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## Update on Virtus

Program now includes tips for keeping children safe on the Internet  
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## Online art sale helps Notre Dame d'Haiti

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## WELCOMING NEW CATHOLICS



MARLENE QUARONI | FC

Father Federico Capdepon, pastor, baptizes Sabrina Shaina, 8, during the Easter Vigil Mass at St. Martha Parish in Miami Shores. Nearly 1,500 new Catholics were welcomed into the Church in parishes across south Florida this Easter. These neophytes, as they are called, are invited to celebrate Mass with Archbishop John C. Favalora at St. Mary Cathedral at 10 a.m. on May 2.



# Selling art for a new church

Notre Dame d'Haiti Mission seeks to close \$300,000 gap with art sale

JEANNETTE M. RIVERA  
Florida Catholic correspondent

**MIAMI** — While Haitians attempt to reconstruct their country after January's earthquake, Father Reginald Jean-Mary, pastor of Notre Dame d'Haiti Mission in Miami, is trying to construct a new church for his Haitian parishioners.

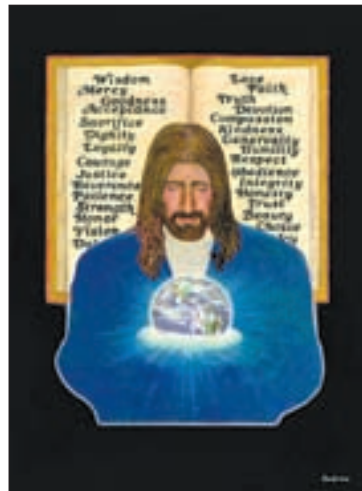
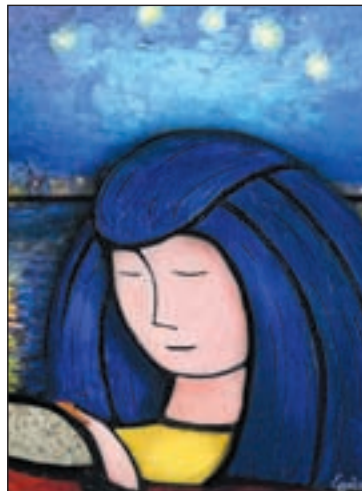
The parish is located on grounds formerly occupied by Notre Dame Academy for girls, and parishioners have been using the old school cafeteria as their worship space since the late 1980s. But the cafeteria only holds 600 people, forcing the hundreds more who gather there each Sunday to stand outside and hear Mass through loudspeakers.

Finally, after six years of fund-raising \$2.2 million, the parish has received permission from the archdiocese to begin construction.



However, Father Jean-Mary is still short \$300,000 and has to get creative to raise the money.

Over the years, he said, the parish



COURTESY PHOTOS

Pictured are prints by attorney Tom Equels will be sold at an online auction to raise funds for the construction of a new church at Notre Dame d'Haiti in Miami.

ish has sold water, T-shirts, held banquets and concerts. "We did penny drives with the children and collected \$11,000." Some parishioners even donated from their Social Security checks.

"How am I going to ask these people for more money?" Father Jean-Mary said.

This time, the parish is holding an online art sale to help close the \$300,000 gap. The sale will feature six prints based on paintings by Tom Equels, an Orlando-based attorney who has been a friend of Notre Dame d'Haiti since the

1980s. The paintings, Equels says, are representations of meditation, sacrifice, enlightenment, prayer, angels and perfect love.

The selling of the prints, with 75 percent of the proceeds going to the parish, is Equels' way of helping a church that has impacted his life. His relationship with the parish began when he met then-Father Thomas Wenski, now Bishop Wenski of Orlando, at a Christmas service after representing area churches in a case involving Haitian detainees in 1981. Since that time, Equels has received his sac-

raments of initiation and just this March married Laura Fabar at Notre Dame d'Haiti.

"When I'm in Miami, that's my church," said Equels.

Father Jean-Mary said he hopes the art sale will help the parish reach its goal of commencing construction without burdening his already overburdened community—or taking away from those in Haiti.

The Web site where the art will be sold is [www.prayerfulimages.com](http://www.prayerfulimages.com). It was expected to be functional by mid-April. ■

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2010-04-15

## NEWSbriefs

### Red Masses set for Dade, Broward

Archbishop John C. Favalora and the Miami Catholic Lawyers Guild invite everyone in the legal profession to attend this year's Red Mass, which will take place Wednesday, April 28, 5:30 p.m., in

Gesu Church, 118 N.E. Second St., Miami. Another Red Mass, for legal professionals in Broward, will take place Wednesday, June 2, 6 p.m., at St. Anthony Parish, 901 N.E. Second Ave., Fort Lauderdale.

The Miami Mass will be followed by a reception featuring keynote speaker Msgr. Andrew Anderson, the archdiocese's judicial vicar. Msgr. Anderson will speak at Hurtak Hall in Gesu. The reception is free, but those planning to attend must R.S.V.P. to Angela Lopez, 305-446-4000 or [alopez@rojaslawfirm.com](mailto:alopez@rojaslawfirm.com). Information is also available at 305-379-1424.

The Red Mass in Broward, sponsored by the St. Thomas More Society, will be followed by a reception and dinner at the Marriott Harbor Beach Resort. Keynote speaker at the dinner will be Florida's Sen. George LeMieux. Tickets are \$65 per person and reservations must be made by May 14.

Checks should be made payable to St. Thomas More Society, and mailed to Donald A. Wich Jr., Esq., 2400 E. Commercial Blvd., Suite 620, Fort Lauderdale, FL

33308. More information on the Broward Mass also is available at [www.redmass.com](http://www.redmass.com) or by calling 954-776-1600.

The Red Mass is known as the lawyers' Mass, in which Catholic attorneys reaffirm their commitment to justice and their faith. The name refers to the red vestments worn by the celebrants to signify the Holy Spirit

### Scouts invited to retreat

The Office of Catholic Scouting invites Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts working on their religious emblems to a half-day retreat to be held Saturday, April 24, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at Holy Redeemer Parish, 1301 N.W. 71 St., Miami. The retreat will include Mass. The retreat is for Cub Scouts or Girl Scouts working on the following emblems: Mother Mary, Family of God, I Live My Faith, Brother Francis Adan, Light of Christ and *Parvuli Dei*. For information, call 305-762-1245 or e-mail [hmendez@theadom.org](mailto:hmendez@theadom.org).



**Prayerful Images**  
A collection of paintings by Tom Equels benefiting Notre Dame d'Haiti Catholic Church.  
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# Medical volunteers find fulfillment in Haiti

Catholic doctors, nurses recall holding back tears as they treated earthquake victims

**TOM TRACY**

Florida Catholic correspondent

**MIAMI** — Using brown sugar to treat difficult wound infections and to draw out harmful bacteria can be traced back to the Civil War — and probably earlier.

