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OF MIAMI

PALM SUNDAY IS MARCH 28



DANIEL SOÑÉ | FC

In this file photo from 2008, Armand Hercule holds his palm leaf during the Palm Sunday Mass celebrated by Archbishop John C. Favalora at St. Mary Cathedral. Holy Week begins Sunday, March 28. The archbishop will celebrate Mass at the cathedral at 10 a.m. For a complete listing of the cathedral's Holy Week schedule, as well as that of other archdiocesan parishes, turn to pages A4-5.

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Help yourself: Fill out the census

Archdiocese joins efforts with the U.S. Census Bureau to ensure everyone is counted in 2010

BRENDA TIRADO-TORRES
Florida Catholic correspondent

MIAMI — If you think that ignoring the Census 2010 will have no impact, think again: At stake are federal dollars that could help your community.

This year's census is so crucial that faith-based organizations are joining efforts with the U.S. Census Bureau and local governments to educate the faithful about the importance of being counted.

More than 130 million addresses across the nation are receiving the 2010 Census form this month. March 19-21 has been designated Faith-Based Census Awareness Weekend by the U.S. Census Bureau. The Archdiocese of Miami is encouraging its pastors to educate their parishioners about the census, and urging the faithful to cooperate.

The Constitution of the United States requires that a national census be taken every 10 years for the purpose of determining the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Counting every person living in the country also helps to determine the allocation of federal funds for community services, such as



MARLENE QUARONI | FC

Miami Auxiliary Bishop Felipe Estevez talks to the media about the clergy's necessity to motivate Haitians and others in south Florida to participate fully in the 2010 U.S. Census during a press conference held in December 2009 at Notre Dame d'Haiti.

school lunch programs, child care and senior citizen centers, and new construction, such as highways and hospitals. Every year, the federal government distributes more than \$400 billion to local, state and tribal governments based on census data.

"Complying with the census is more important this year because of the recession and the overwhelm-

ing financial crisis," said Maria De la Milera, special projects coordinator for the Building and Neighborhood Compliance Department of Miami-Dade County.

"We know that foreclosures in Miami-Dade will affect us in the census; that is why it is so important for everyone to be counted. The county offers many services to the community, such as medical care, housing, transportation, child care and job placement, and we need federal subsidies to keep providing them. For each person who is not counted in the census, Miami-Dade County loses between \$1,200 to \$3,000 in federal subsidies per year, and the negative impact on the community would be overwhelming," De la Milera said.

Religious organizations and institutions rely on census data to apply for grants, determine locations for new facilities, and connect with potential new members. Miami-Dade County and the Census Bureau have requested assistance from faith leaders to raise awareness among the faithful about the importance of returning the com-

ABOUT CENSUS 2010

- With only 10 questions to answer, the 2010 Census form is shorter, making it easier to fill in and send back.

- Census Day is April 1. Questionnaire responses should represent the household as it exists on this day. They should be mailed back by April 15.

- Those who do not send back a completed census form can expect a visit from census workers between May and July.

- 2010 Census form language assistance guides are available in at least 59 languages. Questionnaire Assistance Centers also will assist those unable to read or understand the form. The assistance centers are open seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., through July 30. The phone number is 1-866-872-6868 in English; 1-866-928-2010 in Spanish; or

1-866-783-2010 for the hearing impaired.

- Census takers are organizing outreach events in neighborhoods such as Little Haiti and others with large concentrations of immigrants because many people there are not familiar with the census. Pastors should check with the Census Bureau about the possibility of having a campaign at their parishes to inform people about the census and assist parishioners in completing the forms.

- For more information, visit www.2010census.gov, www.miamidade.gov/census2010, or www.miamiarch.org.

- Miami-Dade County residents without Internet access can dial 311 to ask questions about the census. In Broward and Monroe counties, the number to call is 1-800-923-8282.

PLEASE SEE CENSUS, A5

Two elementary schools closing

Financial concerns, underenrollment lead pastors at St. Joseph and St. Elizabeth of Hungary to close their parish schools at the end of this school year

ANGELIQUE RUHI-LOPEZ
Florida Catholic correspondent

MIAMI — When Paul Hammett was a child, he longed to attend the school at his parish of St. Elizabeth of Hungary.

"I always wanted to go there but my family couldn't afford it, so I always knew I would send my kids there. When we finally could, it was what we expected it to be for our children: a great school, a great parish and a great environment," Hammett said of his two youngest children, Lindsey, an eighth-grader, and Daniel, a sixth-grader at St. Elizabeth-St. Joseph School. (The name St.

Joseph was added to the school last year after the parish merged with St. Joseph Haitian Mission in Pompano.)

This year will be the last that the Hammett children and all students of St. Elizabeth-St. Joseph will attend the 49-year-old school: Father Paul Kane, pastor, announced March 9 that the school will not reopen for the 2010-2011 school year, citing financial reasons and underenrollment.

"We didn't come to a decision overnight," said Father Kane of the school, which offers pre-K4 through eighth grade. "We had 530 students enrolled in the 2003-



COURTESY

St. Elizabeth-St. Joseph School will close after this school year.

2004 school year and we have had a steady and significant decline in enrollment since then. We currently have 160 students and only had 96 students enrolled for next year."

St. Elizabeth was not the only school to announce in early March that it was closing its doors: St. Joseph School in Miami Beach also will close at the end of the current school year.

"We have been underenrolled for 11 years now and during these years, there have been less than 200 children in our school," said

Father Enrique Estrada, pastor at St. Joseph.

In a letter to his parishioners, Father Estrada cited three reasons for the decision to close the school: the economy, low enrollment and demographic changes in the community.

"Everyone is devastated, including all the people who have walked our hallways in the past 53 years," said Father Estrada. "It was a tough decision, but we needed to do it, in all fairness. I could not postpone this until May or June because families need to

find new schools and teachers need to find new jobs."

"These pastors and principals have left no stone unturned trying to see different ways to recruit more students, get funding, and pay down their debt," said Brother Richard DeMaria, director of Christian Formation and superintendent of schools for the archdiocese, "but each of them separately came to the conclusion that they couldn't go forward another year without adding more debt to what they already

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Archdiocese outlines plan for providing long-term aid to Haiti

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO

Florida Catholic staff

MIAMI — The Archdiocese of Miami has committed more than \$1 million to immediate and long-term relief in Haiti, including \$40,000 apiece to each of the country's 10 dioceses.

But the money is only the beginning, as teams of medical personnel and clergy have begun rotating in and out of the island, providing one-on-one assistance to thousands who are camped out in church facilities there, and offering respite to the priests and religious who are caring for them.

"We are going to offer medical care, we are going to cook food and also (provide) pastoral care," said Msgr. Jean Pierre, pastor of St. James Parish in North Miami and the archdiocese's point-man for Haiti relief.

He spent the first three weeks after the Jan. 12 earthquake in Port-au-Prince and identified four places where the archdiocese has begun to provide assistance: St. Louis King of France Parish, staffed by the Montfort Fathers; Our Lady of Lourdes Parish; St. Bernadette Parish in the Matisant section of the city; and the Salesian Sisters community in Carrefour, not far from Port-au-Prince.

"They have close to 8,000 people living there," said Msgr. Pierre, referring to the Salesian community. "In every parish there are tents. The people are staying around the parishes."

That makes it easy for the Church here to provide direct aid to the Church there, as buildings may have fallen but the parochial structure of the Catholic Church survives.

Already, the archdiocese has shipped "probably 100,000 pounds of food, cooking utensils, medical supplies and tents to the various parishes within Port-au-Prince and to the Diocese of Port-de-Paix" in northwestern Haiti, said Deacon Richard Turcotte, director of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami.

Port-de-Paix is the sister diocese of the Archdiocese of Miami, the poorest region in Haiti, and now home to thousands of earthquake survivors who have left Port-au-Prince.

Catholic Charities spent about \$180,000 getting those supplies to Haiti, money that came from a total of about \$400,000 donated directly to the agency for Haiti relief.

The \$1 million which the archdiocese has committed to Haiti came from the special collection held the weekend of Jan. 16 and 17 in all the parishes in Miami-Dade, Broward

and Monroe counties.

Deacon Turcotte stressed that the outreach being provided by the archdiocese is "Church to Church. We're giving no money to government or any other aid agency at this point."

The Archdiocese of Miami also will assist Haitian earthquake survivors living in south Florida by offering them counseling and providing them with food vouchers and emergency financial assistance.

From its own collection, Catholic Charities has set aside about \$200,000 to assist medical evacuees who were brought to south Florida, as well as repatriated American citizens and the families who are caring for them here, Deacon Turcotte said.

Those who are eligible will receive food vouchers for up to 90 days, and \$75 in one-time cash assistance. Another \$10,000 will be used to purchase food cards from Publix which will be distributed by the pastors of the archdiocese's three predominantly Haitian parishes.

The archdiocese also is seeking medical personnel — including counselors and psychologists — to volunteer for five- or 10-day trips to Haiti.

"We'll provide them with a place to stay, transportation and security,

WHAT ABOUT THE ORPHANS?

Financial sponsorships more practical than adoption, priests say

Days after the earthquake struck Haiti, hundreds of people from throughout the United States e-mailed the Archdiocese of Miami, volunteering to adopt or serve as foster parents for children orphaned by the quake.

Shortly thereafter, the U.S. bishops, Catholic Charities USA and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC) wrote to the U.S. State Department and Homeland Security urging that a series of measures be put in place to protect the children from exploitation.

Those measures included the establishment of safe havens for children in Haiti; a system for reuniting them with parents or family members; a process for determining what would serve the best interest of the child; and, where appropriate, the granting of humanitarian visas for them to come to the United States.

"So far, neither Ken Hackett (president of Catholic Relief Services) nor Ambassador (Johnny) Young (executive director of Migration and Refugee Services for the U.S. bishops) can confirm that any of that is being done by anybody in Haiti," said Deacon Richard Turcotte, chief executive officer of Catholic Charities for the archdiocese.

In light of that reality, and the fact that many of Haiti's orphans have been taken

in by relatives, the archdiocesan pastoral plan for Haiti calls for people in the U.S. to help the children in other ways: by providing financial support to orphanages in Haiti; by funding scholarships to allow the children to continue their education; and by paying for the education, room and board of individual children and teenagers.

"It is practical and feasible to help directly some of those children that have been affected by the earthquake," said Msgr. Jean Pierre, pastor of St. James Parish in North Miami.

"The sponsorship program is the best way to deal with the situation now. There are children who have lost both parents but they have relatives that are willing to take them in. But to do that they will need (financial) support," he explained.

That aid can be provided through the parishes in Haiti, by making financial donations to the Archdiocese of Miami.

