, of dishonesty, of envy, of lack of faith and trust

in God.

Those sins are all attitudes that are very difficult to control. Those of us who realize our sinfulness struggle with them every day. Indeed, that is exactly what we are called to do: to struggle against sin, to fight temptation. It is not an easy battle to wage, but it is what Christians are called to do all the time.

That is where the attitude of Lent comes in. Lent is an annual booster shot, encouraging us to "give up" our sinful ways in order to rise to a new life of blissful union with the Lord. So we practice self-control by giving up candy or cigarettes. And in reminding ourselves continually to "give up" those material things, we are reminded that we also need to control our sinfulness.

Of course, if we thought chocolate was a great thing that never did us any harm, it would never occur to us to give it up. The same analogy applies to sin. We can only "give it up" if we are aware of the harm sin causes in our lives; and most importantly, if we are aware of our own sinfulness.

Jesus said he came to minister to the sick, to those in need of healing. The flip side of that is that those who don't feel sick are unlikely to seek a doctor.

So if we are unaware of the presence and impact of sin in our lives, the "giving up" of Lent means nothing to us. It remains merely an external act, perhaps a tradition that we keep for cultural or social reasons, like displaying a forehead full of ashes on Ash Wednesday.



FROM THE  
ARCHBISHOP

**John C.  
Favalora**

## LENT AND TRIDUUM REGULATIONS

*These are the 2010 Lenten and triduum regulations issued by the Office of Worship of the Archdiocese of Miami.*

### FAST AND ABSTINENCE

The holy season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17. Both Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, April 2, are days of abstinence from meat for all who are 14 years and older.

They are also days of fast (one full meal and two small meals, with nothing eaten between the meals) for adults from 21 to 59 years of age.

All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat for those 14 years and older.

### EASTER VIGIL

Holy Saturday is celebrated on April 3 this year. The entire Easter Vigil celebration should begin after nightfall and end before the dawn of Easter Sunday. This rule is to be strictly observed in order to manifest the full meaning of the rites. The Easter Vigil is not to be celebrated at the time of the day that is customary to anticipated Sunday Masses.

### LITURGICAL NOTES

Lent runs from Ash Wednesday until the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy

Thursday. The Easter triduum is celebrated from Holy Thursday evening until evening prayer on Easter Sunday. Alleluia is not said or sung from the beginning of Lent until the Easter Vigil, nor is the "Te Deum" sung at or on Sundays of Lent.

During Lent the altar should not be decorated with flowers, and musical instruments should be used to support the community singing while respecting the need for silence and reflection during other moments in the liturgy. On the fourth Sunday of Lent ("Laetare") and on solemnities and feasts, musical instruments may be played and the altar decorated with flowers.

If marriages take place in Lent, couples are to be reminded that wedding plans should respect the special nature of this liturgical season in their simplicity.

It is recommended that during the Lenten season parishes should provide penitential celebrations that allow for the faithful to celebrate the mystery of forgiveness. These celebrations should take place before the Easter triduum, and should not immediately precede the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper. Where there is genuine pastoral need, the sacrament of penance may be celebrated on Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

Lent is not about the display. It is not about the material "giving up." Lent is about attitude — our attitude toward sin, our attitude toward God.

Do we recognize that we are sinful? Do we recognize that we need God's help to battle the temptation toward sin? Do we recognize that we need to "give up" our pride, our sense of control, our sense of power, and come humbly before the Lord, surrendering ourselves completely to his will?

That is exactly what Jesus did when he entered human history

by becoming a man and dying on the cross. And it does entail suffering — dying to ourselves always does. But the light at the end of the tunnel is the resurrection, eternal union with our heavenly Father.

This Lent, make sure you cultivate that attitude of "giving up" and surrender. Admit your sinfulness by going frequently to confession. Go to Mass and pray constantly for God's help and guidance. Allow his strength to help you overcome your weaknesses. Only then will you rise together with Christ on Easter Sunday. ■

## NEWSbriefs

### Alleviate hunger: Take part in Rice Bowl

Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of Operation Rice Bowl, Catholic Relief Services' annual program to raise awareness of global hunger. It is the time when Catholic parishes and schools use symbolic rice bowls as the focal point for their Lenten observance.

"Although in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Haiti much of our focus is on the desperate needs there, we cannot forget that every day thousands of children around the world die from hunger and its consequences," said Beth Mar-

tin, program manager for Operation Rice Bowl. "It is because of programs like Operation Rice Bowl and our ongoing support for long-term development that we are able to respond swiftly in emergencies like Haiti."

Operation Rice Bowl provides 40 opportunities to learn about, pray for and help those who don't have enough to eat. Participants make the small sacrifice of preparing simple, meatless recipes each week and putting the money they otherwise would have spent on a big meal into symbolic rice bowls.

Every year, Catholics raise about \$6 million through Operation Rice Bowl, 75 percent of which is used to fund hunger and poverty projects in 40 countries.

The remaining 25 percent stays in U.S. dioceses to support food pantries and soup kitchens.

Since its beginning in 1975, Operation Rice Bowl has raised more than \$191 million to fund Catholic Relief Services' development projects. For more information, visit [www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org) or [www.crsespanol.org](http://www.crsespanol.org).

### Camp helps kids deal with grief

Camp Hope, a special camp for children who have experienced the death of a loved one, will take place March 12-14 at Camp Owaissa Bauer, 17001 S.W. 264 St., Homestead. Sponsored by Catholic Hospice, the camp is free for all children in need be-

tween the ages of 7 and 15.

Camp Hope focuses on assisting children in dealing with their grief in a fun and safe environment. It also strives to reduce the sense of isolation children feel after suffering a loss. At the camp, children have the opportunity to share their experiences with others who are experiencing similar losses and feelings.

Camp Hope is staffed with professional nurses, social workers and trained volunteers to assist in many activities such as art, music and drama therapy, sports and games.

For more information or to register, contact Theresa Barbieri at 305-351-7052 or e-mail [CampHope@CatholicHospice.org](mailto:CampHope@CatholicHospice.org).

NEWS**briefs****Learn Spanish by 'immersion'**

The Southeast Pastoral Institute, known by its initials SEPI, is once again offering a unique three-week course especially designed for priests, laity and religious who want to learn basic communication skills in Spanish. The course will take place May 30-June 17 at SEPI, 7700 S.W. 56 St., Miami.

The course uses the psycho-generative method to teach basic language skills. The vocabulary will focus on what is needed for everyday conversation and pastoral work. Cultural experiences and presentations, daily prayers and the Eucharist are an integral part of the course, which also covers the reality of the Hispanic presence and the pastoral documents related to Hispanic ministry in the U.S.

For more information and to register, call 305-279-2333 or go to [www.sepimiami.org](http://www.sepimiami.org).

**Legal Services helps Haitians with TPS**

Catholic Legal Services of the Archdiocese of Miami will continue to help Haitians fill out their Temporary Protected Status (TPS) applications at the following locations, date and times:

- Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Catholic Legal Services Office, 150 S.E. Second Ave., Suite 200, Miami, 33131.
- Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Catholic Legal Services Broward Office, 1061 W. Oakland Park Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, 33311.
- Every Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Notre Dame D' Haiti Mission, 110 N.E. 62 St., Miami, 33138.

Staff and volunteers from Catholic Legal Services will provide free assistance in filling out TPS applications. For more information call 305-373-1073 or 1-800-691-7530 in Broward.

**St. Theresa to hold first-ever reunion**

St. Theresa School in Coral Gables invites all alumni and their families to the first-ever school reunion, set for Saturday, March 20.

The event will begin with a Mass at 5 p.m. in the Church of the Little Flower, 2711 Indian Mound Trail, Coral Gables. It will be followed by refreshments and a reception in the school. Alumni and their families will have a chance to reminisce with former teachers and friends, tour the school grounds and watch a special presentation recapping the school's 85-year history.

The event is free of charge, but those interested in attending are asked to R.S.V.P. to 305-446-1738, ext. 313.

**MARRIAGE**

FROM A3

the United States in 2007 and 856,000 got divorced.

In a culture where divorce is seen as a quick escape route when a marriage gets tough, Father Eduardo Jimenez, director of the archdiocesan Family Life Ministry, explained how he counsels couples considering divorce.

"I tell couples experiencing troubles to explore first alternative means of conflict resolution, focusing more on the positive aspects of their relationship rather than their negative issues," said Father Jimenez, "to remember times when they were happy and able to solve problems and communicate better, asking themselves what were they doing then that they may not be doing now. To remind themselves of how important it is to allow Jesus to take over in their relationship."

"We have had many tough and hard times in our 33 years of married life, but the grace of God helped us to survive," said Joseph Chandy of St. Louis Parish in Pinecrest, who along with his wife, Valsama, serve as facilitators for the marriage preparation course, "God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage."

"Our advice to couples will be to pray for the Holy Spirit

and his wisdom from above. The Holy Spirit can overturn all situations into good," he said.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has made strengthening marriage one of their top five priorities through 2011. Their goal is to inspire, challenge and help Catholics to witness to marriage as a natural institution founded by God and raised to the dignity of a Christian sacrament, and to promote the value of children and family life.

Father Jimenez believes that through the implementation of "God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage," a new marriage preparation program based on Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body, the archdiocese can reinforce the bishops' message.

"We emphasize that in the sacrament of marriage the husband represents Jesus and the wife represents the Church, and in their sacrament the husband must love his wife as Jesus loved the Church, and the wife must love the husband as the Church loves Jesus," said Father Jimenez.

"Strong faith in God and each other is foundational to marriage. It is a power source of grace when the going gets tough that at the same time fuels our hope," said Father Jimenez.

"My wife and I pray a lot!" said Todd Mackiewicz, parishioner of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

in Coral Springs and member of Couples for Christ, a marriage and family enrichment movement that functions under the umbrella of the Family Life Ministry. "I find that it especially helps when we have disagreements. Instead of continuing to argue, I will go pray and usually I feel better and so does she. It seems we are then able to somehow come up with a mutually satisfactory decision."

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Christ's teaching on the indissolubility of marriage is clearly expressed in Matthew 19:3-6: "What God has joined together, no human being must separate."

"Scripture tells us that faith is the evidence of things unseen. Indeed, sometimes it may be toughest to believe when answers seem far away or not at all visible, when the storms of life are such that our visibility to look at the road ahead is impaired," said Father Jimenez. "When these storms of life hit, at any strength and level, being rooted in faith allows couples to not just withstand the storms, but to see the light at the end through the rain and, with Christ, transcend these challenges together in ways that they may even find themselves closer than before, and more in love, on the other side."