Claire Larsen, a wound-care nurse at Mercy Hospital and a native of Haiti, never imagined she would be putting the ancient method to the test following the Jan. 12 earthquake that devastated her native country.

A single mother, Larsen put her name on a list of volunteers being circulated at Mercy immediately after the Jan. 12 earthquake and eventually traveled for a one-week tour starting Jan. 23.

Mercy has been sending teams of medics to Haiti on a regular basis and has donated medications and 15 life-saving anesthesia machines to various hospitals there.

"I felt devastated when I got to Haiti," Larsen said. "I grew up there until I was 25 years old, and when I went there this time there were no words to describe what I saw. Tears came to my eyes. The country is totally destroyed."

In the areas around hard-hit Leogane, Larsen's group set up field tents and treated 100 patients a day for broken bones, trauma-related wounds, malaria, hernias, infections from unclean water, and psychological problems as a result of the refugee crisis — all fallout from the earthquake.

One particularly tough case was a lady with a broken leg: The wound was open, and volunteers had to redress her wound twice daily. She was bedridden and developed an ulcer.

"We were using — believe it or not — brown sugar inside the wound, and by the time we left she was on her way to being healed," Larsen said. "Sugar is what they used to

use long ago; it destroys the necrosis or bad tissue because if you have that inside, the wound is not going to heal."

Larsen said she hopes to return to Haiti for another week with the Mercy teams sometime in the summer. She said it gives her a chance to put her Catholic faith and healing skills to use at a critical time.

Mercy's volunteer teams have collaborated with resources and people from Miami Dade College, Dade County Pharmacy Association and the Knights of Malta, according to Shed Boren, chief executive officer of Sister Emmanuel Hospital, a long-term care facility located at Mercy.

"It reflects the community of concern that came together to serve — those in uniform or lab coats as well as those of us here (who) were able to get the supplies organized," Boren said.

Nothing could be more satisfying for a medic than to treat appreciative patients in an acute trauma situation such as the one under way in Haiti, said another Mercy staffer, Dr. Ronald Reyna, a plastic surgeon who spent a week there with an ad-hoc group of doctors and nurses from Mercy, Palm Beach County and several northeastern states.

"I wanted to go out of a sense of duty within my profession and as a physician," he said, adding that the medical teams slept in private houses with no running water or electricity in some cases. "It's part of giving back."

Reyna and his colleagues arrived at a public hospital, Eliazar Germain, in the Petionville area of Port-au-Prince, and made the decision to help reopen the hospital with an initial group of patients (including one badly dehydrated infant) they brought in from the tent city at the soccer stadium. Later, public service announcements by radio prompted more patients to come



TOM TRACY | FC

In this photo taken in early March, a little girl holds on to a teddy bear after doctors set her broken bones at St. Francis de Sales Hospital in Port-au-Prince.

in and medical teams from Russia and Israel sent them surgical cases. In one week, they performed 82 surgeries and saw 1,000 patients.

"There were a lot of orthopedic injuries and wounds. The entire group of physicians and nurses worked well together with no boss. It was a team effort making decisions together," Reyna said.

He added that Haiti will need years and years of medical support from abroad, and he and members of his team hope to return to that hospital.

Near the Haiti airport is what was described after the earthquake as the "five-star hospital," the temporary surgical operations of Project Medishare, a nongovernmental organization serving Haiti and started by University of Miami physicians in 1994. Less than 24 hours after the initial earthquake, Project Medishare set up a field trauma hospital

on the grounds of the airport at the request of Haitian President René Préval.

Arriving within two days of the quake was Dr. Vincent DeGennaro, assistant chief of surgery at the Miami Veterans Administration Hospital, and on staff at the University of Miami. DeGennaro has made two trips to Haiti since the earthquake — joining him were a son and daughter who are both doctors — and he is planning a third visit.

DeGennaro said Project Medishare now has transitioned from earthquake-related response to general medical needs that were never being met in Haiti. "The extreme level of poverty and poor health care predated the earthquake and is still abysmal," he said.

He fondly recalled how in the early days after the earthquake, several nuns quietly brought in patients from a nearby orphanage which had become a gathering place for the injured. It turned out the nuns were the Missionaries of Charity.

"Those Catholic nuns were bound and determined to get what they needed for their patients," he said, adding that he was introduced to Haiti before the earthquake through a center for social justice at Notre Dame University where his son studied.

"We always wanted to go to Haiti, but I was a little nervous, so

the three of us went together. We escalated into three or four trips a year. I think it reaffirms you to go to a place like Haiti and work with like-minded people," he said. "That is what it's all about."

Claire Labatte, a Haitian-American nurse and member of St. John Neumann Parish in Miami, made her second trip to Haiti in March. She went there initially with Project Medishare in late February, working in 12-hour shifts with no time to sit down.

"When that earthquake happened I said I had to go and help," said Labatte, a chemotherapy nurse specialist.

She said she was especially moved by the injured children, some of whom arrived with nothing but the clothes on their back. She gave away whatever extra clothes she brought.

"I had to hold myself back not to cry because it was depressing, especially working on the cases involving spinal cord injuries. I grew up in Haiti and never saw amputations, spinal cord injuries, and young girls have those injuries — that breaks your heart."

But, she added, there were many uplifting moments as well.

"I would ask them, 'How are you doing today?' and they would say, 'Thank God I am doing OK,' and they would still have a smile after losing everything." ■

## Group plans long-term work in Haiti

Miami Medical Missions' future plans call for rural medical clinics, prosthetics factory

**TOM TRACY**

Florida Catholic correspondent

**MIAMI** — Working in concert with the Archdiocese of Miami and partnerships from around the country, Miami Medical Missions is planning to orchestrate an ambitious array of development projects, regional medical clinics and even a prosthetics factory in earthquake-ravaged Haiti in the coming years.

With spiritual guidance and direction from Haitian-born Father Reginald Jean-Mary, pastor of Notre Dame d'Haiti Mission in Miami, the

60 volunteer doctors of Miami Medical Missions, working in conjunction with the lay missionary group *Amor en Accion*, and support staff, have already sent three delegations of medical relief to Haiti.

A fourth group, set to go April 8, was expected to include four archdiocesan priests, 16 doctors and other support staff, according to Dr. Manuel Alzugaray, an orthopedic surgeon active with Miami Medical Missions since its founding as an outgrowth of the Knights of Columbus. Included in that group were prosthetic specialists who will

be measuring amputees in order to manufacture prostheses that fit exactly and even match the skin color of victims. Another group, a surgical team, was scheduled to travel to Haiti in late April.

PLEASE SEE HAITI, A12

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# Church doing more than others to stop sexual abuse

My dear friends,

It should come as no surprise that the clergy sexual abuse crisis has now spread to Europe. Sexuality is part of our human nature and therefore subject to our human inclination to sinfulness.