"If people here can sponsor kids for school for a year or two years," it would be a great help, Msgr. Pierre said.

Father Reginald Jean-Mary, pastor of Notre Dame d'Haiti, said the archdiocese also envisions giving scholarships to at least 100 Catholic youths, to encourage them to go back to school or learn a trade.

"That will give them a way out and help them to be self-sustaining in the future," he said.

but they'll have to contribute \$750 for airfare and food," said Father Reginald Jean-Mary, pastor of Notre Dame d'Haiti in Miami, who also

has traveled to Haiti several times since the earthquake.

PLEASE SEE HAITI, A9

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The Gospel of suffering

My dear friends,

We live in an age of instant gratification. If we want to call someone, we reach for the phone in our pocket. If we want to look up a fact or a reference, we Google it.

Instant gratification does not go well with suffering. We want immediate cures for what ails us, be it a disease like cancer or Parkinson's, an unplanned pregnancy, a difficult family situation or even the economic crisis.

And yet, as Christians, we profess to believe in a God who chose suffering as the means of salvation.

Jesus proved that the Father loves us precisely by dying on the cross, by allowing himself to become an innocent victim of our human injustice, our collective pride, our stubborn disobedience.

Perhaps that is why the Gospel seems so unattractive to so many in the world today: A suffering servant? A religious leader who washed his disciples' feet? A God who reduced himself to our human nature, becoming like us in every way but sin?

Indeed, as we prepare to enter

Holy Week, we may struggle to make sense of the crucifixion. We may have difficulty relating it to our modern lives.

Perhaps it would help if we asked ourselves: Where do I see Jesus suffering today? Where can I find the hope that the Gospel promises despite the certainty of suffering and death? Where are people living the Beatitudes in such a way as to be an example to me?

I think we can find that in the suffering people of Haiti. They are preaching the Gospel in the way St. Francis of Assisi advised

his followers to do: "Preach the Gospel always; use words when necessary."

Haiti's long-suffering people have been buffeted by storm after storm throughout their history, both literally and figuratively. The recent earthquake is one more in a long list of trials. Like Job of the Old Testament, however, their faith has never faltered.

Their example provides an interesting way for us to reflect this Lent on our attitude toward God: Do we believe in a God of instant

gratification, who grants our every wish like a fairy-tale genie? Do we turn away from God when things do not turn out the way we hope?

The Haitian people, I believe, are living examples of the Beatitudes Jesus preached. They truly are "the poor" of this world. Accustomed to having nothing, they are patient, meek and humble in the face of disaster.

I think those of us who are not so materially poor, those of us accustomed to having much — and all at the push of a button — are much more impatient with God and with others. We have succumbed to the "me-first" materialistic mentality so rampant today across our nation.

Those who have nothing, on the other hand, recognize that life itself is a gift, undeserved and of immeasurable value. It is not difficult then to understand what Jesus meant when he said, "Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours" (Lk 6:20); and later, "Woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation" (Lk 6:24).

This Lent might be a good time to examine our consciences as to where we fall on the scale of "rich" or "poor" in Jesus' eyes. Do we be-

APPOINTMENTS

Archbishop John C. Favalora has made the following appointments:

Effective Feb. 17:

Father Manuel (Tito) Soler — pastor, Our Lady of Divine Providence, Miami.

Effective Feb. 9

Father Jeremiah Singleton — member, Vocations Board, for a term of four years.

Father Chamel Jeanty — member, Vocations Board, for a term of four years.

From the chancellor:

The New Divine Mercy Catholic Community, located at 2749 N.E. 10th Ave., Wilton Manors, is not associated with the Archdiocese of Miami nor is it in full communion with Pope Benedict XVI. Roman Catholics should not approach their clergy for the reception of the sacraments, including but not limited to matrimony.

lieve despite sufferings and trials and tribulations? Or do we turn away from God when life becomes difficult?

Christianity teaches us there is life after death. But there is no resurrection without crucifixion. ■

NEWSbriefs

Delve into Genesis at St. Thomas U.

Genesis 37-50, the Joseph story, will be the topic of the next presentation in St. Thomas University's Catholic Biblical Scholar Series.

The guest scholar will be Dominican Sister Barbara Green, professor of biblical studies at the Dominican School of Philosophy, Graduate Theological Union. She will present the Ray Apicella lecture on Friday evening, April 16, 7:30-9:15 p.m., in the Chapel of St. Anthony on the university campus. She also will lead a seminar on Saturday, April 17, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., on campus.

The registration fee for the daylong seminar is \$25. For reservations, e-mail jreisinger@stu.edu or call 305-628-6765.

Speaker explores liberation theology

Barry University will host a special lecture on "Gustavo Gutierrez Meets Giuseppe Verdi: The Beauty of Liberation and the Liberation of Beauty" on Monday, March 22, 7-9 p.m., in Andreas Building, Room 112.

The speaker will be James B. Nickoloff, adjunct professor of theology at Barry and editor of "Gustavo Gutierrez: Essential Writings" as well as co-editor of "An Introductory Dictionary of Religious Studies and Theology." Nickoloff, a Los Angeles native, has lived in Korea; Jamaica; and Lima, Peru; and from 1989 to 2009 taught Catholic systematic theology at the College of the Holy Cross in Massachusetts.

Admission to the lecture is free. For information call 305-899-4887.

Health care at life's end: Church teaching

Father Roberto Cid, parochial vicar at St. Gregory Parish in Plantation, will discuss health care issues at the end of life during two sessions to be hosted at the parish: one in English on Tuesday, March 23, and one in Spanish on Thursday, April 29, both beginning at 7 p.m. Topics will include aggressive medical treatment, palliative care and euthanasia.

"Families and patients often find themselves struggling to make difficult decisions about

HOLY WEEK AT THE CATHEDRAL

Following is the schedule of Holy Week activities at St. Mary Cathedral, 7525 N.W. Second Ave., Miami. The public is welcome to attend. For information call 305-759-4531 or go to www.cathedralofsaintmary.com.

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 28

- 4:30 p.m., Saturday, confessions
- 5:30 p.m., Saturday, English vigil Mass

- Sunday: 6:30 a.m., English Mass; 7:30 a.m., Haitian Creole Mass; 10 a.m., English Choir Mass celebrated by Archbishop John C. Favalora; noon, Mass in Spanish.

CHRISM MASS

- Tuesday, March 30, 10:30 a.m., with blessing of oils, renewal of priestly vows, celebrated by Archbishop Favalora.

TENEBRAE

- Wednesday, March 31, 7:30 p.m., musical service commemorating the Lord's Passion and death.

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 1

- 7:30 p.m., trilingual Mass of the Lord's Supper, celebrated by Archbishop Favalora, followed by eucharistic adoration

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2

- noon, Service of the Lord's Passion
- 3 p.m., Stations of the Cross
- 7:30 p.m., trilingual Service of the Passion celebrated by Archbishop Favalora, followed by Procession of the Sorrowful Mother

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 3

- 4:30 p.m., confessions
- 8 p.m., trilingual Easter Vigil Mass celebrated by Archbishop Favalora with blessing of the new fire and sacraments of initiation

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4

- 6:30 a.m., English sunrise Mass
- 8 a.m., Haitian Creole Easter Mass
- 10 a.m., English Easter Mass with choir
- noon, Spanish Easter Mass

end-of-life care under pressure from interest groups without a properly formed conscience," Father Cid said. For information call 954-473-6261.

'Drive-thru' Passion at St. Vincent

The Brazilian community at

St. Vincent Parish is sponsoring its first "live Passion" where visitors can drive through the parish grounds visiting each Station of the Cross.

The Passion can be viewed Saturday, March 27, and Sunday, March 28, from 8 to 11 p.m. St. Vincent is located at 6350 N.W. 18 St., Margate. For information, call 786-262-4649

CENSUS

FROM A1

pleted census forms.

Last December, the archdiocese implemented an action plan to encourage the participation of all the faithful in the Census 2010. The campaign began with an ecumenical press conference at Notre Dame d'Haiti Mission in Miami, followed by meetings with principals of Catholic elementary schools and a letter from Archbishop John C. Favalora to all pastors, reinforcing the archdiocese's involvement with the census and asking priests to reiterate the need for participating.

"With the help of the parishes, we can get our message across to a larger audience," De la Milera said. "Church is very important to many people. They pay more attention and give more credibility if the message comes from a priest or a pastor. Parishioners in general follow the advice of their priest."

Pastors are receiving weekly announcements from the archdiocese for publication in their parish bulletins, and interviews with Census 2010 representatives will air on "Conversations with Archbishop Favalora" (available on the archdiocesan Web site, www.miamiarch.org, March 16-19 and 22); on www.spiritonlineaudio.org; and on Radio Paz 830 AM, along with public service announcements during the programming.

The census form does not ask for immigration status or Social Security numbers, something that should relieve anxieties concerning identity theft and retaliation against undocumented immigrants. It only asks for name, address, date of birth,

race, origin, how many people live in the household, and if the person owns or rents the property.

By law, the U.S. Census Bureau cannot share an individual's personal information with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement. Every census employee must keep collected information confidential. If they share it, they commit a felony.

Households that do not respond may receive a replacement form in early April, and through the month of July, census workers will visit those households that do not return the form to take a count in person.

Census workers will be wearing a badge and carrying a briefcase that will clearly identify them as employees for the Census Bureau. People also have the right to request a third

identification from the worker to make sure that it is the same person from the Census Bureau.

"To put it simply, if you want your community and the county to

receive better funding for schools, hospitals and other services, and to affect its voice in Congress, you must complete the census form and return it," De la Milera said. ■

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HOLY WEEK MASS Schedules

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■ St. Matthew

542 Blue Heron Drive
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<http://saintmatthewcc.com>
jquinn14@bellsouth.net
954-458-1590

PENANCE

Confessions: Sat., March 27, 3 p.m.; Tues., March 30 and Wednesday, March 31 from 9-9:30 a.m.

HOLY THURSDAY

7 p.m. (English/Spanish)

GOOD FRIDAY

7 PM (English/Spanish)

EASTER VIGIL MASS, SATURDAY
7 PM (English/Spanish)

EASTER MASSES, SUNDAY
8:30 a.m., 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m. (Spanish)

MIAMI

■ Ermita de la Caridad

3609 S. Miami Ave.
Miami, FL 33133
Padreoscar@ermitadelacaridad.org

CONFESSIONS

Monday – Sunday: 9 a.m. - 12 pm, 3 p.m.-6 p.m., 7:30-8 p.m.