"It is through our faith we actually get the grace and the strength needed to have the desire to have a good marriage," said Sandra Walsh, a parish-

ioner at St. Katharine Drexel in Weston. She and her husband, James, have been married for four years and serve as facilitators for "God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage."

"This desire brings you to recognize Christ in your spouse," she said. "You see Christ in that person at all times, you do not separate the good from the bad. You find the lasting peace of God in your marriage. When you realize that Christ is part of the covenant that you have with your spouse, it makes it impossible to have a lasting relationship with Christ without your spouse. If you focus on a crucifix, you see how Christ came to love us. When you unite yourself with Christ you are capable of giving and receiving that same love."

In addition to marriage preparation courses, the Family Life Ministry offers marriage enrichment courses to help couples in both healthy and troubled relationships, tools for parents, and even a specialized ministry for couples considering divorce or for people who have already gotten divorced.

To learn more, call 305-762-1157 or visit [www.miami-catholicfamily.org](http://www.miami-catholicfamily.org). ■

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To read the article about the couples who celebrated their wedding anniversaries at St. Mary Cathedral, visit the News Center at [www.miamiarch.org](http://www.miamiarch.org).

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2010-02-18



# Emmaus medical team gearing up to serve in Haiti

Group includes doctors, nurses, paramedic-firefighters

**TOM TRACY**

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Emmaus Medical Missions has shifted its future medical mission trips from elsewhere in Latin America to earthquake-devastated Haiti for the foreseeable future.

The group was founded in 2001 under the direction of Dr. Orlando Silva of the Sylvester Cancer Center at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami, and conducts outreach projects in Guatemala, Peru and Ecuador.

"Our group decided that although we were planning our next trip to Ecuador, the need was greater in our own backyard, and all the energies turned to addressing the needs of the earthquake," said Elia Egozcue, a nurse volunteer with

Emmaus Medical Missions and a member of St. Agatha Parish in Miami. "So far we have a roster of 200 doctors and nurses; normally we have 80 to 100 traveling together with 30 medical staffers, but in this case only, we have medical, firefighters and paramedics going."

Volunteer medical and emergency staff have been signing up from Florida, the Carolinas, Texas and Latin America. All the medical staff members are being pulled from a list of those who have already traveled with Emmaus over the last 10 years. It includes various medical specialists including internal medicine, pediatricians, oncologists, gastroenterologists and nurses.

Emmaus teams may travel to Haiti every five to six weeks. They are accepting new medical volunteers and paramedic-firefighters as well.

"Our mission team will travel with U.S. Southern Command and (we) are still in the process of ironing out the logistics," Egozcue said. "Safety is a primary concern. This will be on a continual basis to Haiti because we understand the work will not be done in one trip, and in order for the people to have all their medical needs attended to."

Fernando Becerra, who is coordinating logistics for the Emmaus teams, said the normal lead time before a mission trip is several months — a luxury the group doesn't have right now.

"To facilitate our work, we have priest contacts in other countries



COURTESY | TOM TRACY

Sister Bertha Lopez Chavez, a nurse with Caritas Mexico, works in a makeshift hospital near the Haitian cathedral in the days following the devastating earthquake.

who serve as liaisons with the parishes to assure the patients receive the treatments needed; in Haiti, this is another reason for us to go periodically — to ensure continuity of care so they are not left with medications and just to their own," Becerra said. "Our groups will want to go to the city outskirts, because in the city there is a lot of chaos, so we think our best work will be done

elsewhere."

The group is also hoping to bring a Haitian-American priest from south Florida on the next trip, to provide sacramental care to the people in need, according to Becerra. ■

For more information, contact Becerra at [lfbecerra@aol.com](mailto:lfbecerra@aol.com) or call 786-202-0491.

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# Feeding the faith in Haiti

## Moroneys' Religious Art donates hosts, Mass supplies to the clergy in Haiti

**JONATHAN MARTINEZ**  
Florida Catholic correspondent

**FORT LAUDERDALE** — At the former Divine Mercy Haitian Mission in Fort Lauderdale, a truck arrived Feb. 4 bringing with it a little glimpse of hope for the people of Haiti. The delivery consisted of a shipment of church-related items such as hosts and wine for consecration, candles, vestments, chalices and ciboria.

It's an effort spearheaded by Jack Moroney of Moroneys' Religious Art in Fort Lauderdale, working in conjunction with the Archdiocese of Miami and Father Robés Charles, pastor of St. Clement Parish in Fort Lauderdale.

"We have collected over a million hosts, 20 cases of wine and hundreds of other items that will once again make the celebration of Mass possible in Haiti," said Moroney, who sought the help of the National Church Goods Association, as well as dealers and suppliers, to donate these items and many others to the clergy in Haiti.

It is part of an ongoing effort to help the churches affected by the earthquake get up and running again.

"The earthquake took everything from them. Helping them to once again celebrate Mass is very helpful, it's uplifting for them," said Moroney, as he and a couple of volunteers unloaded the much-needed religious materials.

Father Charles recently returned from Haiti. He met there with Msgr. Jean Pierre, pastor of St. James Parish in North Miami, who had gone to Haiti the day after the massive earthquake struck. Msgr. Pierre

PLEASE SEE **MORONEY, A8**

### HOW TO HELP

Items for Haiti — especially dried beans and bags of rice (5, 10 and 20 pounds) — may be donated at the following locations, Monday to Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.:

- Notre Dame d'Haiti Mission, 110 N.E. 62 St., Miami, FL 33138
- St. Clement Parish, 2975 N. Andrews Ave., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311.



Jack Moroney, owner of Moroneys' Religious Art store in Fort Lauderdale, shows one of the donated vestments for the clergy in Haiti.



Father Robés Charles looks at one of the many donated chalices that will be sent to Haiti.

PHOTOS BY JONATHAN MARTINEZ | FC

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## MORONEY

FROM A7

helped coordinate the efforts that will get the Church supplies to Haiti along with water, food and clothes.

"It's an unbearable devastation," said Father Charles. "Just in Port-au-Prince, more than 10 churches were destroyed. At the cathedral, we still have bodies buried; at the seminary we still have bodies, all mixed in with the rubble. It's the most horrible thing you can ever imagine."

More than three weeks after the devastating earthquake in Haiti, the need is still great for food, water and medical help.

"Priests are the ones going out to the people in their time of need. The one-to-one interaction

is very effective in letting them know that they are not alone," said Father Charles, who noted the strength and resilience of the Haitian people in coping with this disaster. "They are still celebrating Masses. They are being held outdoors because the buildings can't be trusted. Nothing will deter them from celebrating their faith."

"In the mist of all this chaos and suffering, they are very thankful to God because they are still alive," said Father Charles. "The celebration of Mass unites them in the hope that from all this chaos, from all this suffering, good will come and with God's help, a brighter future for Haiti."

More than \$160,000 worth of church goods have been donated so far and efforts continue to collect more items. ■



JONATHAN MARTINEZ | FC

Pictured is a sample of vestments and a chalice that were donated to the clergy in Haiti.

## Catholic Relief Services helping thousands in Haiti

**BALTIMORE** — Catholic Relief Services and its Caritas partners have stepped up relief efforts in Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas, delivering food and water to hundreds of thousands and providing medical care to thousands more.

As of Feb. 2, the agency had provided food to more than 100,000 people in Port-au-Prince, many of whom were gathered at the city's largest camp, run by Catholic Relief Services.

Just days after the earthquake that killed an estimated 230,000 people and left as many as 1 million people without shelter, Catholic Relief Services turned a Port-au-Prince golf course into one of the first formal camps for the homeless, delivering food, water and hygiene materials to some 40,000 people.

The agency is collaborating with the local Church in Haiti and its Catholic Caritas partners, including Caritas Haiti and the Caritas Internationalis confederation.

A Catholic Relief Services team also worked closely with Haitian colleagues to get one of the country's oldest hospitals, St. François de Sales in Port-au-Prince, up and



LANE HARTILL, CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

Workers with Catholic Relief Services unload hygiene kits in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Jan. 17 for distribution to earthquake survivors.

running within days of the disaster. Despite being 70 percent destroyed, Catholic Relief Services worked with the hospital administrator to restore the hospital's ability to receive patients, and volunteer medical teams are now performing up to 200 critical operations per week.

As camps are becoming more organized and with the rainy season looming, Catholic Relief Services is also stepping up efforts to build temporary shelter and stem the outbreak of disease that results from a lack of clean water and poor hygiene.

The agency began installing large water storage bladders throughout the capital, and construction is under way of latrines and washing stations that will serve thousands of people at various sites, including St. François de Sales.

Meanwhile, the agency has seen an overwhelming outpouring of support in response to the crisis in Haiti.

"Catholic dioceses, parishes and schools across the country started mobilizing their networks immediately, and have generously, and creatively, supported our work to help the victims in Haiti," said Joan Rosenhauer, executive vice president for U.S. operations.

To date, Catholic Relief Services has raised more than \$38 million for its emergency response. For more information, go to [www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org). ■

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# Priest returns from 'journey of hope' to Haiti

Msgr. Jean Pierre led a three-week aid mission to Haiti to bring supplies, medical assistance to those in need

ANGELIQUE RUHI-LOPEZ  
Florida Catholic correspondent

MIAMI — He called it “a journey of hope,” despite the devastation.

Msgr. Jean Pierre, pastor of St. James Parish in North Miami, returned Feb. 8 from Haiti after spending three weeks leading an aid mission in his home country. He left for Haiti Jan. 13, the day after the devastating earthquake that has killed, at last count, 230,000 people.

“I witnessed the determination of the people and was also to be with them in their suffering and pain,” Msgr. Pierre said. “It was a humbling experience.”

Msgr. Pierre went to Haiti as Archbishop John C. Favalora’s en-

voy, to assess the situation and tend to displaced clergy and religious. After repeated attempts to land at the Port-au-Prince airport, he was rerouted to the Turks and Caicos, and had to fly into Cape Haitien on the north side of the island, then travel in a rental car on long, treacherous roads to arrive in Port-au-Prince three days later.

What he saw when he arrived was unlike what is being televised, he said.

“What you see on TV is only half of what happened to the people, to their emotions. There is total destruction, not only physi-

cal but emotional. People are still in a daze,” said Msgr. Pierre, who also lost friends and family members in the earthquake; a 25-year-old cousin remains unaccounted for.



Msgr. Jean Pierre

Msgr. Pierre was in Haiti to help address some of the immediate concerns of the Church in Haiti and assess how the Archdiocese of Miami could help longer term. He brought with him food, tents and approximately \$8,000 provided by the archdiocese for the Haitian Church

and several religious orders, many of whom were badly hit and lost their convents and schools. He also brought with him hosts, wine, vestments and other Church-related supplies so that Mass could continue to be celebrated.