The Church in Europe is now grappling with the same questions the Church in the United States began dealing with in 2002: the terrible hurt this sin has inflicted on the victims and the damage it has done to the Church itself.

The process of admitting one's sinfulness is painful. But the Church preaches that confession is good for the soul, and combined with a resolve to "sin no more," the bishops in Europe will do just as the bishops in the United States have done: institute policies and practices of zero tolerance for abusers coupled with efforts at education and prevention of future abuses.

These efforts will not keep abuse from happening altogether, but they will yield results, as the U.S. bishops have found. A report released last month by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) showed that allegations of sexual abuse by clergy and religious in the United States declined by 36 percent between 2008 and 2009 — and those numbers are part of a trend that has been going downward since 2004.

Of the 398 allegations of abuse reported in 2009, only six involved children currently under the age of 18. The remaining 392 involved adults who had been abused decades ago.

Even one allegation is too many but the trend is encouraging. The Church is living up to its promise to "protect God's children" by complying with the norms outlined in the so-called Dallas charter of 2002.

But you would not know it by reading recent articles in the secular media. Current accounts of abuses and decisions made by bishops 30 and 40 years ago, both here and in Europe, give the unfortunate impression that such things are still happening, when that is simply not true.

The fact is that no institution today is more committed to preventing child sexual abuse than the Catholic Church. The programs we have in place to educate our people and keep potential abusers away have not been adopted anywhere else — particularly not in the public school system, where the documented abuse rate is higher than in the Catholic Church.

That statistic is cited in an article in the March 24 edition of *Psychology Today* by Dr. Tom Plante of the U.S. bishops' National Review Board. He states: "According to the best available data ... 4 percent of

Catholic priests in the USA sexually victimized minors during the past half-century. No evidence has been published at this time that states that this number is higher than clergy from other religious traditions. The 4 percent figure is lower than school teachers (at 5 percent) during the same time frame and perhaps as much as half of the numbers of the general population of men."

The Church also has done more than anyone to study the problem of child sexual abuse. The U.S. bishops have contracted with the John Jay College of Criminal Justice to find out why clergy abusers did what they did and how the culture at large or that in the Church or seminaries contributed to their actions.

We are committed to undoing some of the damage done to victims by paying for their counseling and therapy for as long as necessary. We are adhering to zero-tolerance policies that remove clergy and religious from public ministry once allegations have been deemed credible.

Despite all these efforts, the media — and lawyers seeking large monetary settlements — continue to focus solely on the actions of a tiny percentage of Catholic priests and religious and on the corresponding reactions of their bishops and superiors, most of them long dead.

Nothing can change the past.

## APPOINTMENTS

Archbishop John C. Favalora has made the following appointments:  
Effective March 15:

**Father Robert Ayala** — parochial vicar, St. Helen, Fort Lauderdale.

**Father Roberto Cid** — parochial vicar, Corpus Christi, Miami.

**Father John Paszko** — parochial vicar, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Coral Springs.

**Father Patrick J. Naughton** — parochial vicar, St. Gregory, Plantation.

Effective March 3:

**Father Miguel Gómez** — pastor, Santa Barbara, Miami.

Effective Feb. 16:

**Deacon Montas Onelien** — to St. Bartholomew, Miramar.

No amount of money or apologies can erase the hurt done to victims' psyches, undo their loss of innocence, or restore their faith in both God and the Church. But the past is not the present and it is unfair to the Church to portray it as such. ■

*Another column on this same subject, "World was different 50 years ago," will be available online at [www.miamiarch.org](http://www.miamiarch.org) beginning April 23.*

## NEWSbriefs

### 'Blooming Hope' film premieres

The Institute for Communication, Entertainment and Media of St. Thomas University will present the red carpet premiere of the documentary film "Blooming Hope: Harvesting Smiles in Port-de-Paix" on Saturday, April 24, 7 p.m., at the Little Haiti Cultural Center, 260 N.E. 59 Terrace, Miami.

The documentary was produced by Marcela Moyano-Rosero, St. Thomas University professor of mass media and communications, and students from the university.

The film chronicles the lives and work of Elicoeur Beabrum, a coffee farmer from the town of Ma Wouj and member of the COCANO fair-trade coffee cooperative; Tata Dumasie, a craftswoman from the Atelier Thevenet fair-trade artisan initiative in Jean Rabel; and 300 schoolchildren from the remote seashore village of Baie-de-Henne who benefit from a sustainable solar oven project.

"The film captured the spirit of the Haitian people and takes view-

ers to Haiti's stunning mountains, ocean and scenery while contributing to fundraising efforts for our impoverished neighbors," said Msgr. Franklyn Casale, president of St. Thomas University. During the premiere, the South Florida Youth Symphony, under the direction of Margorie Hahn, will interpret the film's musical score. There will be a cocktail reception and free coffee tastings of the full-bodied organic Café COCANO, which will be available for purchase. Picturesque Haitian art also will be on display.

The event is free, but donations are accepted. R.S.V.P. to: 305-474-6836 or shaynes@stu.edu.

### Respect life luncheon April 24

The respect life ministry invites all to the annual respect life luncheon, which will be held Saturday, April 24, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at Signature Gardens, 12725 S.W. 122 Ave., Miami. Keynote speaker will be Father Jordi Rivero, pastor of St. Timothy Parish in Miami and spiritual director of respect life in the archdiocese.

Prepaid reservations must be

made by Tuesday, April 20. Cost is \$25 per person. Those wishing to attend are asked to mail their name and guest names, phone number and e-mail address, along with payment, to: Respect Life Annual Luncheon, 3600 S.W. 32nd Blvd., West Park, FL 33023. For information, call 954-981-2922.

### Radio Paz gala honors Daughter of Charity

Radio Paz will host its annual gala, marking the archdiocesan station's 20th anniversary, on Saturday, May 8, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Intercontinental Hotel, 100 Chopin Plaza, in downtown Miami. The gala will honor the life and work of Sister Hilda Alonso of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. For information and tickets, go to [www.paxcc.org/radiopaz](http://www.paxcc.org/radiopaz) or call 305-638-9729.

### Schott Center honors 'heroes'

Schott Communities for the Deaf

or Disabled will honor four "heroes" at a gala dinner and dance to be held Friday, May 21, at St. Bonaventure Parish hall, 1301 S.W. 136 Ave., Davie. The Schott Center defines heroes as "individuals who, through their determination, spirit and positive outlook, overcome the obstacles of living with a disability, lovingly care for those who are disabled or have a heart for our mission."

The honorees are:

• Vicky Bovee, who adopted three special-needs girls with complicated health issues, physical and emotional disabilities;

• Ursula Eivers, general manager of the Publix Supermarket in Cooper City, who has created an environment where those with special needs thrive and feel like valuable members of the team;

• Rosa Martinez, a single mom with triplets, two with Down syndrome, whose sons have grown into independent, socially outgoing young men living to their fullest potential; and

• Freda Stein, a Schott artist with cerebral palsy who creates extraordinary paintings by holding a brush in her mouth.