HOLY THURSDAY

8 p.m. (Spanish), Adoration till midnight

GOOD FRIDAY

9 a.m. *Via Crucis por Cuba*, 3 p.m. *Liturgia en la Ermita*, 6 p.m. *Via Crucis*
7 p.m. *Liturgia en St. Kieran*, 8 p.m. *Procesión del Santo Entierro*, (Spanish)

HOLY SATURDAY

12 p.m. *Liturgia de las Horas*

EASTER VIGIL MASS

8 p.m.

EASTER MASSES

6 a.m., 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. (Spanish)

■ St. Hugh

3460 Royal Road
Miami, FL 33133
305-444-8363

HOLY THURSDAY

5-6 p.m. Confessions/*Confesiones*, 6 p.m. EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER, 8 p.m. *MISA DE LA ÚLTIMA CENA DEL SEÑOR*, Silent Eucharistic Adoration until 12 a.m.

GOOD FRIDAY

3 p.m. STATIONS OF THE CROSS, 4 p.m. *VIA CRUCIS EN ESPAÑOL*, 5:30 p.m. CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION, 7:30 p.m. *CELEBRACIÓN DE LA PASIÓN DEL SEÑOR*

HOLY SATURDAY

8 p.m. *EASTER VIGIL-BILINGUAL/VIGILIA PASCUAL-BILINGUE*, Service of Light, Liturgy of the Word, Initiation, Holy Eucharist

EASTER SUNDAY

English Masses: 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.; *Misa en Español*: Noon and 6:30 p.m.

■ St. Joseph

8625 Byron Ave.
Miami, FL 33141
305-866-6567

PALM SUNDAY

5:30 p.m. (Sat. Vigil) 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. - English
12:30 y 6p.m. - (Español)

PENANCE SERVICE (CONFESSIONS)
Mon. March 29 7:30 p.m.

HOLY THURSDAY

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer, 11 a.m. Confessions, 7:30 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper/*Misa de la Cena del Señor* - (Bilingual)
Adoration until Midnight

GOOD FRIDAY

8 a.m. Morning Prayer, noon Stations of the Cross (led by our students), 3 p.m. Celebration of the Lord's Passion, 7 p.m. *Via Crucis*, 7:30 p.m. *Celebración de la Pasión del Señor*

HOLY SATURDAY

8 a.m. Morning Prayer, (No 5:30 p.m. Mass), 8 p.m. Easter Vigil (Bilingual)

EASTER SUNDAY

The Resurrection of the Lord 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. (English), 12:30 y 6 p.m. (Español)

MIAMI SPRINGS

■ Blessed Trinity

4020 Curtiss Parkway
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BILINGUAL PENANCE SERVICE
Mon., March 29, 7 p.m.

HOLY THURSDAY

Bilingual Mass, 7:30 p.m.
Adoration until 10 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY

Via Crucis, 1 p.m.; Stations of the Cross, 3 p.m., Confessions, 3:30-5 p.m., Celebration of the Passion of the Lord, 7 p.m., *Celebración de la Pasión del Señor*, 8:30 p.m.

HOLY SATURDAY

Bilingual Easter Vigil Mass, 8 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY

English Masses: 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 5:30 p.m.; Spanish Masses: 12:30 p.m., 7 p.m.

TAMARAC

■ St. Malachy

6200 N. University Drive
Tamarac, FL 33321
stmalachychurch@comcast.org
954-726-1237

HOLY THURSDAY

7:30 pm

GOOD FRIDAY

Noon, 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

HOLY SATURDAY

Easter Vigil: 7:30 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY

7:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. (Spanish)

CONFESSIONS

Holy Thursday: 11 a.m. to noon; Good Friday: After the 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Liturgy; Holy Saturday: 2-3 p.m.

TAVERNIER

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CONFESSIONS

Holy Thursday: 6-6:45 p.m.; Good Friday: 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

HOLY THURSDAY

Mass of the Lords Supper-7 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY

Stations of the Cross 3 p.m., The Passion Service (No Mass) 7 p.m.

HOLY SATURDAY

Easter Vigil (No Confessions): 8 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunrise Service (Main Church Only) 7 a.m., Mass in Church-Children's Choir 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., Mass in Williams Hall: 9:05 a.m. and 11:05 a.m.

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SCHOOL

FROM A2

had."

In the case of St. Elizabeth-St. Joseph, the debt accrued both this year and in prior years will rise to \$1.3 million by the end of this school year. Some of that is owed to the archdiocese; more than \$850,000 is owed to Bank of America, with principal and interest needing to be paid starting in July of this year.

"It's painful to come to the point where you cannot operate a parish school due to insufficient resources. It breaks my heart," said Father Kane, who became pastor of St. Elizabeth in August. "The school is a tremendous ministry of the parish and will be one that we will miss greatly."

Father Kane said that many efforts were made to try to keep the school viable, including reducing expenses and eliminating teaching positions. A team of parents also formed a public relations and marketing committee to promote the school to the surrounding community through direct mailing, a 30-second commercial on Comcast Cable, and appeals to potential donors for seed money to eliminate the school debt. An unprecedented five open houses also were held in an attempt to increase enrollment. These efforts were not sufficient to keep the school open, however.

"It's just a sign of the times. Everybody is hurting and the numbers just don't add up," said Hammett, who said that his son, Daniel, will complete the seventh and eighth grades at St. Coleman School in Pompano Beach. "We've been at the school for years and years, and for it to end on our watch is difficult. We will keep praying and hope that things will come back around."



COURTESY

St. Joseph School in Miami Beach will close after this school year.

'BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY'

Administrators at St. Joseph School had been forewarning parents since early 2010 that challenging times lay ahead.

"We have to be very blessed and extremely grateful for the level of commitment, dedication and the effort shown by Father Estrada and school principal Dr. (Maria) Chelala," said Terry Howard, president of the Home and School Association at St. Joseph for the past three years. "They've gone beyond the call of duty to try to keep the school open. They've suffered through this and not all parents understand this. Although it's a difficult thing for them, they've done everything in their power to keep the school open."

Howard and other parents are trying to identify donors who can support the school in the hopes of being able to keep it open.

"We as parents want to make sure that we don't leave any stone unturned and try to affect some way of turning this around, but it's a difficult situation," said Howard, who has had three children graduate from St. Joseph and whose fourth child is currently an eighth-grader at the school. "We cannot allow for our children to lose their Catholic identity, but at the same time, we have to respect the decisions that have been made. We have to find hope as Catholics that God has bigger plans on the horizon that we can't understand."

Father Estrada explained that the school is running a deficit and 80 percent of the parish's \$1 million budget goes toward salaries and benefits.

"It will jeopardize the parish in the long run if we don't close the school now," said Father Estrada.

Chelala, principal at St. Joseph for the past five years, said that the numbers speak for themselves.

"This year we're providing 140 students an education but with loan advances from the archdiocese," she said. "Neither the archdiocese nor the parish can really own up to continually pay every year a debt incurred with loan advances. It's very sad. But at the same time, I'm grounded by the facts and reality of the numbers."

"The parents are very disheartened, like mourning a loss of a relative," Chelala said. "The hope is that someone can come up with a big donation. Who knows, maybe there's a good soul out there who wants to help us. Parents are doing their best to find ways of helping the school. It's all in God's hands."

Father Estrada invited the principals from the neighboring schools of St. Rose of Lima, St. Lawrence and St. Patrick to speak to St. Joseph parents about their respective schools.

"We're doing everything we can do," said Eugene Razzetti, chairperson of the finance committee at St. Joseph. "The principal has managed to locate other schools in this area that will take these kids. We're looking to put fantastic teachers out there and hope other schools will hire them. The teachers here

CLOSINGS BEGAN IN 2008

The closing of St. Joseph and St. Elizabeth-St. Joseph schools this June will bring the total school closings in the archdiocese to 10 since the spring of 2008.

For more than 15 years, the Archdiocese of Miami subsidized schools facing financial difficulties, despite steady declines in enrollment. Even with the archdiocese's annual Archbishop's Charities and Development (ABCD) appeal, the money collected was not sufficient to sustain subsidized schools and money had to be borrowed to cover the costs. After a two-year review involving several strategic planning meetings between archdiocesan officials and pastors concerning the financial future of these subsidized schools, Archbishop John C. Favalora met with all pastors in November 2008 informing them that due to the global economic crisis, the archdiocese could no longer provide any subsidies to schools. The archbishop asked the pastors to meet with their parish and finance councils to decide if their parishes would be able to completely support their schools without receiving archdiocesan subsidies.

In January 2009, it was announced that six of the parish elementary schools in the archdiocese had determined they could not continue operating without subsidies.

Another pastor had come to the same conclusion at the end of the 2008-2009 school year, and another decided the same thing a little later in 2009. Those eight pastors were given permission to rent their school buildings to charter companies for the 2009-2010 school year. Charter schools are government-funded and cannot teach religion, but they are run by private boards, and pay rent to the parishes where they operate — in many cases, making it possible for the parish itself to operate financially in the black.

Currently, Archbishop John C. Favalora has placed a moratorium on opening new charter schools until their effect on parishes and neighboring parish schools is evaluated.

Without St. Joseph and St. Elizabeth-St. Joseph, the archdiocese will have a total of 48 Catholic elementary schools operating next fall, along with 13 secondary schools.

are taking the news with amazing professionalism. With our former students and teachers, we will be taking a lot of St. Joseph to the outside world and that's a good thing."

Brother DeMaria wrote a letter to all principals in the archdiocese asking them to give special consideration to hiring the teachers of these two schools. Though other schools in the archdiocese may be struggling financially, he said he does not expect any other schools to make the decision to close at this time.

"I worry that this wonderful thing we have, Catholic education,

will become something only for the wealthy," said Brother DeMaria, who attended a meeting with parents and teachers at St. Elizabeth of Hungary. "Listening to the parents at that meeting, you know that those parents are absolutely convinced that that school has created a home, a learning experience for their children." ■

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2009-04-03 18

No shortage of heroes in Haiti these days

TOM TRACY

Special to the Florida Catholic

WEST PALM BEACH — I am a sucker for heroes, and these days, while there seem to be so few back home, they are everywhere to be found in Haiti, as I discovered on a second trip to that shell-shocked island following the Jan. 12 earthquake.

Never having seen Port-au-Prince before the earthquake, I find myself agreeing with those who look around and compare the Haitian capital to a war zone that has just been carpet bombed. Streets are clogged with rubble that one assumes will not all easily be cleared away.

We are told the so-called "heroic phase" of following a catastrophe winds down after a few weeks as the search and rescue teams head home, but at the end of February, the U.S. bishops led a small delegation (including Boston's Cardinal Sean O'Malley, San Antonio Archbishop Jose Gomez and others) to tour the damages and offer a message of solidarity. And there were plenty of heroics on display.