“Masses are still being held, and they’re taking place outside — everybody lives outside,” said Msgr. Pierre. “A number of the churches

have been turned completely into rubble. Those that are still standing have cracks and aren’t safe.”

PLEASE SEE HOPE, A13

## ABOUT THE PHOTOS

The photos that accompany this story were taken by Brittany Galvin, a biology major who took a year off after obtaining her bachelor’s degree “to do something I really wanted to do while deciding what is in my future.”

She is spending that year volunteering with the Religious of Jesus and Mary in Gros Morne, Haiti, and traveled to Port-au-Prince after the quake. She shared her pictures with *Amor en Acción*, who posted them on Facebook, which is how the *Florida Catholic* found out about them.

The comments in the photo captions are hers, sent via e-mail Feb. 11 from Port-au-Prince, where she was spending another week helping to treat the injured.



A crucifix is the only thing left unscathed in the ruins of Sacred Heart Church or Legliz Sacre Coeur in the Turgeau section of Port-au-Prince. Sister Pat Dillon of the Religious of Jesus and Mary, who works in Haiti, said by e-mail, “It’s the parish where my community has a house that was damaged in the quake. It’s a very large, active parish. There (are still) people buried in a meeting room. They have been having Mass in the church yard.”



COURTESY | BRITTANY GALVIN

A woman and her child, injured by the Jan. 12 earthquake, await medical attention in one of the makeshift hospitals that now dot Port-au-Prince. “Her daughter’s leg was amputated,” said the photographer, Brittany Galvin, a volunteer with the Religious of Jesus and Mary in Haiti. “And we would change the dressing with little medication or no medication and the people would scream and scream. It was horrible.”

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2023-02-18



# Let the sun shine!

## Solar oven provides meals for school children in Port-de-Paix

**MELODY REGALADO**  
Florida Catholic correspondent

**MIAMI** — They walk three hours from their homes to school to get an education and a meal, possibly the only meal they will eat that day. And they do so with a smile.

School children from the poor and remote village of Baie-de-Henne in Haiti's northwest, one of the poorest in the country, eat daily meals thanks to a solar oven and other initiatives of the Solar Energy Project, which aims to promote reforestation in the mountainous and bare area while creating a source of income for residents.

"There is a severe deforestation problem in Haiti, partially because of natural disasters, but also because the people knock down trees to turn into coal to cook with," said Luis Barzana, an *Amor en Acción* (Love in Action) volunteer who offers his engineering background to the initiative. "Solar power offers an alternative to this."

Along with the malnutrition prevalent in the area, the toxic fumes released when coal is burned are also a health concern.

The Solar Energy Project is one of three initiatives being supported in the Diocese of Port-de-Paix by the Global Solidarity Committee made up of Catholic Relief Services, *Amor en Acción* and St. Thomas University.

Anthony Vinciguerra, coordinator of St. Thomas' Center for Justice and Peace, said solar energy was chosen as one of the projects because of its potential to create long-term change, increase reforestation and bring income to the people in Haiti.

Barzana said that with all the different technologies available today, the people of Port-de-Paix might be able to do a lot with solar energy.

Among the plans being envisioned are a solar bakery where the people can use solar ovens to bake breads and other goods to sell and make a living. Solar panels will also be installed to provide electricity for schools, churches and rectories in Port-de-Paix, an area that has very little electricity or running water.

The Solar Energy Project also plays an important role in another project, the COCANO Fair-Trade Coffee Cooperative, because it will reduce the need to cut down trees — coffee plants need shade to flourish.

A documentary on the projects, "Blooming Hope: Harvesting Smiles in Port-de-Paix," shows the 300 school children from Baie-de-Henne who have benefitted from the solar oven at their school.

Donated by Miami-Dade County Commissioner Barbara Jordan, the oven has provided them with both nutrition and an education, as their



COURTESY PHOTOS | ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY

Anthony Vinciguerra, coordinator of St. Thomas University's Center for Justice and Peace, walks with school children in Baie-de-Henne, where a solar oven is helping to provide them with one hot meal a day.

long walk to school is partly motivated by the promise of a hot meal for the day.

In the documentary, Father Roman Musil of L'Ecole St. Maria Boretti in Baie-de-Henne said that sometimes they have food to cook, but nothing to cook with. The solar oven has eliminated that problem.

Father Musil also encouraged people overseas not to forget the struggles of the poor, noting that people who work in Haiti will be receiving, rather than giving, from the generous hearts of its people.

"As poor as they are, their spirit fills you more than you fill theirs," said Barzana. "There is a real sense of connection with the people there." ■

For more information, go to <http://sites.google.com/site/renewableenergysystemssite>.



Father Roman Musil of L'Ecole St. Maria Boretti in Baie-de-Henne poses next to the solar oven that is helping to provide school children with their one hot meal a day.

Women work with fabric to create crafts at the Women's Free Trade Artisan Initiative in Haiti.



# Crafting a living

## Free-trade artisan initiative empowers women to better their lives, those of their families

**MELODY REGALADO**  
Florida Catholic correspondent

**MIAMI** — In Haiti, poverty overwhelms and women normally don't play active roles in providing for their households.

But the Women's Free Trade Artisan Initiative is using the country's natural resources to supply women with artistic tools they can use to support their children.

About 40 women in several parish-based groups in the Diocese of Port-de-Paix, in northwest Haiti, are finding empowerment through the initiative, which provides them

with work, income and a sense of pride in the goods they produce.

"In the process they are learning and being trained as artisans and women running their own small businesses," said Angelique Montgomery, an adjunct professor at St. Thomas University's School of Theology and Ministry who coordinates the initiative. "They begin as apprentices and work their way up based on skill level."

The women who are part of the initiative design and make art objects such as acrylic and oil paintings, linens and clothing, jewelry and dolls using banana leaves,

wood and other materials found in their environment.

"These women produce great handmade crafts, but don't have the connections to sell them in the United States," said Anthony Vinciguerra, coordinator of the Center for Justice and Peace at St. Thomas and project volunteer.

The role of the women's counterparts in the U.S. is to coordinate the marketing of their products outside of Haiti. So far, their crafts have been selling successfully in Europe and the United States via their Web

PLEASE SEE **CRAFT**, A11



# Brewing better lives

Fair-trade coffee is bringing farmers together, and their product to market

**MELODY REGALADO**  
Florida Catholic correspondent

**MIAMI** — Once a major coffee exporter, Port-de-Paix, Haiti, suffers greatly from poverty and deforestation, which have affected coffee sales and the lives of the region's farmers.

But now a group of local coffee farmers is coming together and working through the COCANO Fair-Trade Coffee Cooperative to obtain the training and resources they need to restore coffee production and the economy of their region, the poorest in the country.

Fair-trade coffee is one of three projects supported by the Global Solidarity Committee, a partnership between Catholic Relief Services, *Amor en Acción* (Love in Action) and St. Thomas University.

"We chose coffee as one of the projects because it is a long-term effort that will bring money into the community," said Anthony Vinciguerra, coordinator of the Center for Justice and Peace at St. Thomas and project volunteer. "This is something the Haitians have been growing for years but had no way to (get) to the United States and other markets because of their living conditions."

The project is a collaboration between three groups:

- COCANO (*Cafeiere et Coudoyere du Nord'Ouest*), a Haitian organization that brings coffee growers together;
- Just Coffee, a fair-trade consulting organization from the United States that helps smaller cooperatives achieve fair-trade standards and;
- Pascucci Torrefazione, an Italian coffee roasting company that works with the cooperative



COURTESY PHOTOS | ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY

St. Thomas University student Alejandra Rosero drinks coffee with Aleus Cadet, president of the COCANO Fair-Trade Coffee Cooperative.

and imports their coffee at fair prices.

Together, they aim to stimulate coffee production and sales by helping coffee farmers sell their product at good prices and cutting

out the middle men so that more money can stay in the hands of the farmers.

"It was such a pleasant surprise to get to Haiti and see that organizations such as Pascucci are

buying coffee at a great price and are sincerely interested in helping them succeed and making this work," said Teresa Gonzalez, executive director of *Amor en Acción*.

The solar energy project, another of the Global Solidarity Committee's efforts in Port-de-Paix, also plays an important role in coffee production. Because trees are cut down to make fires to produce coal and cook food, the solar oven provides an alternative means of making meals. This will promote forestation and produce a better harvest, since coffee plants need shade to flourish.

The hope is that, eventually, the cooperative will be able to process, roast and package the coffee on their own, making the farmers even more independent and profitable.

The documentary, "Blooming Hope: Harvesting Smiles in Port-de-Paix," interviews Elicoeur Beaubrun, a coffee farmer from the town of Ma Wouj. A husband, father of five and active member of his church and community, he said his goal is to help his children receive an education and learn social responsibility.

Although he is unemployed, he takes pride in his knowledge of coffee growing and enjoys supporting his fellow farmers at the cooperative.

"The people are very dignified and proud," said Tiffany Norman, a communication arts student at St. Thomas who does marketing and promotions for the documentary. "They have very little, but what they do have they work very hard for." ■

For more information on the fair-trade coffee initiative, go to [www.cafecocano.com](http://www.cafecocano.com).



An artisan paints a cross at the Women's Free Trade Artisan Initiative in Haiti.

## CRAFT

FROM A10

site, [www.haitiartisanscrafts.com](http://www.haitiartisanscrafts.com).

One hundred percent of the profits go directly to the women, who manage the distribution of their own funds, a task which Montgomery said also teaches them responsibility skills.

With \$90, the women can buy a manually operated sewing machine, because electricity is unreliable, to become their own small businesses and make uniforms for the school children.

Montgomery said she has heard back from women who have replaced the roofs of their homes with metal ones, poured concrete flooring to replace the dirt, paid for school for their children and even bought dentures to be able to eat solid foods.

A documentary film about the project, "Blooming Hope: Harvesting Smiles in Port-de-Paix," profiles one of the women, Tata Dumasie, a wife and mother of five from the town of Jean Rabel. She had been a *restavec* — a child who is forced into servitude because the parents cannot provide for her — since the age of 6 and said she did not want the same life for her children.

"These projects help build a society where they make a living off of things they produce and run themselves," said Vinciguerra.

"This income literally changes their lives," said Montgomery. "They take pride in the work they do and the fact that they can provide for their families." ■

## PROJECTS

FROM A1

real challenge is in understanding and committing to the people for whom this is a daily reality. The people of Haiti have the wisdom. By understanding them little by little, we learn how they work and how we can fit into that."

Vinciguerra said the three projects — coffee growing, artisan work and solar energy — were selected because they met three important criteria:

- The projects come from the community and are owned and run by the people to improve their own lives (building a civic society);
- The projects help them figure out how to address long-term is-

suces and help them make their own money (long-term sustainability);

- The projects benefit all those involved and help them learn from each other (a partnership of mutuality).