# Childproof your Web

## Virtus training now focuses on Internet safety

### FLORIDA CATHOLIC STAFF

**MIAMI** — Do you use any of the social networking Web sites, such as Facebook? Do you have children?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, the archdiocese's Safe Environment office has valuable tools to help you keep up with the latest technological advances.

Those tools are important because the very nature of the Internet means the outside world has access to your children — even when you feel they are secure in your home.

The tools come through "Protecting God's Children," a child sexual abuse awareness and prevention program that has been taught in the Archdiocese of Miami since 2004.

Known better by the brand name Virtus, the program is one component of the archdiocese's efforts to keep children and vulnerable adults safe from sexual abuse.

"It teaches you the warning signs of not only abuse but of abusers," said Jan Rayburn, Virtus training coordinator.

The training is also open to people of other faiths, or no faith, who want to learn ways to prevent sexual abuse in their communities.

Since 2004, "more than 30,000 adults have been trained on how to keep children safe," said Rayburn. "These sessions are delivered in English and Spanish by the 130 trained facilitators in our three-county archdiocese."

In 2009, facilitators led 216 Virtus training sessions. Since January 2010, there have been 58 Virtus sessions and 34 are currently

### FYI

#### REQUIREMENTS FOR KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

As part of its commitment to keeping children safe from abuse, and in compliance with the U.S. bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children, the Archdiocese of Miami requires the following for all its employees and volunteers 18 or older:

- Attendance at a three-hour Virtus "Protecting God's Children" class along with online registration and monthly follow-up training bulletins.
- Fingerprinting and national

background checks for anyone who has direct or indirect access to children and vulnerable adults, including contractors and vendors.

These requirements apply to anyone employed by the Archdiocese of Miami at any of its schools, parishes or agencies, including clergy and religious; anyone who volunteers in any way at a parish or school, including extraordinary ministers of holy Communion, lectors, ushers, choir members and volunteers at the church carnival; and adults who want to accompany children on field trips or retreats.

scheduled. Sessions are added continually and posted on the archdiocesan Web site, [www.miamiarch.org](http://www.miamiarch.org).

Because of the growing popularity of Web-based social networking sites, "This year the Safe Environment office has focused on providing training in Internet safety to children in our Catholic schools and religious education classes, or CCD," Rayburn said.

"Teaching Touching Safety," the Virtus program for children, has added two lessons on Internet safety.

The lessons, age appropriate from kindergarten through high school, focus on three basic objectives:

- Children will learn when to

give out personal information to an adult and when to keep it private.

- Children will learn to recognize that someone contacting them online may not be who or what they say they are.

- Children can participate in the establishment of family rules for Internet use.

Supplemental educational materials were mailed in March to all principals and directors of religious education, including a DVD of public service announcements on the topic of Internet safety.

"These short videos are professionally done by the AdCouncil and in a manner that kids, especially teens, will appreciate," said Rayburn.



Also included in the packet was a resource list of other Web sites and agencies providing helpful information for keeping children safe. This same list is posted on the archdiocesan Web site, [www.miamiarch.org](http://www.miamiarch.org), on the "Protecting God's Children" page. ■

For more information, go to [www.miamiarch.org](http://www.miamiarch.org) and click on "Protecting God's Children"

#### Excursiones 2010

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Visitando: Seattle, Juneau, Skagway, Trace Arm Fjord, Victoria, British Columbia.

**Sep. 26 - Alemania - Francia**

Dirigida por Rogelio Zelada

Visitando: Oberammergau, donde presenciaremos la representación de la Pasión de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo; Munich, Salzburgo, Allotting, Paris, Mont St. Michel, Lisieux.

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#### Prayerful Images

A collection of paintings by Tom Equels benefiting Notre Dame d'Haiti Catholic Church.

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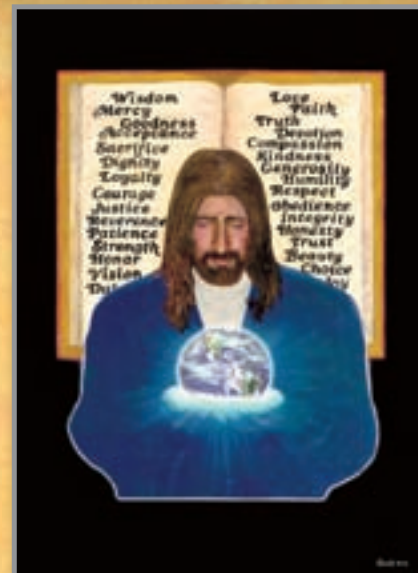
**FREE YOUR MIND** - This is a meditation on letting go of the belief that we are separated from God. How sad it is that many are in darkness because of sin, ignorance and fear. Jesus taught us that if we knock, God will answer. This is a universal truth. It works for everyone. God is there for you. Just as the rising sun melts the ice, which flows as a river, bringing life to all below, let the Son illuminate your soul and allow the Holy Spirit to flow, enriching everything around you. Beg the Lord God Almighty to come into your life. Knock on that door as hard as you can and don't stop. Don't give up! Then Jesus Christ, all of the Angelic Host, all the Holy Prophets, and all of the Saints will pave your way to communion with our Heavenly Father.

*Thomas Kenwood Equels*



**MY BODY, MY BLOOD** - This is a meditation on sacramental reverence and sacrifice. Understand the great love for God and obedience to God that prompted Jesus, knowing the agony that lay before him, to pray in the garden, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." Understand the great love expressed for all of us when, at that Last Supper, Jesus said, "Take this bread, this is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." Then he took his cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." By looking upon this image in prayer and reverence, we do just that. Let us always remember Jesus' love for us and the great sacrifice he made for you and me.

*Thomas Kenwood Equels*



**THE WAY** - This is a meditation on the path to individual spiritual enlightenment. One way to achieve spiritual evolution and elevation is by living a life of virtue. We can grow in spirit by training to live a life of virtue, by making prayer a part of daily life, and by fasting. How does an Olympic gymnast achieve a gold medal? Long hours of work at the gym! Growing spiritually is no different. Pray steadfastly for wisdom, love, faith... any of these virtues, and the Lord will give it to you. Pray for salvation and you will be saved. No one will be denied.

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**MY ANGEL** - I walk with angels. So do you. We know from the Holy Bible that angels have always been a part of the human experience. They came to Abraham and to Jacob. They guided Moses and David. They saved Daniel. They brought the Lord's message to Joseph and Mary. They comforted Jesus. Yes, over the millennia, angels have ministered to our prophets and all of the great pillars of our faith. This image is a reminder that angels are also here for you and me, even unto the very least of us. It is when we are lost, when we cry out "Lord, save me", that they come to guide, to heal, and to speak the Word.