Those of us documenting the Church delegation met people like Deacon Patrick Moynihan, a former commodities trader from the Diocese of Providence, R.I., who showed



TOM TRACY | FC

Members of the Italian Armed Forces help repair a security wall at a Salesian mission in Port-au-Prince.

the bishops his multifaceted Haitian Project. It features a school for gifted students who are taking on leadership roles in the recovery, including serving as translators for visiting medical staff at St. Francis de Sales Hospital, the oldest hospital in Haiti which is now 80 percent in ruins.

Deacon Moynihan lives in a humble residence in Haiti with his wife and several terrific children. These days the deacon is dedicating about a quarter of his time to helping the Archdiocese of Port-au-Prince solve some of its most pressing problems,

including where to relocate the seminary and the old hospital.

Speaking of medicine, there are doctors from far and wide who have left their families for one or two weeks to sleep in tents, sleeping bags and guest houses while working long hours in unfamiliar circumstances. They roll up their sleeves and treat a myriad of secondary trauma situations and chronic illnesses, some of which are out of their areas of expertise, but which they nevertheless engage with a spirit of charity.

One such volunteer, a nurse serv-



At the ruins of the Haiti cathedral, Archbishop Bernardito Auza, the papal nuncio, gives an explanation of the extent of the damage to a visiting delegation from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

ing with a Catholic organization, had a heart attack last week and had to be airlifted to the Cleveland Clinic in Broward County.

Then there are the local clergy, now without their Archbishop Joseph Serge Miot, described as a kindly and spiritual man who would have been leading the Church at this time and receiving the many delegations of visitors, but instead lies in a temporary grave outside of town.

In his place, the newly appointed archdiocesan administrator, Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Lafontant, is in charge now of securing the Church's role during this critical time. Giving general assistance to the effort is the tireless and always cheerful papal nuncio, Archbishop Bernardito Auza, the Vatican's diplomat to Haiti.

Then there are the 1.3 million homeless. What can one say? You drive through the city and see people living in makeshift tents and housing, some of which we would not deem fit for an animal.

I saw a man standing on the second floor of a distressed building with nothing but a sledge hammer, smashing the concrete into pieces so that it could be cleared for new construction.

In one tough neighborhood, street youths already are back at their studies at a vocation training program with the Salesian missionaries, who are teaching young men and women to sew garments, to repair air conditioners, to make furniture — and if the finished product isn't good enough to sell at market,

the students don't pass the course.

Helping the Salesians rebuild a collapsed security wall were members of the Italian armed forces. I met a radar specialist from southern Italy who was mixing cement and laying bricks with the help of the very neighbors who live on what will be the other side of that wall. He praised the Haitian people for their friendliness, and asked to have his photo e-mailed to him when possible.

At the airport before leaving Haiti, I sat next to a priest for an hour or so; turns out he was Father Rob   Charles, pastor of St. Clement Parish in Fort Lauderdale, whom I had interviewed by phone a month before. Father Charles was just wrapping up his fourth medical mission from Florida to his homeland.

A Bahamian priest at the airport, who had also come to help, said he was not at all hopeful about the situation in Port-au-Prince, but Father Charles was doggedly positive — even though one detects a hint of sadness at the overwhelming nature of the Haiti catastrophe. He said he saw signs everywhere that the Haitian people are getting on with their lives, making steady progress in their situations and staying active.

The fact that visitors and relief workers can finally fly directly in and out of Haiti is one small miracle. There are many more miracles going on every day in Haiti. I am certain no one will ever know them all. ■

Tracy is a freelance writer living in West Palm Beach.

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TEN DAY HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

June 16-25, 2010



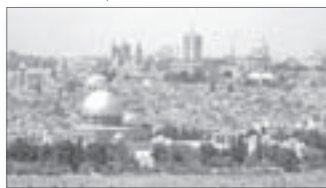
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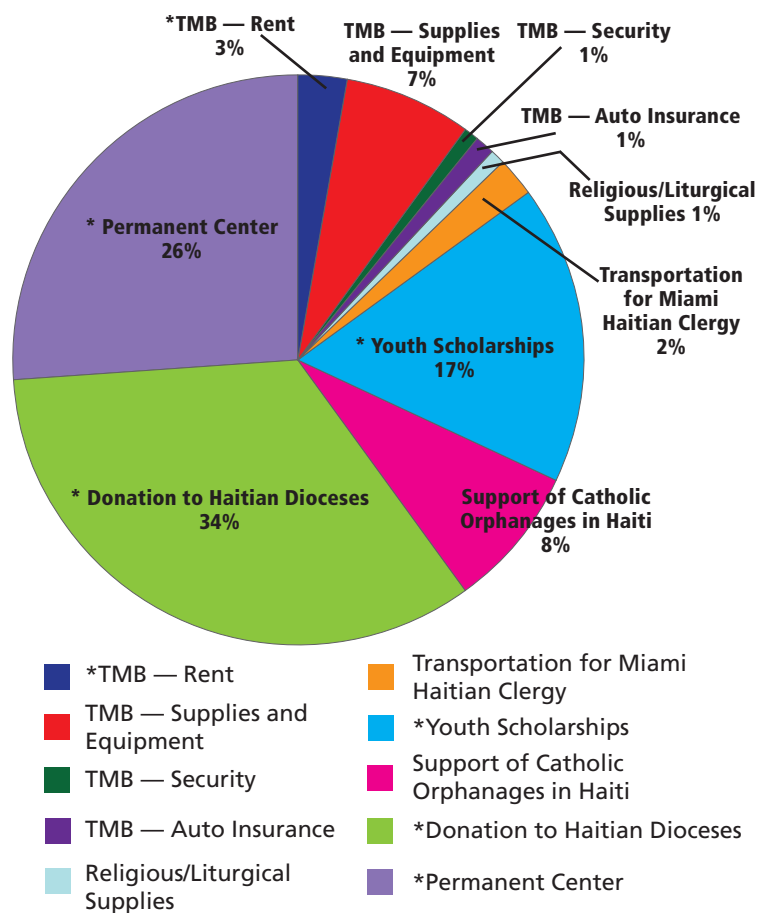
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Complete details of the archdiocesan pastoral plan for Haiti are available at www.miamiarch.org.

HAITI

FROM A3

The medical teams, priests and religious will not stay in one particular parish in Haiti, but move from place to place to tend to as many people as possible during their stay. That care will include looking after their physical, spiritual and emotional needs.

"My concept of it is like a Christian-based type of therapy to help the people vent and to pray with them," Msgr. Pierre said. "To give them a sense that everything is going to be OK and they are not alone."

"We'll bring doctors to see the patients, we'll bring counselors to listen to them, we'll feed them," Father Jean-Mary said, emphasizing that priests and religious will be cooking the food and serving it to the people. "We're feeding the people with dignity."

Local clergy also will be trading places with Haitian clergy for a couple of weeks at a time. Already, priests and religious from Haiti have come here to rest while Haitian priests from south Florida take their place in Haiti.

"It's like solidarity between the churches," Father Jean-Mary said. "It's more pastoral than just social."

It also will require a lot more than \$1 million to carry out.

Supplies of food are piling up at Notre Dame d'Haiti, but transporting them to Haiti is costly — nearly \$3,000 per container.

"I need cash to send those things," Father Jean-Mary said. "I'm just hoping that (people) will continue to help us trying to get more money to buy food. I'm praying and hoping that more people will donate."

With help from the Rotary Club and Miami Mayor Tomás Regalado, he recently obtained two ambulances from the city of Chicago and shipped them to the Church in Haiti. One will go to St. Francis de Sales Hospital in Port-au-Prince in memory of Archbishop Serge Miot, who died in the earthquake. The other will go to the main hospital in Gonaïves.

"We say we are there for the long haul, but we have to begin right now," Msgr. Pierre said. "We are asking for donations of time, talent and treasure. To continue to support the mission we are going to need money."

No one is under any illusions about the limitations of the archdiocese's pastoral mission in Haiti, added Father Jean-Mary.

"We cannot solve Haiti's problems. We are just trying to make a difference," he said. "We are just responding from our calling and our mission to play our part in the symphony of life in Haiti." ■

FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

Expenditure Amount

- *TMB- Rent \$30,000
- TMB - Supplies & Equipment \$88,000
- TMB- Security \$10,000
- TMB- Auto Insurance \$10,000
- Religious/ Liturgical Supplies - \$10,000
- Transportation for Miami

Haitian Clergy - \$20,000

- *Youth Scholarships - \$200,000
- Support of Catholic Orphanages in Haiti - \$100,000
- *Donation to Haitian Dioceses - \$400,000
- *Permanent Center - \$300,000
- Total \$1,168,000

*Temporary Mission Base = TMB

*100 Youth Scholarships will be awarded for 2 years

*Financial assistance to each of the 10 Haitian dioceses

*Acquisition of land, construction, furnishings, supplies, etc for permanent multi-purpose center

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My dear friends:

I am pleased to present the financial report of the Archdiocese of Miami for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2009. This annual report reflects the financial stewardship in the Archdiocese of Miami.



FROM THE
ARCHBISHOP

*John C.
Favalora*

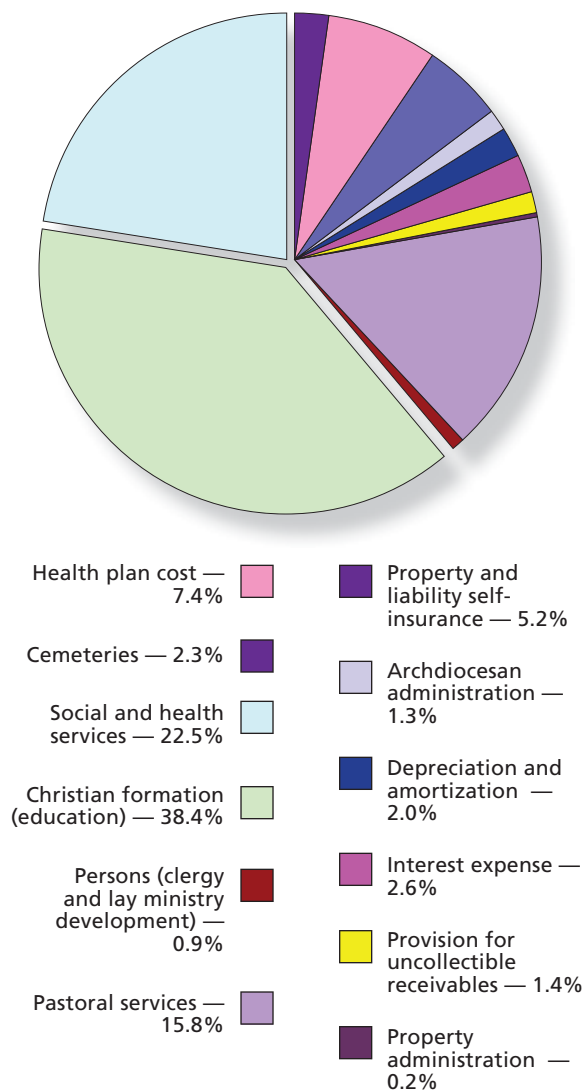
We as an archdiocese, individuals, communities, states, and nation continue to struggle with financial challenges and hardships confronting all of us for the better part of two years now. Daily it seems like these financial challenges and hardships are on the forefront of our minds, and for good reason, because all of our lives are being affected in one way or another.