Members and volunteers with the Global Solidarity Committee began taking trips to the island in late 2006 and they go back three times a year. They took their time to understand the Haitians' situation, experience the difficulties of life there and see what they could do to collaborate.

"We are as much transformed by this experience as what we want to help transform," said Gonzalez.

The committee's work has been documented in "Blooming Hope: Harvesting Smiles in Port-de-Paix," a film that depicts both the struggle and beauty of Haiti and offers a

glimpse into the lives of the people affected by each of the projects.

The film was produced by Marcela Moyano-Rosero, a communications professor at St. Thomas; her husband, Fernando Rosero; and five students from the university. Moyano-Rosero said she was inspired to do something after her first visit to Haiti in May 2008.

"I wanted to put my video production skills in place to do something to inspire people overseas and around the world to raise their awareness of this community," she said.

The documentary premiered Nov. 14, 2009, at the Haitian Heritage Museum in Miami, raising \$800 for the committee's efforts. The women artisans' crafts were sold, and the fair-trade coffee sold

out. The film also was shown Jan. 17 in the Gallery of Art at Archbishop Curley Notre Dame High School in Miami. A big premier in Miami is also being planned for April.

Three of the students who co-produced the film — Shantell Haynes, Tiffany Norman and Alejandra Rosero — traveled to Haiti to do the filming.

"I went on the trip feeling like I was going to be helping all these people," said Norman, who does marketing and promotions for the documentary. "But when I got there, I felt like I was the one getting the education."

Student involvement has also deepened through the social entrepreneurship class offered at the university. It is a nine-week undergraduate and graduate business

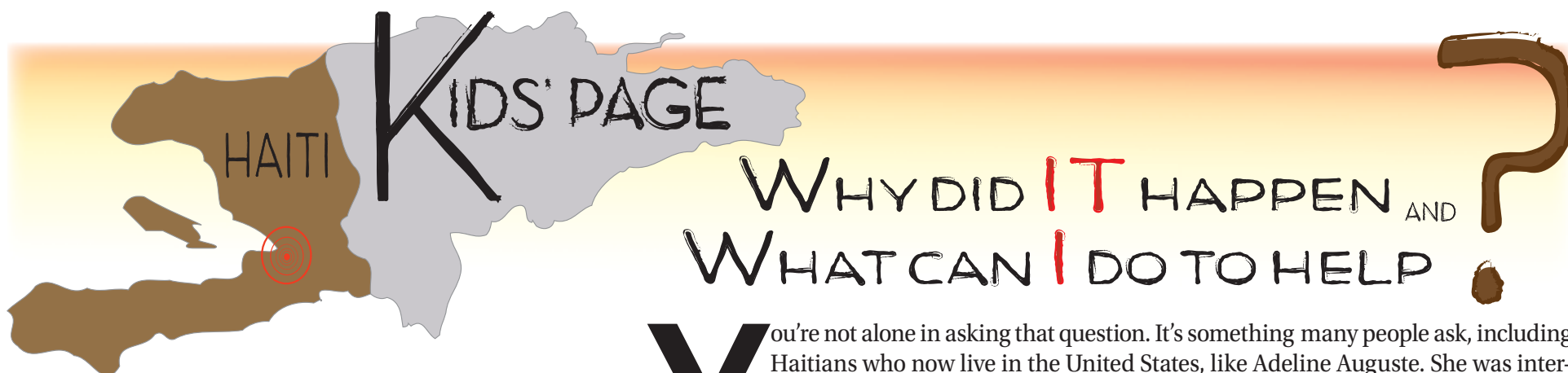
course designed to provide students with a sense of social responsibility. As part of their coursework, the students break into groups focusing on the coffee, artisan, solar energy or documentary projects and develop plans to enhance them.

The first class was held in the spring of 2009. Ten students were chosen to go to Haiti and given specific tasks to carry out. Some of the students remain involved even though the class has ended.

Moyano-Rosero said she also has begun figuring out the logistics of screening the film for the people in Haiti.

"This will be the first time many of them see themselves," she said. "Most of them don't even have mirrors." ■





### SOME FACTS ABOUT HAITI

- Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere — the part of the world that includes North, Central and South America and the surrounding waters. If you look on a globe, its borders are considered from longitudes 20° W and 160° E. Haiti is located about 600 miles southeast of Florida (about the same distance as New Orleans to the west and Chattanooga, Tenn., is to the north).
- The first known residents of Haiti were the Ciboney Indian people who originated in Central or South America and migrated to the Caribbean region about 2000 B.C.
- Haiti was once nicknamed “La Perle des Antilles,” which is French for “The Pearl of the Caribbean.”
- Population, according to figures from the World Bank, is more than 9 million. About 80 percent are Roman Catholic.
- The official languages are French and Haitian Kreyole, although Kreyole is more universally spoken.
- Area: 10,700 square miles, somewhat larger than Maryland. Haiti (area in

brown in the above illustration) occupies the western third of the Caribbean island of Hispaniola, which it shares with the Dominican Republic (area in gray in the above illustration).

- In 1492, Christopher Columbus landed near today's city of Cap-Haïtien and claimed the island for Spain, naming it Hispaniola. The area was controlled by Spain and later France, which brought over slaves to become agricultural laborers. Haiti is the first country where African slaves fought for their freedom and won.

- Its capital is Port-au-Prince, with a population estimated at 1.5 million to 2 million.
- The national flag has two sideways stripes of blue and red with the nation's coat of arms in the center.



*But I'm just a kid ... what can I do?*

**Think of the letter 'P'**

## PARTICIPATE *with* PLENTY of PRAYER

As Kali Caplan, a student of St. Joseph School in Stuart who turns 10 this year, said, “Prayer is very important. With prayer, there is hope. Everything would be impossible without prayer.”

Pope Benedict XVI said he entrusts victims of the Haitian tragedy to Virgin Mary. “I pray for the injured, for the homeless and for everyone who has tragically lost their life,” the Holy Father said.

You can offer a prayer for Haiti every night.

At right is a Prayer for Haiti offered by Bishop Thomas Wenski of Orlando.

The patroness of Haiti is Our Lady of Perpetual Help. To find out more about the patroness, and prayers of novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, visit: <http://www.catholic.org/prayers/prayer.php?p=321>



**Learn about your own backyard**

## THINK globally, ACT locally

The relief efforts in Haiti will last a long time. If you ever feel like you cannot do anything for others overseas, don't give up that giving spirit. “Think globally, act locally” is a saying that means you shouldn't close your eyes to what is happening in the world around you, but also don't forget about serving those in need in your own community.

You can count your blessings and check out how to volunteer at places such as soup kitchens, nursing homes, schools and parishes.

## WHY DID IT HAPPEN AND WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP

**Y**ou're not alone in asking that question. It's something many people ask, including Haitians who now live in the United States, like Adeline Auguste. She was interviewed by a Catholic journalist, and Auguste, a Catholic living in Detroit, couldn't make sense of the devastating earthquake that hit Haiti Jan. 12, the most powerful in the nation's 200-year history. Here is a quote from the article that appears on

Catholic News Service.

“I said to myself, ‘Why Haiti? We don't have anything as it is,’” said Auguste, 58, who was raised in Port-au-Prince, near the epicenter of the quake, before coming to America as a youth. “I don't know how they will rebuild. They were already desperate, and now this?”

Tens of thousands of people are thought to have died in the 7.0-magnitude earthquake that hit Haiti Tuesday, Jan. 12, destroying much of the capital city of Port-au-Prince.

There have been many natural disasters that have hit areas and people always ask, “Why?” Although hurricanes, earthquakes, typhoons, tornadoes and tsunamis are recognized as “acts of God” because they are not man-made, that does not mean that God is inflicting harm and suffering upon a population on purpose. The earth is a living thing and sometimes, unfortunately, the movements of the planet

and weather conditions can be violent and lead to natural disasters.

In August 2009, Typhoon Morakot, the most powerful storm to hit Taiwan in the past 50 years, slammed into the island's eastern and southern regions. Bishop Peter Liu Cheng-chung of Kaohsiung, Taiwan, said in an appeal to aid, “We never know what God's plan is and why Taiwan has to suffer miserably. We can only pray for Christ's mercy. This is the moment for the Church to show the spirit of the Gospel by showing we are the instrument of

God by bringing them the love of Christ.”

Now, that area, which suffered from a 7.6 magnitude earthquake in 1999 that resulted in more than 2,100 deaths and more than 8,700 injuries, is helping Haiti financially and with prayer.

We cannot control natural disasters. But we can control how we respond to them, and communities across the globe are coming to Haiti's aid. In the United States, millions of dollars have been raised and aid agencies, such as Catholic

*But I'm just a kid ... what can I do?*

**Keep Haiti in your heart every month of the year**

There will come a time when Haiti will no longer be the top news story on Web sites, newspapers and television news programs. Because relief efforts

### FEBRUARY

Ask your pastor if it is possible for you to submit a prayer of the faithful for the people of Haiti.

Now, think of activities you could do for the rest of the year.

**MAY**

### MARCH

Lent is upon us. Instead of giving up something for Lent, make a commitment to do something extraordinary for Lent. This could be offering a prayer for Haiti every day or putting aside a certain amount of money every day for relief efforts.

**JUNE**

**JULY**

**AUGUST**

**SEPTEMBER**

**OCTOBER**

**NOVEMBER**

**DECEMBER**

### APRIL

Find out if there is a Mass celebrated in Haitian Kreyole somewhere in your area. You can contact the archdiocese to find out information about that. Ask your parents if you can attend that Mass as a family in solidarity with those in Haiti.

Look for this icon online at [www.thefloridacatholic.org](http://www.thefloridacatholic.org) to find out more information on Haiti and relief efforts.





# HOPE: 'I think that it's a desperate situation and we are going to be there for the long haul'

FROM A9

## BEAUTY AMIDST CRISIS

In addition to providing pastoral care, Msgr. Pierre accompanied a few medical teams who visited camps and cared for the injured, among them more than 150 clergy, religious and seminarians.

"Initially, it was very difficult," Msgr. Pierre said. "A lot of the aid arriving (from around the world) was staying around the airport because they didn't have the logistics and security to go where the people were. That has improved somewhat. By the time I was about to leave, people were giving food and water throughout; it was better, more organized."

In addition to trouble getting supplies to the right places, gangs around Port-au-Prince have been a cause for concern. He also said there is a continual need for medical care, and urges volunteer doctors, nurses, counselors and people in the medical field to continue their medical missions to Haiti to assist those who are suffering.