*Thomas Kenwood Equels*



**OUR FATHER** - When prayer is a part of daily life, then we also honor those virtues of Love, Faith, Reverence, Obedience and Devotion. Pray daily and live richly.

*Thomas Kenwood Equels*



**PERFECT LOVE** - This is a meditation on the love that God has for us. It is like a mother's love for her infant child. It is pure, simple, unconditional, forgiving, and nurturing. It is a love that is strong enough to guide the child on the right path. It is strong enough to correct and chastise in the spirit of love. The Lord leads us on a righteous path, for the sake of this love. Our lives improve if we too learn to love in this holy way. Learning to love God and one another in this way is our most important lesson. Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. You shall love your neighbor as yourself." That is perfect love.

*Thomas Kenwood Equels*



# Above and beyond the call

These Virtus facilitators see their work as a ministry for keeping children safe from abuse

FLORIDA CATHOLIC STAFF

**MIAMI** — You do the math:
 

- More than 30,000 Archdiocese of Miami employees and volunteers have been trained in Virtus' Protecting God's Children program since it began in 2004;
- 216 Virtus training sessions were conducted in 2009, another 58 from January through March 2010, and 34 more are currently scheduled;
- The archdiocese has 130 trained facilitators who conduct the training sessions in both English and Spanish.

Someone's working overtime — and not even getting paid for it. But Virtus facilitators say they do not see their work as a job — most of them already have the full-time variety — but as a ministry. Following are brief profiles of five of these hardworking Virtus volunteers, along with their reasons for being involved in the ministry.

**FATHER KRIS BARTOS**  
 Father Bartos is assistant principal for Christian Formation at Archbishop Edward McCarthy High School in Southwest Ranches. He has led 55 Virtus sessions.
 **Why did you become a facilitator?**  
 "I found when we started the program that there was a need (for facilitators) in the western Broward county area, so I contacted Deacon (Frank) O'Gorman, (Virtus coordinator) at the time, and offered my service to the community."
 **Why is this mission important to you?**  
 "I feel that there was a lot of 'finger-pointing' going on about child abuse in the Church and



Mara Goldin



Antonio Cejas

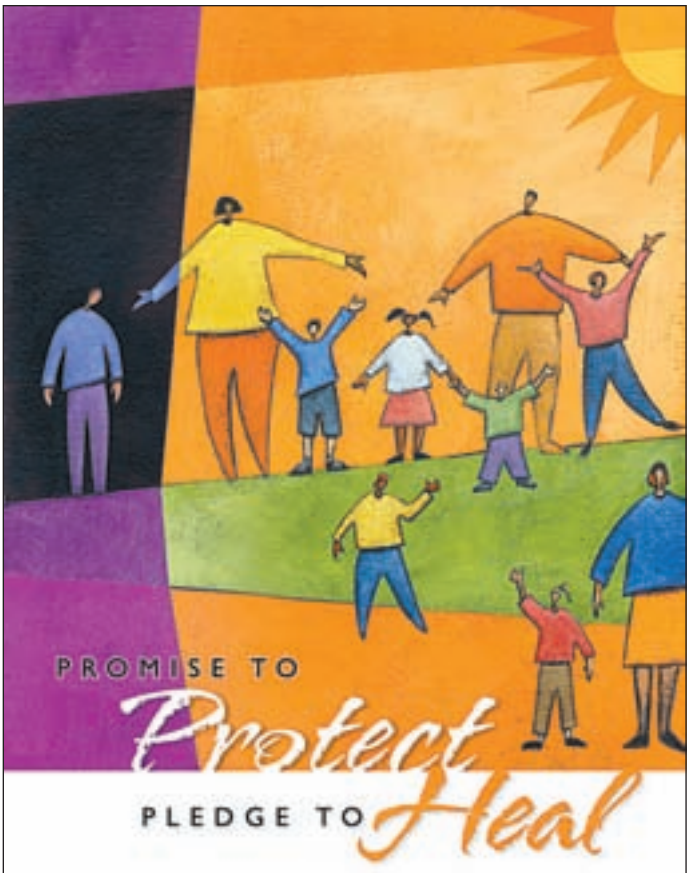


Ann Stiles

I wanted to try to set the record straight about this problem — to help the Archdiocese of Miami 'get the word out' about child abuse and how to stop it. I have had many parents and educators in the public schools here in south Broward say after the sessions that they need something like this in their schools. I am glad I could help in this endeavor."

**ANTONIO CEJAS**  
 Cejas is principal at St. Hugh School in Coconut Grove. He has been a facilitator since June 2008 and just recently became a facilitator trainer. He has led 25 sessions to date.
 **Why did you become a facilitator?**  
 "The pain and suffering associated with sexual abuse is immeasurable. The biggest and best way to stop or prevent sexual abuse is to talk about it. My ministry is one of education and of bringing God's healing word to those in need and those who are entrusted with the supervision of children. Predators thrive on silence and will not survive without silence. Do not let the predators have the silence they need to manipulate, groom, and abuse children and vulnerable adults. This is why I take being a Virtus facilitator as a calling from God to minister."
 **Why is this mission important**

**to you?**  
 "Sexual abuse of children and vulnerable adults is a grim fact of life in our society. It is more common than most people realize. Some surveys say that at least one out of five women and one out of 10 men recall sexual abuse in childhood. Parents, teachers and entire Church communities need not feel helpless about the problem. This personal mission to create awareness and educate others continues to push me to 'protect the children of God.'"
 **MARA GOLDIN**  
 Goldin is a teacher and parishioner at St. Jerome Parish and School in Fort Lauderdale. She has led 75 Virtus sessions.
 **Why did you become a facilitator?**  
 "God calls each of us to a ministry that is very near and dear to us in the Catholic Church. I heard the call from God that asked a very simple question: 'How can you protect my children?' In 2003, I was asked to attend a workshop to become a facilitator for Pro-



tecting God's Children. While attending this workshop, I realized the information I was learning had to be passed on to everyone who works or volunteers with children. My calling is to teach adults that tangible changes need to be made to protect the children in our churches, schools, communities, and in the homes. As a facilitator, it means a dedication to training everyone to recognize the signs of child sexual abuse. Our children are a precious gift from God. How can we not protect them?"
 **Why is this mission important to you?**  
 "God has called me to this mission."
 PLEASE SEE **VIRTUS, A8**

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# Fingerprinting policy and locations

As part of its commitment to keeping children safe from abuse, and in compliance with the U.S. bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children, the Archdiocese of Miami requires fingerprinting and national (Level 2) background checks for anyone over 18 who has direct or indirect access to children and vulnerable adults.

These requirements apply to anyone employed by the archdiocese at any of its schools, parishes or agencies, including clergy and religious; anyone who volunteers in any way at a parish or school, including extraordinary ministers of holy Communion, lectors, ushers, choir members and volunteers at the church carnival; adults who want to accompany children on field trips or retreats; and contractors and vendors. Fingerprints and background checks are retaken/redone every five years.