We would be remiss, however, if we did not bring our minds back to Jan. 12, and more recently Feb. 27, two dates in

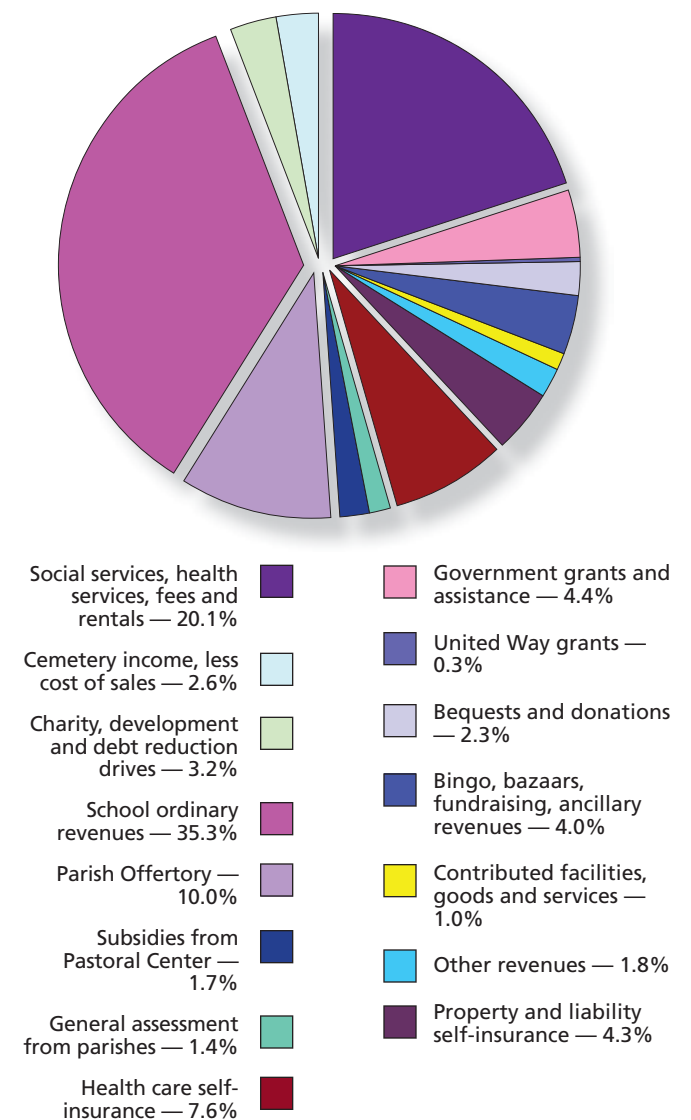
which at some point the financial challenges and hardships that we as organizations and individuals are faced with paled in comparison to the physical, emotional and spiritual challenges and hardships brought about by the catastrophic earthquakes in Haiti and Chile. I think it is safe to say that on those two dates we all, in our own way, stepped back and reflected on what is truly a challenge or hardship and what is a temporary inconvenience.

PLEASE SEE LETTER, A12

Expenditures



Support and Revenues



Archdiocese of Miami: Combining Balance Sheet at June 30, 2009, and 2008 (dollars in thousands)

	Pastoral Center	Churches	Schools			Cemeteries	Radio Station	Catholic Charities	Catholic Health Services	TOTALS	
			Elementary	Secondary	Colleges/ Universities					2009	2008
ASSETS											
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,927	\$ 63,667	\$ 49,991	\$ 15,768	\$ 9,304	\$ 2,076	\$ 55	\$ 4,717	\$ 10,754	\$ 158,259	\$ 150,005
Marketable securities	109,632	15,223	14,190	6,234	15,029				10,838	171,146	155,030
Receivables, net	12,130	132	8,124	25	7,269	34,280	486	3,916	11,965	78,327	102,847
Inventory and other assets	9,343				907	11,028	2,002	466	9,730	33,476	50,824
Land, buildings and equipment, net	42,879	524,290	70,690	115,674	50,339	5,043	2,504	11,756	103,602	926,777	901,706
Total assets	\$ 175,911	\$ 603,312	\$ 142,995	\$ 137,701	\$ 82,848	\$ 52,427	\$ 5,047	\$ 20,855	\$ 146,889	\$ 1,367,985	\$ 1,360,412
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS											
Notes payable	\$ 16,993	\$ 172,090	\$ 1,107	\$ 26,675	\$ 33,711	\$ 815	\$ 7,885	\$ 4,032	\$ 111,275	\$ 374,583	\$ 303,085
Advances and assessments due to Pastoral Center		6,568	222	140	1,263					8,193	59,508
Accounts payable and accrued expenses		3,210	2,506	1,233	4,755	2,016	366	850	13,072	28,008	45,506
Savings deposits payable to parishes and agencies	82,083									82,083	82,450
Self-insurance reserves	27,275									27,275	26,629
Trust accounts	8,467	8	106	2,354			23		826	11,784	13,339
Deferred revenues		77	13,258	6,143	759	13,957	4	523	111	34,832	51,404
Other liabilities	9,318	43			4,007	8,076	913	175	1,475	24,007	31,734
Total liabilities	144,136	181,996	17,199	36,545	44,495	24,864	9,191	5,580	126,759	590,765	613,715
NET ASSETS (DEFICIT)	31,775	421,316	125,796	101,156	38,353	27,563	(4,144)	15,275	20,130	777,220	746,697
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 175,911	\$ 603,312	\$ 142,995	\$ 137,701	\$ 82,848	\$ 52,427	\$ 5,047	\$ 20,855	\$ 146,889	\$ 1,367,985	\$ 1,360,412

See accompanying notes to combined financial statements.

Archdiocese of Miami: Combining Support and Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Net Assets
Twelve Months Ended June 30, 2009, and 2008 (dollars in thousands)

			Schools						Catholic Health Services	TOTALS	
	Pastoral Center	Churches	Elementary	Secondary	Colleges/ Universities	Cemeteries	Radio Station	Catholic Charities		2009	2008
SUPPORT AND REVENUES:											
Parish Offertory		\$ 62,382								\$ 62,382	\$ 61,784
School ordinary revenues			\$ 110,807	\$ 70,220	\$ 40,577					221,604	213,564
Charity, development and debt reduction drives	\$ 7,573	6,085	3,838	2,572						20,068	23,260
Cemetery income, less cost of sales						\$ 16,252				16,252	6,081
Social services, health services, fees and rentals								\$ 562	\$ 125,149	125,711	111,727
Government grants and assistance		129	391	380	4,314			22,464		27,678	25,388
United Way grants								1,386	202	1,588	1,592
Bequests and donations	289	5,410	2,138	644	3,712		\$ 559	1,865	19	14,636	13,425
Bingo, bazaars, fundraising, ancillary revenues		10,291	4,685	5,172	3,324		1,755			25,227	28,030
Interest and investment income	(7,654)	1,711	787	427	(1,217)	62			164	(5,720)	10,013
Contributed facilities, goods and services					128	73		4,219	1,915	6,335	6,065
Other revenues	1,116	5,945	1,330	381	3,653	554	1,873	94	1,937	16,883	31,957
Internal assessments and subsidies:											
Property and liability self-insurance	26,641									26,641	25,167
Health care self-insurance	47,609									47,609	46,196
Parish subsidies to/from schools		(11,052)	11,052								
General assessment from parishes	8,840									8,840	7,132
Subsidies from Pastoral Center		6,716	2,530	453	594		71	250		10,614	8,474
Total support and revenues	84,414	87,617	137,558	80,249	55,085	16,941	4,258	30,840	129,386	626,348	619,855
EXPENDITURES:											
Pastoral services	11,732	88,744								100,476	97,374
Persons (clergy and lay ministry development)	5,480									5,480	4,388
Christian formation (education)	4,315		115,048	75,585	50,289					245,237	244,209
Social and health services	894						4,853	28,333	109,786	143,866	135,450
Cemeteries						14,473				14,473	9,906
Health plan cost	46,828									46,828	46,898
Property and liability self-insurance	32,875									32,875	17,119
Archdiocesan administration	8,110									8,110	9,314
Depreciation and amortization	1,187				2,952	527	193	1,101	7,017	12,977	11,602
Interest expense	3,235	4,562		1,103	1,255		205	287	6,186	16,833	20,726
Provision for uncollectible receivables	4,821				522	321		23	2,979	8,666	6,042
Property administration	1,144								2	1,146	1,772
Total expenditures	120,621	93,306	115,048	76,688	55,018	15,321	5,251	29,744	125,970	636,967	604,800
EXCESS (DEFICIT) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	(36,207)	(5,689)	22,510	3,561	67	1,620	(993)	1,096	3,416	(10,619)	15,055
OTHER CHANGES IN NET ASSETS:											
Debt refinancing gain	52,501									52,501	
Building fund additions		6,095	1,520	4,485						12,100	10,028
Changes in restricted net assets	(2,126)	(13,019)	(4,150)	(1,290)	(4,111)				1,237	(23,459)	(29,426)
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	14,168	(12,613)	19,880	6,756	(4,044)	1,620	(993)	1,096	4,653	30,523	(4,343)
NET ASSETS (DEFICIT), BEGINNING	17,607	433,929	105,916	94,400	42,397	25,943	(3,151)	14,179	15,477	746,697	751,040
NET ASSETS (DEFICIT), ENDING	\$ 31,775	\$ 421,316	\$ 125,796	\$ 101,156	\$ 38,353	\$ 27,563	\$ (4,144)	\$ 15,275	\$ 20,130	\$ 777,220	\$ 746,697

See accompanying notes to combined financial statements.