"It's a humanitarian crisis," said Msgr. Pierre, who was the first Haitian priest ordained in the Archdiocese of Miami, and also serves as director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the archdiocesan Missions Office and the Ministry to Cultural Groups.

"Many people are coming down with pneumonia, fever and diarrhea, and need assistance continually. There are many infections and gangrene, since a lot of people are losing legs and arms and are not being properly cared for," he continued.

"Close to half a million people are sleeping on the streets without proper shelter and the rainy season is coming soon. Port-au-Prince at night has become a giant bedroom where everyone sleeps on the street. A lot of people are going to get sick and there is not enough medicine to care for them."

Despite this, he said he saw "a lot of beautiful things."

"People didn't have anything, but I saw them coming together," said Msgr. Pierre, who saw his own faith strengthened by the people's spirit and admitted he found it hard to leave — he wanted to continue accompanying the people in Haiti.

"In one camp with about 8,000 people, the people were getting by sharing whatever water and food they had to survive. It was really a beautiful thing to see," Msgr. Pierre said.

## RECUPERATING, REBUILDING

He said he hopes the U.S. and other countries can be more open about accepting Haitians for a time so they may recuperate, receive needed medical attention and get ready to return and rebuild Haiti.

His own parish, St. James, has accepted 27 refugee children into the parish school. He said he has spoken at length with the children and their families.

"They are so eager to tell their stories," he said. "When I ask them how many of them would be willing to go back (to Haiti), they said they would want to go back right now. People want to go on with their lives even if it has been difficult. People have come out of it strengthened and better than before. There is hope."

He said he has also spoken to the children at the school who question how God would let this happen to them.

"I explained that an earthquake is part of the earth, like the sun on the horizon, and it is not the will of God," he said. "God will be there with us. Those who die will have eternal life, and those who live will continue to be strengthened."

Upon his return, Msgr. Pierre met with Archbishop Favalora to discuss the situation in Haiti and



COURTESY PHOTOS | BRITTANY GALVIN

A child injured by the Jan. 12 earthquake lies on a stretcher after receiving medical attention in one of the makeshift hospitals that now dot Port-au-Prince.

come up with short-term and long-term goals for assisting there.

"What the Archdiocese of Miami is trying to do is have a base in Haiti where we can launch whatever services that we can offer,"

he said. "A short-term goal now is to continue to offer health care and try to get food to some of the camps. At the same time, we also want to offer our services to the local clergy, especially those who were traumatized."

He said his prognosis for the future of Haiti is mixed.

"After seeing the destruction, I know that not everything is going to be rebuilt; not all the churches or schools will be rebuilt. Not everyone will have a job. I know that. And when you think about the economic crisis worldwide, no country can come up with the money to rebuild Haiti," he said. "But at the same time, seeing the determination of the (Haitian) people, and the coming together of the world

community, a lot of good can be done there. We can send Haiti on a new path that can lead to a better future for the children and the people.

"I think that it's a desperate situation and we are going to be there for the long haul," he added. "It has to be a steady commitment to help. I hope it will be a good start."

Parishioners at St. James have pledged the proceeds of their parish carnival, which took place the weekend of Feb. 13-14, to support relief efforts and build a school in Haiti.

"Some of the children have been traumatized; any little noise sets them on edge," he said. "The best thing would be for them to go back to school, but that's not possible because most of the schools have been destroyed and teachers have been killed."

The Haitian government has said school could start in March, but Msgr. Pierre said he doubts that will be possible because the destruction has been too widespread.

"If the kids don't get back to a normal routine, a lot of them would be completely lost, not just mentally but possibly physically too," he said. "Our parish wants to support the children and create a modest school, under a large tent for now, where the children can go. We are asking other parishes to join us also. If we could at least help the schools, it would be a really great help to rebuild the country and bring hope to the future of Haiti." ■



Crumbled buildings and people pooling their resources to survive dot the streets of Port-au-Prince after the Jan. 12 earthquake.

## YOUR MARKETPLACE

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### RETREATS

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**MICHAEL H. BROWN** — Catholic author presents all-day retreat, "Our Special Times," Saturday, March 6, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., in St. Augustine. Call 386-446-8139 or [www.spiritdaily.com](http://www.spiritdaily.com). 2/18b

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# Priests, Nuns Carry Burden of Haiti's Recovery — Need Support from US Catholics

Father Marc Boisvert has served the poor of Haiti for more than 10 years, but never under the kind of pressures and demands the nation's recent earthquake unleashed.

"Haiti's Catholic missionaries now describe their lives in terms of 'pre-earthquake' and 'post-earthquake'. Ask them when they did a certain thing or started a certain program, and they'll say something like, 'that was a pre-quake project' or 'these orphans were added after the quake.' That is how profound this disaster has been for us," Father Marc said. "It has changed our lives dramatically, and it will impact us for many years to come."

The priest described the days following the earthquake as "tragic," "heart breaking" and "tumultuous."

"Our program for orphans is located in Les Cayes, some distance away from the capital of Port-au-Prince. We were lucky. We felt it, but the shaking didn't bring down all the buildings here," he explained. "That said, the earthquake did have a huge emotional and economic impact in us, and within 48 hours we were dealing with the hardships. We had shortages of food, problems obtaining fuel and the needs of victims to contend with. Almost immediately, a stream of refugees began flooding into our area, and we became part of the outreach to help them."

Back in the United States, one of Father Marc's supportive partners, Cross International

terms of supporting any work he was doing for the earthquake victims that were pouring in to his area," recalled Jim Cavnar, the president of Cross International Catholic Outreach. "One of the first things Father Marc did was to take in additional children who had been orphaned by the disaster. He knew the crisis would be a major problem for his own program too, but he didn't focus on that. Instead, he made sacrifices to help the refugees. He put their needs first."

All over Haiti, this kind of selfless reaction was repeated over and over, as priests and nuns throughout the crippled nation scrambled to launch new outreaches that would help earthquake victims. Their lives — already difficult — became even more challenging, but they never backed down or faltered.

"These Catholic programs are sharing food. Their clinics are welcoming volunteer doctors and their facilities are available for emergency surgeries. In almost every case, the priests and nuns have set aside their own goals so they can pursue the 'greater good' — doing whatever is asked of them for the benefit of the earthquake victims," Cavnar said.

"Knowing how difficult life in Haiti is for everyone now, I can't help but be proud of the Church and the individual priests and nuns who have redoubled their efforts to help during this disaster," he added. "As a



A young man walks through a landscape scarred by earthquake debris. Many travelers use masks to lessen the smell of decaying bodies and to protect from diseases that the aftermath may bring.

million in aid within the first few weeks of the earthquake, and the priests and nuns who benefited were very grateful. They had asked for food, medicines, fuel for vehicles and assistance providing shelter to those left homeless. We were able to accomplish all of those things, and Catholic donors in America made that possible," he said.

Still, there is one concern — *donor fatigue*. "Donor fatigue is a phrase coined by the media to describe people who get tired of hearing about a disaster or social problem and turn their backs on the issue," Cavnar explained. "Every time I hear that term, I cringe — not because I don't believe it happens, but because I wonder how people like Father Marc must feel about it. He has

***"Their lives — already difficult — became even more challenging, but they never backed down or faltered."***

Jim Cavnar, President of Cross International Catholic Outreach

cared for hundreds of orphans in Haiti for years, and he is opening his doors to more in response to the earthquake. Imagine if he said, 'Sorry, I have giving fatigue, so I'm not interested in taking these children. In fact, I'm closing this whole program down because I'm tired of helping.' Thank God he would never do that, but imagine how he feels when donors say that kind of thing after dealing with a problem for just a few months. That must be unbelievably discouraging for him and the other priests and nuns serving there in Haiti."

Fortunately, Cross International Catholic Outreach has no intention of slowing its efforts in Haiti or its support of the priests and nuns working in the trenches there. And Cavnar said he believes that Cross Catholic's donors will support that decision with their prayers and gifts.

"American Catholics have strong ties to

the priests and nuns working in Haiti and they're very familiar with the challenges of international mission work. They don't see the Church's mission as just another humanitarian effort. They consider these priests and nuns champions of the faith — special people called by God to serve," Cavnar said. "For that reason, I don't believe they will reject the pleas of the clergy serving in Haiti. They will stand with these priests and nuns for as long as it takes to respond to the crisis."

With food and medical emergencies in Haiti finally beginning to wane, Cross International Catholic Outreach is beginning to plan for the long-term recovery stages of their outreach. This will concentrate on housing, reestablishing educational systems and other community stabilizing projects.

"Thousands are homeless and the entire school system has been disrupted," he said. "These are more complicated and costly issues than our food and medical relief has been, but we fully intend to address those problems with our donors' help."

One feels compelled to ask the question — isn't Cross International Catholic Outreach tired and discouraged on some level by that daunting task? Cavnar answers quickly and with a renewed strength of purpose in his voice.

"God's hand is in this work, and we will all draw from his strength and unending compassion," he said. "Whenever I am tempted to think otherwise, I remember the words one missionary shared with me just days after the earthquake: *'We trust in our heavenly father to raise up a New Haiti — to bestow on us a crown of beauty, instead of ashes; the oil of gladness, instead of mourning; and a garment of praise, instead of a spirit of despair. We will be called Oaks of Righteousness; a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor.'* How can you wilt in the face of that kind of faith?"

To make a tax-deductible contribution to Cross International Catholic Outreach and its outreach overseas, use either the enclosed postage-paid brochure or send donations to: Cross International Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC00617, 490 White Pond Drive, PO Box 63, Akron, OH 44309-0063.



The children in Father Marc's orphanage gather to pray. They thank God that their own buildings did not collapse and they ask for mercy on behalf of the children who were not as fortunate.

Catholic Outreach, was also racing to respond to the crisis and to the unexpected hardships it was producing for the priest and nuns serving in Haiti. Some were struggling with "front line" efforts to save lives and supply food within Port-au-Prince. Others, like Father Marc, were mobilizing to help refugees and preparing for the difficult challenges that the recovery stage would bring.

"As long-time supporters of Father Marc's orphanage, Pwoje Espwa (Hope Village), we realized immediately how devastating this disaster would be for the priests and nuns working with the poor. Within hours of the quake, we were in contact with Father Marc — looking for ways to help him, both in terms of supplying the orphanage and in

Catholic, I have always appreciated the dedication of the clergy, but this crisis has produced a level of commitment even I didn't expect. The earthquake's aftermath represents a mammoth burden — one no one should have to bear — and yet these priests and nuns accept the hardships in faith, giving everything they have to serve the people in need."

Cavnar is also confident that American Catholics will rise to the occasion as they have so far by contributing generously for the work Cross International Catholic Outreach is organizing in Haiti.