The archdiocese has enlisted Advantage Biometric Group (ABG) (formerly known as PrideRock Holding Company Inc.) as its provider of fingerprinting services and data management.

All those who need to be fingerprinted MUST first register online by accessing [www.adom.sofn.net](http://www.adom.sofn.net). Select a service center online and obtain (print) a bar code receipt,

which is automatically generated at the end of the registration process. If you already have made a fingerprint appointment at your pertinent entity, then choose the Archdiocese of Miami as your service center.

After registering, call to schedule an appointment at the selected service center. If you already have made a fingerprint appointment at your pertinent entity, you do not have to call the Archdiocese of Miami to schedule an appointment as indicated online. You must take the printed bar code receipt along with the photo ID used during registration to the selected service center. The fingerprinting system will not work without these numbers.

The archdiocese will pay for all employees and volunteers of all entities that are controlled by, operated by, or administered by the archdiocese. All contractors and vendors must pay for themselves. Employees and volunteers of schools not administered by the archdiocese must also pay. Payment will be required online during the registration process.

Following is a list of all service centers throughout Miami-Dade and Broward. You must register online at [www.adom.sofn.net](http://www.adom.sofn.net) prior to going to any of these centers. Individuals who do not have access to

a computer or require assistance in registering should contact their pertinent parish, school, archdiocesan entity or the Archdiocese of Miami directly for their designated fingerprint coordinator.

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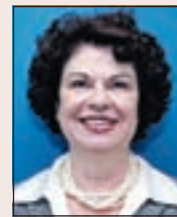
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**Virtus Training Coordinator**

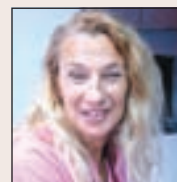
Jan Rayburn  
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[jrayburn@theadom.org](mailto:jrayburn@theadom.org)



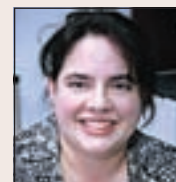
**Victim Assistance Coordinator**

Deacon Richard Turcotte  
1-866-802-2873  
(for reporting abuse by someone representing the archdiocese)

## Background-Check Coordinators



Myriam Leinweber  
305-762-1057  
[mleinweber@theadom.org](mailto:mleinweber@theadom.org)



Maria Victoria Carpio  
305-762-1059  
[mcarpio@theadom.org](mailto:mcarpio@theadom.org)

## State of Florida abuse hot line

1-800-96-ABUSE  
(1-800-962-2873)  
(for reporting all abuse allegations to civil authorities)

## VIRTUS

FROM A7

sion to educate and protect his children. As a facilitator/trainer/coordinator, I want every adult who interacts with children to be educated and trained on preventing child sexual abuse from happening in our parishes and schools. As caring adults we need to learn the warning signs of a potential abuser, we need be aware of what is happening in the lives of our children, we need to communicate our concerns about inappropriate behavior or suspect abuse, and we need to create a safer world for our children."

### MARY ANN NEAL

Neal works as an office manager and is a member of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Miami Shores. She was trained as a facilitator in 2008 and has led 21 sessions.

### Why did you become a facilitator?

"I became a facilitator simply because there was a need. I have no special talent in this area, but just put myself out there, hoping — and praying — that God will help me. I do this every time I get up to speak when leading a session. It is not my message, but his. That is what helps me get over my initial fear. I also wanted to try to make this message be one of hope. When the program first began, I heard a lot of grumbling about having to attend this program. I want to make people feel that this is not a punishment, but rather a request for their assistance to make our community a safer/better one."

### Why is this mission so important to you?

"This mission is important to

me because of all the things happening in the world today. It is of utmost importance that we, as Catholics and caring human beings, do all we can to stop abuse from happening, not only on our grounds and in our ministries, but in our world. It is the simplest way to show we are compassionate people and truly care about others. It is easy to sit back and complain about the 'way things are' — much more difficult to take actions to change those things."

### ANN STILES

Stiles is a legal secretary and parishioner at St. Helen in Fort Lauderdale. She has led 30 Virtus sessions.

### Why did you become a facilitator?

"Initially because my pastor sent me to the meeting as a representative from our parish to see what Virtus was all about. But after sitting through the session I realized that I was supposed to be there. I am a facilitator because through me I can deliver this message of educating people of the importance of being aware of what is going on in our surroundings, not only in our parishes but in our communities at large."

### Why is this mission important to you?

"I have children and grandchildren. While my girls were growing up I was involved with them in their activities and subsequently have worked with children in several areas. I am very passionate about the welfare of our children and vulnerable adults. In passing on this message of awareness, if I can help one child or vulnerable adult, I have done what I have been called to do." ■

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# Por la Seguridad de los Niños en la Web

Entrenamiento de Virtus ahora se concentra en la seguridad en la Internet

## EQUIPO DEL FLORIDA CATHOLIC

**MIAMI** — ¿Utiliza usted cualquiera de los sitios para establecer contactos en la web, como Facebook? ¿Tiene niños?

Si contestó afirmativamente a alguna de estas preguntas, la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la Arquidiócesis cuenta con instrumentos útiles para ayudarle a mantenerse al día con los últimos avances tecnológicos.

Dichos instrumentos son importantes porque la naturaleza misma de la Internet implica que el mundo exterior tiene acceso a sus niños, aún cuando usted siente que se encuentran seguros en su hogar.

Los instrumentos son parte del programa "Protecting God's Children" (Para Proteger a los Niños de Dios), para crear conciencia y prevenir el abuso sexual infantil, que se ha estado enseñando en la Arquidiócesis de Miami desde 2004.

El programa, mejor conocido como Virtus, es un componente de los esfuerzos arquidiocesanos para mantener a los niños y a los adultos vulnerables a salvo del abuso sexual.

"El programa enseña las señales de advertencia, no sólo de abuso, sino de los abusadores", informó Jan Rayburn, quien coordina el entrenamiento Virtus.

El entrenamiento también está disponible para personas de otras confesiones religiosas, o de ninguna confesión, que deseen aprender cómo prevenir el abuso sexual en sus comunidades.

Desde 2004, "más de 30,000 adultos se han entrenado sobre cómo mantener seguros a sus niños", dijo Rayburn. "Hay 130 facilitadores entrenados en los tres condados de nuestra Arquidiócesis que realizan estas sesiones en inglés y español".

En 2009, los facilitadores realizaron 216 sesiones de entrenamiento

de Virtus. Desde enero de 2010, se han realizado 58 sesiones de Virtus, y se han programado otras 34. Continuamente se añaden sesiones, y se publican en el portal arquidiocesano, [www.miamiarch.org](http://www.miamiarch.org).