FINANCIAL: Archdiocese of Miami financial statement continued

Archdiocese of Miami 2009 statistical data

Personnel

Archbishops.....	1
Auxiliary Bishops.....	2
Retired Bishops.....	2

Priests:

Diocesan Active in Diocese	177
Diocesan Active Outside Diocese	8
Diocesan in Foreign Missions.....	1
Retired, Sick or Absent	82
Number of Diocesan Priests.....	268
Religious Priests in Diocese	94
Total Priests in Diocese	362
Extern Priests in Diocese	60

Ordinations:

Diocesan Priests.....	6
Transitional Deacons	3
Permanent Deacons in Diocese	140
Total Brothers	48
Total Sisters	289

Parishes

Parishes	111
With Resident Pastor:	
Resident Diocesan Priests.....	101
Resident Religious Priests.....	10
Missions.....	7
Pastoral Centers	1
Professional Ministry Personnel:	
Brothers	1
Sisters	48
Lay Ministers	131

Welfare

Catholic Hospitals.....	2
Total Assisted.....	956,621
Health Care Centers.....	9
Total Assisted.....	7,291
Homes for Aged.....	5
Total Assisted.....	3,478
Residential Care of Children	2
Total Assisted.....	332
Day Care Centers.....	9
Total Assisted.....	3,104
Specialized Homes	2
Total Assisted.....	385
Special Centers for Social Services	17
Total Assisted.....	32,995

Residential Care of Disabled.....	1
Total Assisted.....	13
Other Institutions.....	13
Total Assisted.....	73,455

Educational

Seminaries, Diocesan	1
Students from This Diocese.....	17
Students from Other Dioceses.....	43
Diocesan Students in Other Seminaries	16
Total Seminarians.....	34
Colleges and Universities	2
Total Students.....	12,318
High Schools, Diocesan and Parish.....	9
Total Students.....	9,447
High Schools, Private.....	4
Total Students.....	3,270
Elementary Schools, Diocesan and Parish	56
Total Students.....	22,027
Elementary Schools, Private	2
Total Students.....	1,109
Nonresidential School for the Disabled.....	2
Total Students.....	1,048

Catechesis/Religious Education

High School Students	3,540
Elementary Students	36,280
Total Students under Catholic Instruction ..	89,073

Teachers in the Archdiocese:

Priests.....	26
Brothers.....	22
Sisters.....	67
Lay Teachers	3,149

Vital Statistics

Receptions into the Church:

Infant Baptism Totals	13,720
Adult Baptism Totals	655
Received into Full Communion	1,009
First Communions.....	12,290
Confirmations.....	8,478

Marriages:

Catholic	2,358
Interfaith	275
Total Marriages.....	2,633
Deaths	4,376
Total Catholic Population	736,089
Total Population.....	4,264,581

Source: 2009 Official Catholic Directory

Notes to Combined Financial Statements

1. The statements for churches, elementary schools and secondary schools are unaudited.
2. Intercompany accounts and transactions have not been eliminated.
3. The Catholic Health Services statements include the combined statements of:

Archbishop Hurley Hall, Inc.	06/30/09
Archbishop McCarthy Residence, Inc.	06/30/09
Carroll Manor, Inc.	06/30/09
Catholic Health Services, Inc.	09/30/09
Catholic Housing for the Elderly and Handicapped, Inc.	09/30/09
Marian Center Services for Developmentally Handicapped and Mentally Retarded, Inc.	06/30/09
Marian Towers, Inc.	06/30/09
Palmer House Inc.	06/30/09
St. Andrew Towers, Inc.	06/30/09
St. Anne's Gardens, Inc.	06/30/09
St. Anne's Nursing, St. Anne's Residence, Inc.	06/30/09
St. Boniface Gardens, Inc.	06/30/09
St. Dominic Gardens, Inc.	06/30/09
St. Elizabeth Gardens, Inc.	06/30/09
St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital and Nursing Center, Inc.	09/30/09
St. Joseph Residence, Inc.	09/30/09
St. Joseph Towers, Inc.	06/30/09
St. Mary Towers, Inc.	06/30/09
Stella Maris House, Inc.	06/30/09
Villa Maria Health Care Services, Inc.	09/30/09
Villa Maria Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Inc.	09/30/09

4. The Archdiocese is a participant in the defined benefit pension plan for all employees of the Archdiocese of Miami, Diocese of St. Petersburg and Diocese of Venice.
5. Colleges and Universities include the combined statements of St. Thomas University and St. John Vianney Seminary.
6. The following is the disposition of the Archbishop's Charities and Development Drive Funds:

Catholic Charities	\$	250,000
Education — inner city children		1,938,000
Parishes		3,487,000
Maintenance and repair facilities		536,000
Mass-media evangelization		342,000
Ministries and pastoral services		1,020,000
	\$	<u>7,573,000</u>

LETTER

FROM A10

Economies and recessions are cyclical and measurable most often times in one- or two-year periods with a defined beginning and end. While we know when the challenges and hardships began for the Haitian and Chilean people as a result of the earthquakes, we will never know the end of the physical, emotional and spiritual damage that has been done, as it will undoubtedly span generations.

In geographic terms, the Archdiocese of Miami is comprised of Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties, but the reach of this archdiocese and the benevolence of its faithful extend beyond those geopolitical demarcations. Because of our large Haitian community in south Florida and our local ties to that nation and its people, you have unselfishly demonstrated, as you have many times in the past, the love that Jesus taught us to have for one another.

In measurable terms, your benevolence has raised in excess of \$1 million which is now being used to render direct aid to the 10 Catholic dioceses in Haiti in support of the many pastoral and ministerial needs of their faithful. In immeasurable terms, I know that your continued prayers for both the people of Haiti and Chile will far surpass any economic relief that we can offer and will live within their souls for eternity.

In what Pope Benedict XVI has declared a "Year for Priests," I am especially grateful to the clergy during this time of great need as more and more of the faithful turn to them in these difficult and troubling times. The good work of our priests in the Archdiocese of Miami is tireless and endless. I am also particularly grateful to the religious and laity for their sacrificial contributions not only to provide for the Church today, but also to ensure the continuation of the mission of the Church well into the future. It is my prayer that our providential Father who sees all things will repay each of you for your generosity and sacrifice.

May the Lord continue to bless you and your loved ones abundantly.

With personal good wishes, I am

Sincerely in the Lord,

John C. Favalora
John C. Favalora
Archbishop of Miami

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Chile: Una escuela misionera

Mons. Agustín Román recuerda su experiencia inolvidable in Chile

To read this column in English, go to the archdiocesan Web site, www.miamiarch.org

AGUSTÍN A. ROMÁN
Obispo Auxiliar Emérito

El pasado mes de febrero, el Santo Padre Benedicto XVI nos invitaba a orar por la intención de las misiones con estas palabras: "Para que la Iglesia, consciente de su identidad misionera, se esfuerce en seguir fielmente a Cristo y en proclamar su Evangelio a todos los pueblos."

Las palabras del Papa me hicieron recordar mi juventud y el medio siglo de sacerdocio que he vivido. Mi vocación nació, como a los 16 años, dentro del ambiente misionero de entonces en la Acción Católica. Recuerdo el entusiasmo que con los otros jóvenes compartíamos, tratando de catequizar y hacer conocer al Señor a todos los que nos rodeaban en la escuela y fuera de la escuela.

Mis estudios sacerdotales en Cuba, primero en Filosofía en mi diócesis de Matanzas, y en Teología después en Canadá, los hice bajo la dirección de los Padres de las Misiones Extranjeras, que por el espíritu misionero que vivían contagiaban a todos los que a ellos se acercaban. Todo esto con el obispo de la diócesis, quien nos había confiado la formación para que hicieran de nosotros "sacerdotes que no esperaran a los fieles, sino que salieran a buscarlos", decía el.

Al ser ordenado sacerdote y regresar a mi diócesis en Cuba, en mis dos años de ministerio recuerdo que recorríamos todo el territorio de las parroquias, que ya nos habíamos atrevido a dibujar de antemano en un mapa. Soñábamos con ofrecer el tesoro de la luz de Cristo a todos los que en el territorio vivían, para lo cual les misionábamos en los distintos barrios y en sus propios hogares.

Al ser expulsados en una noche oscura en que me sacaron de la casa, y salir fuera pensando siempre

en el regreso rápido para continuar lo que habíamos comenzado, pedí a la Sociedad Misionera que me había formado ir con ellos a misión y con ellos fui al lindo sur de Chile, en la diócesis de Temuco. Allí, el Señor tenía un regalo para mí.

Llegué en enero de 1962, año en que comenzaría el Concilio Vaticano II y en el cual poníamos tantas esperanzas, siendo también el año en que comenzaba en Chile la Gran Misión, con la cual la conferencia episcopal pretendía bañar de Evangelio a todo el pueblo.

El obispo, los sacerdotes, religiosos, y un laicado que esperaba la llamada a evangelizar, me hicieron sentir como en familia desde el primer momento. El Señor me daba el hogar que yo buscaba en una situación ideal de libertad para proclamar la Buena Nueva sin restricciones.

El primer año me pidieron enseñar junto a un sacerdote que para mí había sido como un hermano durante mi Seminario. En el Instituto de Humanidades pasamos un año feliz con los jóvenes chilenos, de quienes admirábamos su alegría y su inclinación a la lectura y al deporte. Todo tiempo libre lo dedicábamos a cooperar con la misión de la diócesis en distintos lugares de la misma. Nos alentaba a los misioneros contemplar el celo apostólico de compartir la verdad sin reparar en los sacrificios que había que ofrecer. La ausencia de la patria es siempre dolorosa, pero la hospitalidad del chileno nos hacía vivir el presente como un continuo regalo.

Al siguiente año me trasladaron del instituto donde enseñaba y me nombraron párroco de la interesante parroquia del Espíritu Santo. Linda parroquia, parte de la ciudad de Temuco y gran territorio campesino con 14 tribus de indios ma-

TO HELP

WHERE TO SEND AID TO CHILE

The Archdiocese of Miami is accepting financial donations to assist with recovery efforts for the earthquake victims in Chile. The archdiocese is asking people to send their donations to: Catholic Charities, Attn: Chile Earthquake Victims, 1505 N.E. 26th St., Wilton Manors, FL 33305. Online donations may be made via the Catholic Charities Web site, www.catholiccharitiesadm.org.

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami is only collecting monetary donations and is working with Caritas to deliver the monetary aid. Please make checks payable to: Catholic Charities/ Chile Earthquake Victims.

puches, y un paisaje de cerros muy verdes surcado de riachuelos y salpicado de flores silvestres, donde el dorado trigo y los viñedos lo hacían más atrayente aún. En muchas ocasiones teníamos que detenernos en el trabajo apostólico y contemplarlo con gratitud al Señor.

Desde el principio recordé una recomendación que se nos daba en la clase de pastoral durante el seminario: "Cuando lleguen a una parroquia recorran el territorio, hagan un mapa del mismo y coloquen el mapa en el Breviario (Liturgia de las Horas), cerca del rezo de las Completas. Así, antes de cerrar el día, recorran el mapa con la vista y examinen qué parte del territorio no está atendido".