"Thanks to the support we've already received from donors in the U.S., Cross Catholic was able to provide more than \$50



# Fighting Hunger On The Front Lines

*Catholic missionaries rely on faith and Cross Catholic in their fight against hunger in Latin America*

Two-year-old Alba's screams cut through the early morning air. "She has been crying for hours," her mother, Carmon Garcia, explains. "She's hungry."

The toddler's tears flow down pale, patchy cheeks. Skin hangs from her arms and neck, and her ribs and collarbones protrude as if there is no skin covering them at all. Though empty, her small belly is bloated — a telltale sign of malnutrition. At 2, Alba weighs just 12 pounds, which is half the normal weight for a child her age.

"We hardly have any food," says Carmon, a mother of eight. Her husband works in a factory making \$3 a day, but he has to spend \$1.25 a day taking the bus to work, cutting the family's income nearly in half. "We can't even afford milk," she says.

There are tens of thousands of poor families in Latin America facing this same situation. Hunger and malnutrition have become the deadliest killers there, claiming the lives of thousands each day. The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization recently estimated that 1.02 billion people don't have enough to eat — that is one in every six people in the world.

With national attention focused on Haiti recently after the devastating earthquake that demolished most of Port-au-Prince, the intense poverty plaguing the rest of the region has gone virtually unnoticed — but it is staggering. A millennium study by the World Bank found that nearly 40 percent of the 569 million people living in Latin America live below the poverty line. Nicaragua, Bolivia, and Guatemala are often cited among the poorest countries in the world.

"Though our hearts ache for our brothers and sisters in Haiti, we cannot forget their poor neighbors in places like Nicaragua and Guatemala," says Jim Cavnar, president of Cross International Catholic Outreach (Cross Catholic), whose ministry supports several feeding programs in Latin America and Haiti. "There are children literally starving to death. By providing meals, we can save their lives."

Sister Edna runs St. Joseph's, a rescue and nutrition center for severely malnourished children in Guatemala. She has seen firsthand the impact just a few meals can make.

Each day she cares for more than 30 malnourished children, some brought in by desperately poor parents like Carmon Garcia and others who were abandoned in the streets. With love, intensive care, and nutritional meals, she nurses them back to health.

"Serving these children who have no one and nothing brings me closer to God," Sr. Edna says. "In caring for these little ones, I have to trust that Jesus will give me strength. With him, I am able to face the sadness — and through him, I find light where there is so much darkness."

Sr. Edna isn't always able to save all of the children who are brought to the rescue center, which makes her work heart-wrenching, but she is thankful for the many little ones she does save. Children like Oscar Molina.

Though he was almost 1 year old, Oscar weighed only seven pounds when he was brought to St. Joseph's — about the size of



Children are often weak and frail when discovered (above), but Sr. Edna nurses them back to health (below). Hundreds of children need this help.

a healthy newborn. His skin clung to his bones, his hair was falling out, and he suffered frequent and intense fevers. He had respiratory and intestinal infections and was so weak and unsteady that he couldn't sit up. He was even too weak to cry.

Now, Oscar is a healthy, happy toddler, who smiles easily and giggles when Sr. Edna bounces him in her lap. "When I feed and care for a child like Oscar, I see a child, helpless and hungry, but I also see Jesus," she says.

It is this faith that keeps many heroic Catholic missionaries going as they work to fight hunger and poverty in Latin America.

Fr. John Halligan, the founder of a feeding and education program for street children in Quito, Ecuador, admits that at times it is difficult to witness what these poor children go through.

"When you visit their 'homes,' it really turns your stomach to see how they live in such squalor," he says. "Still, God gives us the strength to push on and continue helping these precious children. I am compelled by my faith to help them, and it brings me joy to see them doing better, knowing we've made an impact on their lives."

Sr. Edna and Fr. Halligan are just two of several dedicated Catholic missionaries in Latin America being supported by Cross Catholic. With cash grants raised through its U.S. donors, Cross Catholic is able to partner with Catholic ministries in the field who are running great programs but don't have the funds to sustain them.

"I continue to be amazed by the generosity of our benefactors. Even when the U.S. economy is down, they are still giving to help the poor around the world," says Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic. "They show great faith, and we are seeing the positive returns of that faith in the lives of the poor."



Those positive returns are especially visible in the fight against world hunger. With monthly financial support from Cross Catholic, Las Mercedes Nutrition Center in Honduras is able to feed more than a hundred poor, malnourished children who they find abandoned in garbage dumps and in the streets.

"Hunger is the most extreme form of poverty. In essence, it is a state where families cannot afford to meet even their most basic need: food," Cavnar says. "By supporting

programs that provide daily meals, we are ministering to the poorest of the poor."

Cavnar says he is continually humbled by the example of the Catholic brothers and sisters his ministry supports and is grateful to aid in their important work.

"The poor have unbelievable faith, as do these Catholic missionaries who are in the field helping them each day. We count it a privilege to help them and, in doing so, live out our faith."

## How to Help:

Your help is needed for Cross International Catholic Outreach to bring Christ's mercy to the poorest of the poor. Use the enclosed postage-paid brochure to mail your gift or send it to Cross International Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC00617, 490 White Pond Drive, PO Box 63, Akron, OH 44309-0063.





# Florida Catholic invites participation in Lenten drive

MARY ST. PIERRE  
of the Florida Catholic staff

ORLANDO — For the fifth consecutive year, the *Florida Catholic* is

encouraging parish communities, schools, organizations and individuals to participate in the Long-Sleeve Relief and Food-Diaper-Personal Hygiene Drive. The drive

will run during the Lenten season beginning Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17, through March 31.

The first year of the drive, the *Florida Catholic* only collected long-sleeve shirts to protect workers in the fields and ferneries from hazards such as exposure to weather, pesticides, thorns, snakes and bug bites. Requests from agencies working for those living below the poverty line expanded the drive last year to include short-sleeve cotton shirts, as well as nonperishable food, diaper and baby products and personal hygiene items.

"We have a large number of farmworkers and rural poor who are in constant need of long-sleeve shirts and there is a very big demand for food and diapers," said Tom Comerford, director of Sacred Heart Outreach Center in Homestead. "We really need the help of our parish communities and individuals so we can provide needed items to help. The freeze this year has really affected the area and depleted the job market, making it even harder for those who are already our working poor."

With the economic downturn this past year, the need for basic staples reaches the emergency status as outreach organizations find themselves in a "demand is greater than the supply" mode. Tirso Moreno, general coordinator of the Farmworker Association in Central Florida, said areas of the state with the cold winter freeze have had much crop damage and on top of an



already tight job market, jobs were lost due to the weather. The Long-Sleeve Relief and Food-Diaper-Personal Hygiene Drive helps stock pantries and provide basic needs to help families remain healthy.

"This year there are many needs," said Comerford. "We have a large Haitian population who were food pickers, too, and they are worried about their families in Haiti and looking to collect water, food and supplies as are many others. The crises never cease to end."

Parish, schools, organizations and individuals are encouraged to participate in the drive as part of their Lenten action to help serve our brothers and sisters in Christ who work hard for little money. Suggestions for a successful drive are to appoint a person in charge of the drive who will help promote the event to others and organize donations and delivery. Financial donations will also be accepted.

"At this time, financial donations are very critical to meet the increased demand for direct assistance," said Peter Routsis-Arroyo, chief executive officer of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc. "In addition, many of our programs

## DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

### Farmworker Association of Florida, Inc.

450 Davis Parkway  
Florida City, FL 33034  
Marisol Saucedo — Email: fwafhomestead@hotmail.com  
C: 786-255-8080 • O: 305-247-0072  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday

### Sacred Heart Outreach Center

20 S.E. 2nd Road  
Homestead, FL 33030  
Jim Wilhelm — Email: jim@floridasa-guard.com  
305-498-8459 or O: 305-245-0022  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday through Friday  
8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sat.

rely on volunteers to help out and that is also a key element in ensuring that our programs can operate in the most cost-efficient manner possible."

If you plan to participate in the 2010 Long-Sleeve Relief and Food-Diaper-Personal Hygiene Drive, please send an e-mail to [mstpiere@thefloridacatholic.org](mailto:mstpiere@thefloridacatholic.org) with the subject area titled LSR Drive. Information on collection locations and supplies is also available on the *Florida Catholic* Web site at [www.thefloridacatholic.org](http://www.thefloridacatholic.org). ■

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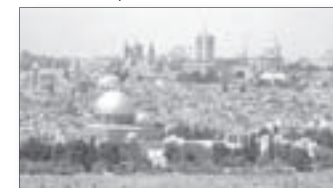
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Please call 888-996-1212 regarding rates for ages 50-69, or if you would like information about Two-Life or Deferred Gift Annuities.



## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Parish festival,** Feb. 25-28, St. John the Apostle, 479 E. Fourth St., Hialeah. Four days of fun and food. Proceeds benefit parish and school. 305-888-6819 or 305-888-9769.

**St. Pius X garage sale,** Saturday, Feb. 27, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., and after all weekend Masses, in parish hall, 2511 N. Ocean Blvd. (A1A), Fort Lauderdale. Bake sale at 9 a.m. Features jewelry, working small appliances, pots and pans, knickknacks, pictures, wall bric-a-brac. 954-565-9935.

**St. Stephen flea market,** Saturday, Feb. 27, 7 a.m.-2 p.m., St. Stephen, 2000 S. State Road 7, Miramar. Spaces: \$25. 954-987-1100.

**"Carnival in the Ranches,"** March 4-7, St. Mark, 5601 S. Flamingo Road, Cooper City. Discounted ride passes available through March 2: \$20 per session or \$65 for four-day wrist band. Benefits St. Mark Parish and School. 954-431-6965.

**Archbishop Curley Notre Dame Art Gallery,** 4949 N.E. Second Ave., Miami: "Father Artist" opens Saturday, March 6, 7 p.m., featuring works by Father David Russell. 305-751-8367, ext. 29; www.acnd.net, or news@acnd.net.

**Broward Council of Catholic Women,** spring general meeting, luncheon, March 6, 9:30 a.m., Palm-Aire Club and Resort, Pompano Beach. Hosted by St. Vincent Council. 954-227-8330.

**Our Lady of the Lakes annual festival,** March 11-14, N.W. 67th Ave. and Miami Lakeway North, Miami Lakes. More than 20 popular carnival rides, international food booths, live shows. 305-558-2202, ext. 616.

**St. Joseph's dinner/dance,** Saturday, March 20, 6 p.m., St. David, 3900 S. University Drive, Davie. Presented by Women's Club. Features Italian dinner, music of "Poppy's" band. Tickets: \$20. 954-966-2427.