Debido a la creciente popularidad de los sitios de contactos en la red digital, "este año, la oficina de Ambiente Seguro se ha concentrado en ofrecer entrenamientos sobre la seguridad en la Internet para los niños en nuestras escuelas católicas y en las clases de educación religiosa (CCD)", explicó Rayburn.

"Teaching Touching Safety" (Para Enseñar Seguridad en el Contacto), el programa de Virtus para niños, ha añadido dos lecciones sobre la seguridad en la Internet.

Las lecciones se adaptan según la edad, desde pre-escolar hasta escuela secundaria, y se concentran en tres objetivos elementales:

-Los niños aprenderán cuándo pueden ofrecer información personal a un adulto, y cuándo deben mantenerla en privado.

-Los niños aprenderán a reconocer que alguien que se comunique con ellos en línea, quizás no sea quien es o lo que dice ser.

-Los niños pueden participar en el establecimiento de reglas familiares para el uso de la Internet.

En marzo se envió un suplemento de materiales educativos a todos los directores escolares y de educación religiosa, que incluye un DVD con anuncios de servicio público sobre el tema de la seguridad en la Internet.

"Estos vídeos cortos fueron producidos profesionalmente por el AdCouncil, en un formato que los

niños, y en particular los jóvenes, pueden apreciar", indicó Rayburn.

El paquete también incluye una lista de recursos sobre otros sitios en la web, y agencias que ofrecen información útil para mantener a los niños a salvo. La lista está publicada en el portal arquidiocesano, [www.miamiarch.org](http://www.miamiarch.org), en la página "Protecting God's Children".

## FYI

### PARA MANTENER A LOS NIÑOS A SALVO

Como parte de su compromiso para mantener a los niños a salvo del abuso, y para cumplir con la Carta de los Obispos de los Estados Unidos para la Protección de los Niños, la Arquidiócesis de Miami exige los siguientes requisitos a todos sus empleados y voluntarios mayores de 18 años:

-Asistencia a la clase de Virtus, "Protecting God's Children" (Para Proteger a los Niños de Dios), de tres horas de duración, además de una inscripción en línea y boletines mensuales para el entrenamiento continuado.

-Toma de huellas dactilares y verificación de antecedentes para cualquier persona, incluyendo a contratistas y

vendedores, que tenga acceso directo o indirecto a los niños y a los adultos vulnerables.

Estos requisitos aplican a cualquier persona empleada por la Arquidiócesis de Miami en cualquiera de sus escuelas, parroquias o agencias, incluyendo al clero y a los religiosos; a todos los que sean voluntarios de cualquier manera en una parroquia o escuela, incluyendo a los ministros extraordinarios de la Sagrada Comunión, los lectores, ujieres, miembros del coro y voluntarios en el carnaval parroquial; y los adultos que desean acompañar a los niños en los retiros o excursiones.

Para más información, visite [www.miamiarch.org](http://www.miamiarch.org) y oprima "Protecting God's Children".

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## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Ave Maria Founders Club dinner**, Friday, April 23, 6 p.m., St. Malachy, 6200 N. University Drive, Tamarac. Guest speaker: Father John Gallagher of Ave Maria University on "Be Who You Are Called to Be." Tickets: \$10. R.S.V.P. by April 21: 954-722-2348 or [www.avemaria.edu/lauderdale](http://www.avemaria.edu/lauderdale).

**"A Night of Giving: Couleur D'Haiti,"** Friday, April 23, 7 p.m., St. Thomas University's Convocation Hall, 16401 N.W. 37 Ave., Miami Gardens. Annual fashion show, gala dinner presented by Haitian student organization "Kreyol Nation." Formal attire. Admission: \$20. Proceeds go to long-term relief of Haiti's earthquake survivors. 305-744-4141.

**Knights of Columbus anniversary luncheon**, Saturday, April 24, 10:30 a.m., St. Henry, 1500 S. Andrews Ave., Pompano Beach. John A. Hill Council 4955 is celebrating 50 years of serving south Florida. Program begins with Mass of thanksgiving followed by luncheon. Entertainment by Broadway veteran Marcia McClain. Tickets: \$25. R.S.V.P.: 954-421-4955 or [kofc4955@yahoo.com](mailto:kofc4955@yahoo.com).

**Pro-Am golf/tennis classic**, April 25-26, Weston Hills Country Club, to benefit Archbishop Edward McCarthy High School. Honorary chairman: former Florida Marlin Alex Fernandez. Emcee: retired NBC-6 anchor Tony Segreto. \$275 per player or \$1,000 for foursome. Information, registration: [amhscelebritygolfclassic@yahoo.com](mailto:amhscelebritygolfclassic@yahoo.com) or [www.mccarthyhigh.org](http://www.mccarthyhigh.org).

**"The Proposed Alternative to the Tiers,"** Monday, April 26, 7 p.m., Schott Communities for Persons who are Deaf or Disabled, 6591 S. Flamingo Road, Cooper City. Guest speakers: Bonnie Florom, Pam Romack from the Agency for Persons with Disabilities. Free. 954-434-3306, ext. 102.

**"Gentlemen's Dinner," honoring Bernard McCormick**, publisher of *Gold Coast Magazine*, Thursday, April 29, 6:30 p.m.,

Lauderdale Yacht Club, 1725 S.E. 12 St., Fort Lauderdale. \$150 per gentleman. Proceeds go to the St. Anthony Foundation for Education. Reservations: 954-467-9009, [s.murrah@stanthonyftl.org](mailto:s.murrah@stanthonyftl.org).

**St. Stephen flea market**, Saturday, May 1, 7 a.m.-2 p.m., St. Stephen, 2000 S. State Road 7, Miramar. Spaces: \$25. 954-987-1100.

**Magnificat luncheon**, Saturday, May 29, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Our Lady of Lourdes (Bernadette Hall), 11291 S.W. 142 Ave., Miami. A Catholic charismatic ministry for women. [www.magnificatmiami.com](http://www.magnificatmiami.com) or 305-205-5599.

## CONCERTS

**"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](mailto:news@acnd.net) or 305-751-3741, ext. 22.

**Spring concert spectacular**, Thursday, April 29, Archbishop Curley Notre Dame High School, 4949 N.E. Second Ave., Miami. Features award-winning Troubadours, instrumental concert ensemble, Knightingales musical choir. Free. [news@acnd.net](mailto:news@acnd.net) or 305-751-3741.

**St. Pius X concert series**, 2511 N. Ocean Blvd. (A1A), Fort Lauderdale. Tickets: \$10; free for children under 8. 954-565-9935: Thursday, May 20, 7:30 p.m.: Spring concert by Cardinal Gibbons High School's wind symphony orchestra, chorus and jazz band.

## FAITH EDUCATION

**El cuidado de la salud de enfermos terminales**, jueves, 29 de abril, 7 p.m., salón de música, parroquia St. Gregory, 200 N. University Drive, Plantation. ¿Ensañamiento tecnológico, cuidados paliativos o eutanasia? Aprenda sobre este importante tema a la luz de la fe católica.