Así lo hacía. El mapa estaba también en grande puesto en una pared del comedor donde nos reuníamos para las comidas y comentábamos con los compañeros misioneros lo realizado y lo que quedaba por realizar. Disfrutaba al oír a algunos misioneros compartir sus proyectos con una mirada más amplia, preten-

diendo combinar las estructuras sociales que lo necesitaban con la luz sacada de la rica Doctrina Social de la Iglesia.

El laicado chileno allí estaba sólo esperando la hora de la llamada a la misión. Florecían el Movimiento Familiar Cristiano, los Cursillos de Cristiandad, la Legión de María y otros grupos.

Con la llamada misionera del obispo, se les preparó para la visita domiciliar, portadora del mensaje evangélico. La respuesta nos sorprendió por lo abundante. Muchos se prepararon y tocaron más que en las puertas, en los corazones de los fieles. Tanto en la ciudad como en la parte rural, veíamos un despertar que se mantenía en la post-misión con los grupos bíblicos que se reunían cada semana tratando de ver y conformar la vida a la luz de la Palabra de Dios.

En aquellos tiempos sólo tomé dos semanas de vacaciones en la parroquia de Capitán Pastene, donde el sólo paisaje nos ayudaba al descanso y a la oración. Allí revisaba mi trabajo pastoral junto a un santo sacerdote. Me descansaba mucho el predicar retiros en los conventos de religiosas y oírles vibrar con el celo apostólico de la misión.

La misión anual en los campos durante el verano, con el lindo pueblo mapuche, nos hacía ver cómo la semilla del Evangelio ya estaba esperando antes de llegar con la predicación de la Palabra. Una comunidad religiosa diocesana nos preparaba la pre-misión, lo que nos abría las puertas, y me parecían especialistas en misionología con esa sabiduría que produce el Espíritu. Recorría el territorio con el mapa y el Breviario, ya bien gastado, que conservo como valiosa reliquia y re-

cuerdo de aquellos tiempos.

Encontrábamos, como en todas partes de la Iglesia, a los que practicaban la fe y a los que aun no habían comenzado, pero en todas las familias se sentía devoción a la Santísima Virgen bajo la advocación del Carmen, tan abrazada a la historia del pueblo chileno. Esto me hacía peregrinar a un cerro en las afueras de la ciudad que llamaban El Ñielol, donde la imagen de la Virgen se veneraba, y donde rezaba el rosario por aquel lindo pueblo.

Hoy, al cumplir mis 82 años de vida, puedo decir que he olvidado muchas cosas, pero nunca aquella inolvidable experiencia por la que doy gracias al Señor. Temuco, su obispo, sacerdotes y pueblo, fueron para mí una escuela misionera de la que mucho me he servido en toda mi vida sacerdotal y episcopal.

Oro porque aquel entusiasmo del pueblo chileno por compartir el Evangelio penetre toda la Iglesia.

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COUPLES RETREATS

Encuentro Matrimonial Mundial: Padres Enamorados = Familias de Amor – Su Familia se merece el amor que Papa y Mama pueden redescubrir en un Fin de Semana del Encuentro Matrimonial Mundial. Es una jornada que inicia el Sábado por la mañana y termina por la tarde del Domingo. Esto ocurre en un ambiente libre de distracciones y sin niños. Es una oportunidad para disfrutar y crecer con tu pareja. Se enfocarán en su relación, aprenderán técnicas para mejorar la comunicación y su relación. Para mayor información sobre el próximo Fin de Semana en Español, por favor contacten a Freddy y Morelba al 954-437-0841 o por e-mail a floridaemm@yahoo.com. 3/18b

MISCELLANEOUS

ARE YOU MARRIED OR WIDOWED? – Do you want to enjoy the blessings of a vowed life? Join the Pauline Family. Contact Father Tom at P.O. Box 498, Canfield, OH 44406-9946. **ERES CASADO O VIUDO?** – Y quieres disfrutar de las bendiciones de la vida consagrada? Haz vo en la Familia Paulina, contacta al Padre Tom, P.O. Box 498, Canfield, OH 44406-9946. 3/18b

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Junio 25 - CHINA

Dirigida por Ofelia Domínguez

Visitando: Beijing - Xian - Shanghai - Hong Kong

Agosto 12 - ALASKA, Crucero 7 noches

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COMMUNITY
EVENTS

Andy Hurst memorial fish fry, Friday, March 26, 5:30 p.m., St. Sebastian, 2000 S.E. 25 Ave., Miramar. \$15 for adults; \$10 for children under 12. Reserved tables for eight: \$225, with two bottles of wine. 954-524-9344, stsebastia@aol.com.

Lenten supper, March 26, 6-7:30 p.m., St. Andrew, 9950 N.W. 29 St., Coral Springs. \$7 for pasta or fish; \$5 for pizza pocket, all served with accompaniments. 954-752-3950.

Soup and Stations, Friday, March 26, 7 p.m., Our Lady of the Lakes, 15801 N.W. 67 Ave., Miami Lakes. Come to church for the Stations of the Cross, then join us in the parish hall for soup. Bring your favorite meatless soup to share. 305-558-2202.

"The Wizard of Oz" spring musical, March 26-27, 7 p.m.; March 28, 2 p.m., Chaminade-Madonna Café, 500 E. Chaminade Drive, Hollywood. Tickets: \$10 adults; \$5 students and senior citizens with I.D. jcatalano@cmlions.org.

"A Taste of Asia," Saturday, March 27, 6 p.m., Archbishop McCarthy High School Performing Arts Center, 5451 S. Flamingo Road, Southwest Ranches. An evening of entertainment, dinner and music. \$85 per person, includes silent and live auctions. www.mccarthyhigh.org.

"Gerald," a film in American Sign Language, Saturday, April 10, 2 p.m., Schott Communities for Persons who are Deaf or Disabled, 6591 S. Flamingo Road, Cooper City. Captioned for the hearing public, screening followed by light refreshments. Tickets: \$11, proceeds support Schott's summer literacy camp for children who are deaf or hard of hearing. 954-434-3306.

St. Stephen flea market, Saturday, April 17, 7 a.m.-2 p.m., St. Stephen, 2000 S. State Road 7, Miramar. Spaces: \$25. 954-987-1100.

"Living Healthy" program, Tuesdays, through April 22, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Schott Communities, 6591 S. Flamingo Road, Cooper City. Course will address many topics for living better. Presented in connection with Elder Affairs and the Administration on Aging and Evidence-Based Healthy Aging program. Free. 954-434-3306.

Disney's "Beauty and the Beast," Thursday, April 22; and Friday, April 23, 7:30 p.m., Archbishop Curley Notre Dame High School, 4949 N.E. Second Ave., Miami. Presented by the Curley Notre Dame Knightingales Show Choir. Tickets: \$8. news@acnd.net or 305-751-3741, ext. 22.

Respect life ministry luncheon, Saturday, April 24, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Signature Gardens, 12725 S.W. 122 Ave., Miami. Guest speaker: Father Jordi Rivero, spiritual director, respect life ministry. Prepaid reservations by Tuesday, April 20. \$25 per person. 954-981-2922.

MASSES /PRAYER
SESSIONS

Living Stations of the Cross, Friday, March 26, 8 p.m., St. Andrew, 9950 N.W. 29 St., Coral Springs, in parking lot in front of parish office. 954-752-3950.

National Mass for "Terri's Day," Wednesday, March 31, 5 p.m., Ave Maria University, 5050 Ave Maria Blvd., Ave Maria, Fla., hosted by Terri's Foundation and Priests for Life, in memory of Terri Schindler Schiavo. 718-980-4400, ext. 251; or 727-490-7603.

Life in the Spirit seminar, Tuesdays, April 6-May 18, 7-9 p.m., St. Maurice, 2851 Sterling Road, Dania Beach. 954-967-9533.

CONCERTS

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

- Wednesday, March 31, 7:30

p.m., "Tenebrae," a musical retelling of the Passion of Jesus, performed by St. Mary's Cathedral Choir.

- Sunday, April 18, 4 p.m., "Two Cellos, One Family," featuring father and daughter virtuoso cellists Anna and Konstantin Litvinenko, accompanied by world-renowned pianist Felix Spengler, in a program of baroque and romantic favorites.

St. Pius X concert series, 2511 N. Ocean Blvd. (A1A), Fort Lauderdale. Tickets: \$10; free for children under 8. 954-565-9935: Sunday, April 11, 5:30 p.m.: Kristen DiNonno and friends perform selections of "The Music That Built Broadway."

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: Saturday, April 17, 7:30 p.m., winner of the eighth National Chopin Piano Competition performs with Paul Posnak on a second piano.

FAITH EDUCATION

"Living Pentecost: A Process of Spiritual Growth," Saturday, April 10, 9:30 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.

SEPI (Southeast Pastoral Institute), *Certificado en Ministerio Pastoral Hispano, y cursos para ampliar conocimientos sobre pastoral hispana*, 7700 S.W. 56 St., Miami. 305-279-2333, sepimiami@aol.com o www.sepimiami.org:

- La Acción de los Laicos en la Iglesia, sábado, 27 de marzo, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., charla por Rafael De Arazoza y Elizabeth De Arazoza. \$10 por persona.
- "Jesus Liberador y Su Comunidad de Fe", 5 de abril al 7 de mayo, lunes, miércoles y viernes, 7:30-10:30 p.m., dirigido por Padre Pablo Laguna y Padre Mario Vizcaino.

Spanish immersion course offered by SEPI: May 30-June 17, Southeast Pastoral Institute, 7700 S.W. 56 St., Miami. Provides skills necessary to communicate in Spanish, knowledge of Hispanic environment. 305-279-2333 or Sepimiami@aol.com.

PRAYER GROUPS

Songs and prayer in the spirit of Taizé, Tuesday, April 13, 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

Encuentro Familiar, 27 y 28 de marzo, Ignatian Spiritual Center, 12190 S.W. 56 St., Miami. Retiro de dos días externo para enriquecer la relación entre padres e hijos entre las edades de 12 a 21 años. 305-596-0001.

MorningStar Renewal Center, 7275 S.W. 124 St., Pinecrest. Registration required for all programs. 305-238-4367, ext. 102; or visit www.morningstarrenewal.org: Mini retreat for families preparing for first Communion, Monday, March 29, 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. \$20 per adult; free for religious education students.

Emmaus for women, in English, April 9-11, Our Lady of Lourdes, 11291 S.W. 142 Ave., Miami. 305-382-6798 or caridad_01@msn.com.

Matrimonios en Victoria, 10 y 11 de abril, para los que quieren vivir más profundamente su fe y que el amor crezca en su matrimonio; regresan a dormir en casa el sábado después de la cena. 305-667-3746, 305-773-1435 o www.matrimoniosenvictoria.com.