S.W. 57 Ave., Miami. Three distinguished finalists from around the world compete on Epiphany's Ruffatti pipe organ; each contestant plays 25-minute program and audience votes for their favorite. Event also will be broadcast live on "Pipedreams," heard on Classical South Florida 89.7. Free admission. 305-667-4911.

**"Moonlight Musicale,"** Saturday, Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m., St. Richard Parish, 7500 S.W. 152 St., Palmetto Bay. Enjoy an evening of song for the entire family. Parish choirs perform popular ballads, show tunes, folk and inspirational selections. Free admission; donations accepted to support the music ministry. 305-233-8711.

**Cathedral concert series, St. Mary Cathedral,** 7525 N.W. Second Ave., Miami. Free. 305-759-4531 or www.cathedralofstmary.com:

- Sunday, Feb. 28, 4 p.m., Greater Miami Youth Symphony, comprised of musicians ages 5-18, led by music director Huifang Chen.

- Wednesday, March 31, 7:30 p.m., "Tenebrae," a musical retelling of the Passion of Jesus, performed by St. Mary's Cathedral choir.

**St. Martha-Yamaha Concert Series,** 9301 Biscayne Blvd., Miami Shores. Tickets include after-concert reception with artists. \$10 general admission; \$20 Blue Circle. www.saintmartha.tix.com or 305-751-0005: Sunday, Feb. 21, 3 p.m., New York's Metropolitan Klezmer performs Yiddish musical themes.

**St. Pius X concert series,** 2511 N. Ocean Blvd. (A1A), Fort Lauderdale. Tickets: \$10; free for children under 8. 954-565-9935:

- Sunday, Feb. 28, 4 p.m., Kristen DiNonno performs music from her new CD, "If I Only Knew," with songs ranging from intensely spiritual to classical.

- Sunday, March 14, 4 p.m., St. Patrick's Day dinner. A night of eating, drinking and Irish dancing. Cost: \$20 per person; \$7 for children under 8.

a.m., English; 11 a.m., Spanish, St. Catherine of Siena, 9200 S.W. 107 Ave., Miami. Adult formation for parish ministers. 305-274-6353.

**Religious education classes,** sponsored by archdiocesan religious education department, 305-762-1107 or religedu@theadom.org: "Teaching religion today," Mondays and Wednesdays, March 8-22, 3:30-5:30 p.m. and 8:15-10:15 p.m., Our Lady of Lourdes School, 14000 S.W. 112 Terrace, Miami. Taught by Deacon Michael Plummer. Registration: \$35; textbook: \$5, "Summary of the National Directory for Catechesis." R.S.V.P.: 305-213-2156.

**"Catholic Days at the Capitol,"** March 8-10, lobbying trip to Tallahassee under the auspices of the Florida Catholic Conference. Participants will lobby legislators, celebrate 35th annual Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit (Red Mass) with Florida's bishops and Catholic elected officials. 954-981-2922 or www.flacathconf.org.

**SEPI (Southeast Pastoral Institute),** formation in faith for Catholic laity, 7700 S.W. 56 St., Miami. 305-279-2333 or sepimiami@aol.com: "Teología Hispana en Estados Unidos", jueves, 7:30 p.m., 4 de marzo-13 de mayo. Profesor: Padre José P. BURGÚES, Sch.P.

## MASSES /PRAYER SESSIONS

**Lenten mission with Father Stan Fortuna,** Feb. 24 and 25, 7-10 p.m., San Isidro Parish, 2310 Martin Luther King Blvd., Pompano Beach. Sponsored by Word and Life Ministry. 954-941-3868.

## PRAYER GROUPS

**Songs and prayer in the spirit of Taizé,** Tuesday, March 9, 7:30 p.m., Barry University, Cor Jesu Chapel, 11300 N.E. Second Ave., Miami Shores. Chant, Scripture, silent reflection, intercessory prayer. 305-899-3650 or 305-458-9919.

## RETREATS /DAYS OF REFLECTION

**Engaged Encounter: Life Skills Day,** Friday, Feb. 26, 6:30-10 p.m.; and Saturday, Feb. 27, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., St. Louis, 7270 S.W. 120 St., Pinecrest. Engaged

## Answers to A20 puzzle

R B N A W O H D H I B E A B Y M  
U O M P A G R P S F N T H U V  
A I I L E I I T G D I Y S C G  
L T L X S X I N N N A C G A V  
M A Y T Z N I B U O Z H U S E  
S T Q P E T H L I P J R T R F  
G S R N S Y N E N B R I P F C  
I S C A E L D N A C L A F T J  
V E F S T R T T Q H F E Y W D  
I P H U S A V E J O U R N E Y  
N R X S M L K I N Q W A T E R  
G B O E C I F I R C A S H S A  
T R J J D C D X R A A I J K W  
C B J V Q E H W O Q M R G K W

## MIAMI ARCHDIOCESE COMMUNITY PAGE SUBMISSION DEADLINES

The Florida Catholic welcomes calendar items of parish/organization events that are open to the whole archdiocese. There is no charge but items must be in the Miami office at least six weeks before the event. To list an event both on the Web site and in the newspaper, go to www.miamiarch.org, click on the banner "announce your event for free" and follow the instructions. Notices may be sent by e-mail: arsoto@theadom.org; fax: 305-762-1132; mail: The Florida Catholic, 9401 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, FL 33138.

couples can explore life skills as they apply to married life. Registration: 305-762-1140 or famlife@theadom.org.

**Experiencia de Emaús para Damas,** 26-28 de febrero, iglesia católica Our Lady of Lourdes, 11291 S.W. 142 Ave., Miami. Participantes descubrirán a Jesús en sus vidas. Inscripción: 305-387-9287.

**Cana Marriage Ministry couples' retreat,** Saturday, Feb. 27, 8 a.m.-9 p.m., St. Thomas the Apostle, 7377 S.W. 64 St., Miami. Breakfast, lunch and celebration dinner provided. 305-665-5600.

**Impacto,** 27 y 28 de febrero, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., St. Dominic, 5909 N.W. Seventh St., Miami. Mejore su vida matrimonial, la relación con sus hijos; para familias con hijos entre las edades de 3 a 11 años. Gratis. Inscripción: www.impactos.org o 305-571-7111.

**Marriage Covenant retreat,** March 12-14, St. John Neumann Parish, 12125 S.W. 107 Ave., Miami. Revisit the vows you took and the covenant you made with your spouse and the Lord. 305-223-7557.

**Retiro de Cuaresma,** sábado, 13 de marzo, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., SouthEast Pastoral Institute (SEPI) 7700 S.W. 56 St., Miami. Preparación para Semana Santa y el misterio Pascual, con el Padre Mario Vizcaino, Sch. P. \$10. Favor de traer su almuerzo. R.S.V.P. 305-279-2333 o www.sepimiami.org.

**Matrimonios en Victoria,** 13-14 de marzo, salón parroquial de Our Lady of Lourdes, 11291 S.W. 142 Ave., Miami. Para fortalecer su compromiso como esposos y padres, y su relación con Dios. 305-490-0903.

**Marriage Covenant retreat,** March 19-21, Little Flower Parish, Comber Hall, 2711 Indian Mound Trail, Coral Gables. Reflect upon the importance of marriage, how to make life happier for yourselves, your families and role of God in your lives. Participants return home each evening. Concludes with family potluck breakfast on Sunday. 305-772-5508 or aebcpa@bellsouth.net.

**Marriages in Victory,** March 20-21, St. Timothy, 5400 S.W. 102 Ave., Miami. Weekend of purpose, encouragement, hope for all couples. 305-321-4240 or st.timothy@marriagesinvictory.com.

**God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage,** marriage preparation supplement based on Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body, Saturday, March 20, St. Patrick, 3716 Garden Ave., Miami Beach. Sponsored by archdiocese's Family Life Ministry. \$175 per couple; preregistration required.

joyfilledmarriage@gmail.com or 305-762-1140.

**MorningStar Renewal Center,** 7275 S.W. 124 St., Pinecrest. Registration required for all programs. 305-238-4367, ext. 102, or visit www.morningstarrenewal.org: Couples' evening of reflection, Tuesday, Feb. 23, 7-9:30 p.m. Enjoy a retreat that feels like a date night. \$60 per couple, includes dinner.

## SAFE ENVIRONMENT

**Virtus workshops:** To help parents, teachers and anyone who works with children recognize signs of sexual abuse and spot abusers. Free. 305-762-1250 or jrayburn@theadom.org:

- Wednesday, Feb. 24; and Wednesday, March 10, 6 p.m., Archbishop McCarthy High School, Southwest Ranches.
- Saturday, March 13, 9 a.m., St. Jerome School, Fort Lauderdale.
- Saturday, March 20, 9 a.m., St. Louis, Pinecrest.

## SCHOOL EVENTS

**St. James School** looking for alumni from class of 1978 for reunion in March. marzayas@bellsouth.net.

**St. Agatha School,** 1125 S.W. 107 Ave., Miami, accepting applications for enrollment for 2010-11 academic year, grades PreK2-eight. More than 25 years of academic excellence; among the top five archdiocesan schools in standardized test scores. Call for personal tour: 305-222-8751.

## VOCATIONS

**Vocations awareness weekend,** March 12-14, St. John Vianney Seminary, 2900 S.W. 87 Ave., Miami. For males (high school seniors through age 35) interested in the priesthood. Must register to be considered. 305-762-1137, vocations@theadom.org.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**HIV/AIDS ministry of Catholic Charities,** needs volunteer mentors for work with HIV-positive individuals. Must attend Virtus training, undergo fingerprinting, background screening. Meeting Wednesday, March 10, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., 1503 N.E. 26 St., Wilton Manors. 954-630-9793.

## CONCERTS

**Miami International Organ Competition,** Friday, Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m., Epiphany, 8235

## FAITH EDUCATION

**"Living Pentecost: A Process of Spiritual Growth,"** Saturdays, March 6 and 20, 9:30

## FREE BOOK

about

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# BUILDING THE CITY OF God

## On south Florida's diversity:

"I remember (when) there were no Cubans in Miami. ... I remember there was one Spanish-speaking kid in my class when I was in grade school, St. Rose of Lima, and he was from Nicaragua." Today, in Miramar alone, there are people from everywhere in the Caribbean, South America and Central America. "We have a recognizable Filipino community and a significant Nigerian community. South Florida has completely transformed into an international community. I've been here since 1955 and I've learned two extra languages (Spanish and French), and I haven't moved."

## What he did before becoming a priest:

"Student. This is not a second career."

## What triggered his vocation:

"Probably my family. I was raised in a family of practicing Catholics. My parents were music teachers and involved in music ministry in different churches. I always kind of grew up very close to the Church and involved in it."

## What he would be doing if he had not become a priest:

"Maybe some social work program or teaching."

## Favorite priestly assignment:

"Where I am right now. ... Father David Russell told me years ago, 'The best job in the Church is being pastor of a parish.' And it's true."

**'I've been here since 1955 and I've learned two extra languages (Spanish and French), and I haven't moved.'**

## View of the priesthood:

"I'm happy, very happy being a priest, very happy with the choice I've made. I would make it again."

## Most difficult aspect of being a priest:

"Leadership through sharing vision, not by simply trying to give orders. It's getting people motivated and directed, whether it's in terms of spirituality or stewardship."

## His description of the ideal priest:

"Someone who is pastorally sensitive, a good liturgist and preacher, and a good administrator."

## A priestly stereotype that should be discarded:

"That it's the priest's Church and the people are helping him run it. ... We need priests; there's no question there. But everybody has responsibilities."



*Scuba diving is among Father Vuturo's favorite sports. He obtained his license in December 1998. "It's like going to a different part of the world that most people don't get to see."*

That's the big thing about stewardship: We're all in this together. It's not my Church; it's our Church, and we must find out the different gifts that everybody has, as well as the different responsibilities we can all fulfill."

## What he does on his day off:

"My father still lives in the area and I spend time with him." He also likes to scuba dive and play racquetball.

## Favorite TV series:

"I enjoy the 'CSIs,' any variety of them."

## Last book read:

"A Marginal Jew," by John P. Meier, and "The Gods of War," a novel about Julius Caesar, the fourth and final in Conn Iggulden's "Emperor" series.

## Person he most admires:

"My father because of his relationship with me; the example he showed loving and taking care of my mother, who died in 2003; supporting his children; and his ongoing relationship with his adult sons."

## His greatest disappointment:

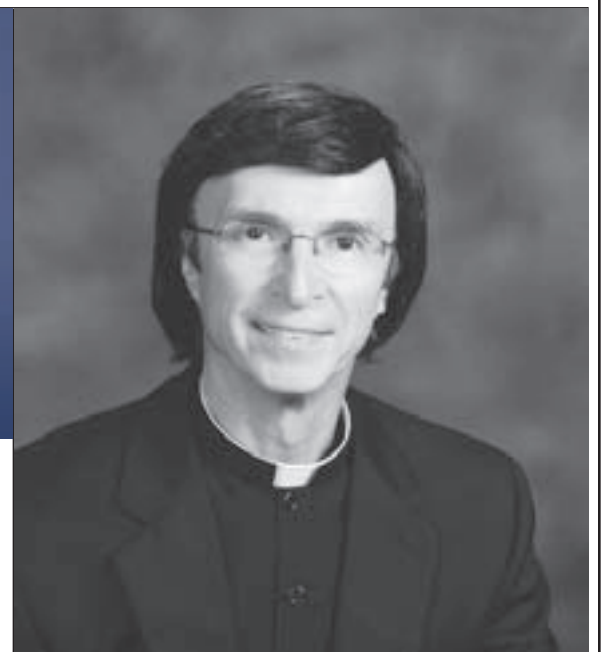
"Narrow-mindedness in people, whether it's in political or Church leaders or people in general. Sometimes narrow-mindedness is reflected in prejudices, in racism."

## His greatest accomplishment:

"Becoming pretty good at the sensitivity to ethnic differences, and blending the multiple layers of languages and cultures in our community."

## Regrets:

"The times when I might have hurt people, when I should have been more sensitive and I wasn't."



## FATHER PAUL VUTURO

**Pastor, St. Bartholomew, Miramar**

**Born Aug. 14, 1947, in Indianapolis, he moved to Miami with his family "in 1955 BC — before Cubans," as he puts it. After graduating from St. Rose of Lima in Miami Shores, he attended high school and college at St. John Vianney Seminary in Miami and completed his studies for the priesthood at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach. He was ordained for the Archdiocese of Miami on May 12, 1973. Among his assignments, he has served as director of religious education for the archdiocese, pastor of St. John the Apostle in Hialeah, and chairman of the archdiocesan Art and Architecture Committee. He has been pastor of St. Bartholomew since 1986 and also serves as president of Msgr. Edward Pace High School in Miami Gardens.**



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# Kids' page

## What do YOU think about when you think about Lent



# Symbols of Lent are easy to find

### CRUCIFIX

During the Stations of the Cross, we go on the journey that Jesus took to Calvary. It is during that journey that Jesus is nailed to the cross. The image is reflected in the crucifix.

You might already have a crucifix someplace in your home, but if you do not, you can buy one and put it in a central location where the whole family can see it and reflect upon the sacrifice Jesus made for all of us. You can also draw a crucifix as the family symbol.

As you reflect upon the crucifix, think about what feelings Jesus might have had during his journey and final moments.

### SAND

Remember how Jesus journeyed in the desert? He did so because he wanted to re-enact the incredible journey his Jewish ancestors made during the Exodus. He faced his own temptations in a desert.

During Lent we also take a journey, and sand reminds us we are not

Symbols help remind us about the true meaning of a season. Lent is a season where we as Catholics, of all ages, are challenged to really look at ourselves and our lives. Think about ways you can put symbols of Lent at home to serve as a reminder of what is truly important during this Lenten season.

alone in our journey, as those before us made their own footprints in the sand. It also reminds us of the desert — a place of isolation, a place where there are no televisions, or video games or cell phones to distract us.

Take a bowl of sand and use it as a reminder that sometimes you need to retreat, you need to take away distractions in your life to understand what's really going on around you.

Think about what temptations are around you and how you deal with them. Think about the ways you want to grow in your life, and the role God plays and will play in your life.

### A CANDLE

When we were baptized, a bap-

tismal candle was lit from the Easter candle in the church and the following words were spoken, "Receive the light of Christ. Keep this flame burning brightly."

Christ is the light of the world, and that is what the candle symbolizes. As a family you can gather around a lit candle and thank Jesus for continuing to be the light of the world.

Light is a beautiful and important symbol of Lent and Easter. Before the start of the Easter Vigil — the Saturday before Easter, which is celebrated on April 4 this year — the new fire is lit as a way to symbolize that Jesus is risen and brings light to the darkness of the world.

Also during the vigil, your parish's

Easter candle is blessed. It provides the flame for candles used during celebrations, such as baptisms. Attending the Easter Vigil is a great family experience. Perhaps put it on your family's calendar.

### A BIBLE

The word of God is present in our lives when the Bible is present in our homes. But if the Bible is not opened and read, does it do us any good spiritually?

Perhaps during this Lent, you and your family could make a commitment to sit down and read Scripture together. Ask your director of religious education about suggestions for particular passages.

### WATER

Just as the candle reminds us of our baptism, so can a bowl of water. You and your family can write a prayer together. The Collaborative Ministry Office of Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., offers this prayer: "Lord, may this water

### LENTEN FYI

• Ashes — On Ash Wednesday a cross of ashes is put upon our foreheads and we are told, "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return (which comes from Genesis 3:19).

The ashes remind us we do commit sins and during Lent we should treasure the opportunity to repent and gain forgiveness of our sins.

• Palm fronds — And where do the ashes come from? The palms from last year's Palm Sunday, which is the Sunday right before Easter Sunday. Leftover palm fronds are burned and the ashes are preserved for the following Ash Wednesday.

remind us of our baptism and be a blessing for our home, where our dying and rising in you is lived each day. Bless us as we sign ourselves with it each day."

Information for this article came from the Collaborative Ministry Office of Creighton University in Omaha, Neb. For more information, visit [onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry](http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry).

## WHO ME? SACRIFICE?

Prayer. Almsgiving. Fasting. It's what Lent is all about. How do you pray? How often do you pray? How many times have you watched a television show for the third, fourth or fifth time? Maybe instead of taking that time to rewatch that show, take that 22 minutes to tell God about your day. What hurt. What surprised you. What made you nervous. What made you smile.

Almsgiving is the act of giving to those in need. Whether it is sharing of your time, talent and treasure, Lent is the perfect time to give.

Why do we fast? First, it symbolizes our hunger to know God. It is also a show of solidarity for those who do not have enough to eat and those who are struggling. Sometimes the best way to see how blessed we are is when we are fasting.

If you visit the *Florida Catholic* online at [www.thefloridacatholic.org](http://www.thefloridacatholic.org), you can download a Lenten calendar that can help you and your family focus on prayer, almsgiving and fasting. You can remember days of fasting and abstinence, think about sacrifice and also mark down people who need your prayers day-by-day.



## LENTEN WORD SEARCH

ABSTINENCE	R	S	F	D	W	Q	S	X	C	R	A	A	S	O	O
ALMSGIVING	B	N	A	W	O	H	D	H	I	B	E	A	B	Y	M
ASH	U	O	M	P	A	G	R	P	S	F	N	T	H	U	V
BIBLE	A	I	I	L	E	I	I	T	G	D	I	Y	S	C	G
CANDLE	L	T	L	X	S	X	I	N	N	N	A	C	G	A	V
CHRIST	M	A	Y	T	Z	N	I	B	U	O	Z	H	U	S	E
CROSS	S	T	Q	P	E	T	H	L	I	P	J	R	T	R	F
CRUCIFIX	G	S	R	N	S	Y	N	E	N	B	R	I	P	F	C
EASTER	I	S	C	A	E	L	D	N	A	C	L	A	F	T	J
FAMILY	V	E	F	S	T	R	T	T	Q	H	F	E	Y	W	D
FASTING	I	P	H	U	S	A	V	E	J	O	U	R	N	E	Y
JESUS	N	R	X	S	M	L	K	I	N	Q	W	A	T	E	R
JOURNEY	G	B	O	E	C	I	F	I	R	C	A	S	H	S	A
LENT	T	R	J	J	D	Z	D	X	R	A	A	I	J	K	W
PRAYER	C	B	J	V	Q	E	H	W	O	Q	M	R	G	K	W
SACRIFICE															
SAND															
STATIONS															
WATER															

Answers on Page A18

### IMPORTANT DATES

- Wednesday, Feb. 17 — Ash Wednesday (beginning of Lent)
- Sunday, March 28 — Palm Sunday
- Thursday, April 1 — Holy Thursday (This celebration marks the Last Supper, and many times a re-enactment of the washing of the feet occurs.)
- Friday, April 2 — Good Friday (A day to mark Jesus' death; a good day to witness the Stations of the Cross)
- Saturday, April 3 — Holy Saturday
- Sunday, April 4 — Easter Sunday

Abstinence (no eating of meat) is a rule for all Fridays of Lent. Fasting and abstinence are encouraged for Catholics 14 and older up to age 60 on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.