Marriages in Victory, April 16-18, St. Timothy, 5400 S.W. 102 Ave., Miami. Weekend of purpose, encouragement, hope for all couples. 305-321-4240 or st.timothy@marriagesinvictory.com.

Emmaus para mujeres, del 16 al 18 de abril, parroquia St. Dominic, 5909 N.W. Seventh St., Miami. 786-271-0063 o luzdary99@yahoo.com.

Marriage Encounter weekend, April 16-18 in Fort Lauderdale. Worldwide Marriage Encounter offers a Catholic enrichment experience that teaches couples the skills they need to renew their commitment and rekindle their romance. Information, reservations: 561-963-1170, www.wvme.org.

Men's Emmaus retreat,

April 16-18, St. Stephen Parish's St. Eugene de Mazenod Spiritual Center, 6081 S.W. 21 St., Miramar. For men 21 and older. You will have the time of your life! Space is limited. 954-553-2535, 305-879-4617.

Engaged Encounter: life skills day, Saturday, April 17, Little Flower, 2711 Indian Mound Trail, Coral Gables. Engaged couples can explore life skills as they apply to married life. Registration: 305-762-1140 or famlife@theadom.org.

Cursillo in English, for men, April 22-25; for women, May 6-9, Good Shepherd, 14187 S.W. 72 St., Miami. 305-778-7962 or 305-305-0208.

God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage, Saturday, April 24, Good Shepherd, 14187 S.W. 72 St., Miami; marriage preparation supplement based on Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body, sponsored by archdiocese's Family Life Ministry. \$175 per couple, preregistration required: joyfilledmarriage@gmail.com or 305-762-1140.

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:

- Saturday, March 20, 9 a.m., St. Louis, Pinecrest
- Saturday, March 27, 9 a.m., St. John Neumann Parish, Miami
- Wednesday, April 21, 6 p.m. Archbishop McCarthy High School, Southwest Ranches

SCHOOL EVENTS

St. Michael open house, Tuesday, March 30, 8-11 a.m., 300 N.W. 28 Ave., Miami. Observe school while in session. St. Michael offers pullout program for students with difficulties in math, reading; accepts Florida Pride, McKay, and VPK program. 305-642-6732.

St. Agatha School, 1125 S.W. 107 Ave., Miami, accepting applications for enrollment for the 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.

Sts. Peter and Paul School, accepting applications for pre-K through seventh grade until May 31. Fully accredited by the Florida Catholic Conference; religious education based on Catholic principles; after-school program available. Now accepting Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship program. 305-858-3722.



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68	6.3%	75	7.0%	82	8.3%	89	10.0%
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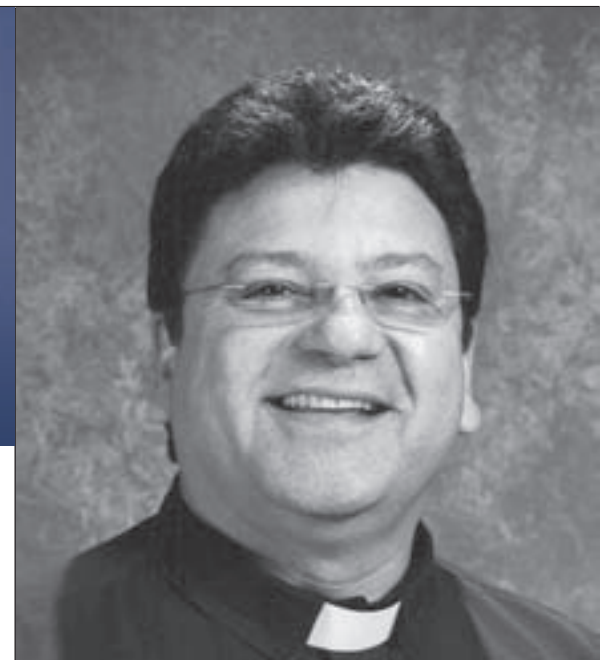
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FATHER JAIME ACEVEDO

Pastor, Mother of Our Redeemer, Miami

Born Jan. 6, 1953, in Santurce, Puerto Rico,
Father Acevedo attended school there but
studied for the priesthood at St. John Vianney
Seminary in Miami and St. Vincent de Paul
Seminary in Boynton Beach. He was
ordained for the Archdiocese of Miami on
May 8, 1999, and served at St. Mark Parish
in Southwest Ranches, Immaculate Conception
in Hialeah and St. Louis in Pinecrest. In 2005,
he was named administrator, and then
pastor, of Mother of Our Redeemer Parish
in northwestern Miami-Dade County.

What he did before becoming a priest:

"Many things, but the last two careers were flight attendant for Eastern Airlines for 10 years, and just before it went on strike I began studying cardiovascular technology. I was a cardiovascular technologist for three or four years."

When he knew he wanted to be a priest:

At the age of 6, when he watched a movie about the life of St. Francis of Assisi.

Person or event that triggered his vocation:

When he was much older, the death of a friend. "His faith in God was so evident that at the moment of his death, I started wanting what he had – a personal relationship with God. As I began my journey to finding God ... the desire to be a priest returned, so I had to act on it. Thank God I did!"

What the seminary did not prepare him for:

"If I had to pick one, I'd say administration. The rest has been an 'on-the-job training'; it prepares you to learn on the job. The seminary did help me to become a better person and to listen to God, to trust his will and follow his lead."

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

"I would be a cardiovascular technologist or be in a profession where I have to serve the public. All my life I've been geared toward people."

'I have come to understand that everything that I have done in my life has brought me to where I am now.'

Favorite priestly duty:

"As a priest, what I enjoy the most, besides celebrating the Eucharist, is funerals. It is a moment when you bring hope, comfort and healing to the person who mourns the loss of a loved one. Sometimes it even triggers a conversion in members of the family."

Most difficult aspect of being a priest:

"Accepting and loving everyone just as Jesus does."

His description of the ideal priest:

"One who is down-to-earth, who recognizes his brokenness and offers it to God; one who is as loving and merciful to (God's) people as he is able to be, with the grace of God."

A priestly stereotype that should be discarded:

"That we are perfect and should never make a mistake."



About a year ago, Father Jaime Acevedo switched to driving a Smart Car convertible. He says he has no regrets. It is a lot easier to get around in traffic, and its savings on fuel are great on the pocketbook and the environment.

What he does on his days off:

"Read a book. I may go out to lunch with friends, but mostly I stay home and rest."

Favorite TV series:

"Battlestar Galactica": I never watched it while it was being broadcast, but I've been watching it on DVD whenever I get a chance. It's better than the one from the '70s."

Last book read:

"Come Be My Light: The Private Writings of the Saint of Calcutta."

Favorite type of music:

"My music taste is kind of eclectic; it depends on the mood. I like classical, especially piano concertos, jazz, movie soundtracks, R & B."

What he collects:

"Many things, but mainly icons – and monkeys."

Person he most admires:

"My parents, a great example of what true love and good marriage should be."

His greatest disappointment:

"Maybe giving so much heartache to my folks because of my aversion to anything that had to do with studies. I was a lousy student!"

His greatest joy:

"Being who I am, a priest!"

Thing he most fears:

"Fear itself. It can paralyze you and prevent you from doing the will of God."

Regrets:

"None. I have come to understand that everything that I have done in my life has brought me to where I am now. And God has been with me all the time."



Archdiocese of Miami
 9401 Biscayne Boulevard
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 305.762.1043 Fax 305.751.6227

Seeing the faith through new eyes

Touching is seeing for blind and vision-impaired at St. Gabriel Parish

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO
of the Florida Catholic staff

MIAMI — It is something those of us who see take for granted: The priest sometimes sits during Mass.

But people who are blind from birth would not know that.

Neither would they know what a tabernacle actually looks like, or who rings the bells during the consecration, or that the priest's host is normally bigger than the one the people receive.

Those were all revelations for about a dozen blind and visually impaired people who took a tactile tour of St. Gabriel Church in Pompano Beach in February. The tour was organized by Dolores McDiarmid, a mobility instructor for the blind and visually impaired who also holds a degree in pastoral ministries from St. Thomas University.

"The Catholic Church is so visual," she said. "We have beautiful religious art and all the different

ON THE WEB

Dolores McDiarmid also serves as baptismal godparent and religious education instructor for a sight-impaired teenager from St. Gregory Parish in Plantation. Read the story of how this special girl's faith has touched those around her at www.miamiarch.org, by clicking on "News Center," then "News Archive" and "Florida Catholic archive."

things that are used in our worship. When you are not able to see that, you're missing out."

McDiarmid arranged for the group — not all of them Catholics — to listen to a presentation by St. Gabriel's pastor, Father Anthony Mulderry, who shared the story of his own vocation as well as the history of how Mass has been celebrated since the early days of the Church.

Participants then got to touch each of the items used in worship, including chalices, cruets, the altar, the tabernacle and even the bells rung by the altar servers during the consecration. As participants touched the items, St. Gabriel parishioners Hervé and Rachelle Arsenault explained how each is used during Mass.



DOLORES MCDIARMID | COURTESY

Joe Palano, a St. Gabriel parishioner who is blind from birth, holds the chalice as fellow parishioner Rachelle Arsenault explains how the priest elevates it during Mass.

"It was the first time I actually was able to touch the chalice and the altar and the tabernacle, and actually feel the items that are used in the liturgy," said Christopher Palano, who along with his twin brother, Joseph, is a lifelong Catholic and member of St. Gabriel's. Both have been blind from birth.

Palano said he knew what the tabernacle was — the place where

consecrated hosts are kept — but had no clear idea of what it might look like or how big it might be until he felt it with his hands.

"Eighty percent of one's perceptions are gained through sight," he noted, recalling how one time he asked a friend if Humphrey Bogart smoked.

"How would I really know that without seeing it?" Palano said. "It's

hard for (sighted) people to imagine."

"One person stated that she did not know that the priest sat down during the Mass. She thought he stood the entire time," McDiarmid said. "Many people learned the significance of the bells. One person thought it was one tiny bell being rung. Another person thought someone was pulling a rope to ring the bells."

One non-Catholic woman even told her "that when she touched the tabernacle she could feel the sacredness. She learned why Catholics make the sign of the cross, why they genuflect, and learned about the size of the priest's host compared to the size of the host that the congregation receives."

"I actually learned a bit of Church history," said Palano.

McDiarmid said she is willing to help other parishes arrange similar tours for people who are blind and visually impaired.

Palano noted that it might not be a bad idea for even those who see well to take such tours.

"This has been a criticism of Catholics, that they just go by rote," he said. "Education is good for those people who want to know why we do what we do and what it means. It's always good." ■

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