Presentado por el Padre Roberto Cid. 954-473-6261.

**"Living Pentecost: A Process of Spiritual Growth,"** Saturday, May 22, 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](mailto:sepimiami@aol.com) o [www.sepimiami.org](http://www.sepimiami.org):

- *Transforma Tu Pérdida*, sábado, 8 de mayo, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., dirigido por Ligia M. Houben, diplomada como consejera de duelo. \$10.

- *Sábado Bíblico: Antiguo Testamento*, 15 de mayo, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., descubra la riqueza del Antiguo Testamento con el Padre Pablo Laguna.

**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](mailto:Sepimiami@aol.com).

**School of Ministry/lay ecclesial ministry formation program**, for lay men, women desiring to grow in understanding of Catholic identity and ability to serve. Classes in English, Spanish and Creole in Miami-Dade, Broward and Monroe counties; online learning in English and Spanish. Applications due May 31. Registration forms at [www.miamiarch.org/layministry](http://www.miamiarch.org/layministry), or 305-762-1184 or 954-525-5157, ext. 1184.

## PRAYER GROUPS

**Songs and prayer in the spirit of Taizé**, Tuesday, May 11, 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

**"For The Love Of God Worldwide Mission."** John Rick Miller speaks on returning to a way of life under God, consecrated to the sorrowful and immaculate heart of Mary and to the Sacred Heart of Jesus:

- Sunday, April 18, 6 p.m., St. Timothy Parish, 5400 S.W. 102 Ave., Miami, 305-596-7132.
- Tuesday, April 20, 7:30 p.m., St.

## 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](http://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](mailto:arsoto@theadom.org); fax: 305-762-1132; mail: The Florida Catholic, 9401 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, FL 33138.

Andrew Parish, 9990 N.W. 29 St., Coral Springs, 954-752-3950.

**Seminario Nuevo Caminar**, viernes, 23 de abril, 6 p.m., 1030 E. 8 Ave., Hialeah. ¿Problemas con drogas, alcohol, juegos, matrimonio, familia, co-dependencia? Déjanos ayudarte. 305-863-3355.

**Engaged Encounter: Life Skills Day**, Engaged couples can explore life skills as they apply to married life. Registration: 305-762-1140 or [familife@theadom.org](mailto:familife@theadom.org):

- Saturday, May 8, Nativity, 5220 Johnson St., Hollywood

- Friday, May 14, 6:30-10 p.m.; Saturday, May 15, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., St. Louis, 7270 S.W. 120 St., Pinecrest.

**Encuentro con Cristo**, sábado 15 de mayo, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., St. Bartholomew, 8005 Miramar Parkway, Miramar. Ven a encontrarte con Cristo en camino a Damasco, con la participación especial de Mons. Felipe Estevez, *Los Heraldos de La Virgen*, y el ministerio de adoración y alabanza Agua Viva. 954-549-6320.

**Pre Cana 2: sábado**, 15 de mayo, Casa Caná, 480 E. Eighth St., Hialeah El Plan de Dios para un Matrimonio Lleno de Alegría, entrenamiento pre-matrimonial para las parejas que están planeando contraer segundas nupcias debido a una viudez o a la anulación de un previo matrimonio y que pueden contraer nuevamente una unión sacramental. [familife@theadom.org](mailto:familife@theadom.org) or 305-762-1140:

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

**Cursillo en español**, para hombres, 29 de abril al 2 de mayo, parroquia Good Shepherd, 14187 S.W. 72 St., Miami. 305-778-7962 o 305-305-0208.

**Life in the Spirit seminar**, May 21-23, St. Louis, 7270 S.W. 120 St., Miami. 305-251-1286 or [StLouisLITS@yahoo.com](mailto:StLouisLITS@yahoo.com).

**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, pre-registration required: [joyfilledmarriage@gmail.com](mailto:joyfilledmarriage@gmail.com) or 305-762-1140.

**Encuentro Familiar**, 1 y 2 de mayo, Ignatius 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.

**Emmaus para hombres**, del 13 al 15 de mayo, parroquia Our Lady of Lourdes, 11291 S.W. 142 Ave., Miami; basado en el Evangelio de San Lucas 24, 13-35. 305-978-4586.

**Impacto**, 22 y 23 de mayo, 9 a.m. a 5 p.m., St. Joachim, 19150 S.W. 117 Ave., Miami. Mejore su vida matrimonial y su relación con sus hijos, para familias con niños entre las edades de 3 a 11 años. [www.impactos.org](http://www.impactos.org) o 305-571-7111.

## SCHOOL EVENTS

**Chaminade-Madonna golf classic**, Friday, April 30, 11 a.m., Fort Lauderdale Country Club, followed by dinner, silent auction, awards ceremony. Proceeds benefit co-curricular education, athletic and financial aid programs. Registration: [www.cmlions.org/golfclassic](http://www.cmlions.org/golfclassic). 954-989-5150, ext. 117 or 140.

**"Night of the Arts,"** Thursday, May 20, 6-9 p.m., Our Lady of the Lakes, 6600 Miami Lakeway N., Miami Lakes. Features grand display of student artwork, music and dance performances. 305-362-5315.

**"Transition to Pre-K,"** Thursday, May 20, 6:30 p.m., Our Lady of the Lakes School, 6600 Miami Lakeway N., Miami Lakes. Workshop for parents and prekindergarten-aged children, to understand benefits of enrolling in VPK. Bilingual, free, R.S.V.P.: 305-362-5315, [ypelaez@ollnet.com](mailto:ypelaez@ollnet.com).

**Writer's camp**, June 21-July 9, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Immaculate Conception School, 125 W. 45 St., Hialeah. For students in grades three through eight. Tuition: \$330, or \$300 if paid in full by May 14, or for families with multiple children; includes instruction, writing activities, materials, three field trips, daily lunch, snacks. \$50 nonrefundable registration due May 14. [jgarcia@icsmiami.org](mailto:jgarcia@icsmiami.org) or [www.icswriterscamp.com/ICSWritersCamp/Welcome.html](http://www.icswriterscamp.com/ICSWritersCamp/Welcome.html).

**2010 alumni soccer tournament**, Saturday, May 29, Archbishop Curley Notre Dame High School, 4949 N.E. 2 Ave., Miami. 954-682-3678, [bdtrigator@aol.com](mailto:bdtrigator@aol.com).

**St. Agatha School**, 1125 S.W. 107 Ave., Miami, accepting applications for enrollment for the 2010-11 academic year, grades PreK2-eight. Call for personal tour: 305-222-8751.

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# BUILDING THE CITY OF God

## What he did before becoming a priest:

"I was studying. I am not a 'late vocation.'"

## When he knew he wanted to be a priest:

"From an early age, probably around 8 or 9. But that was not a definite. When I became a teenager, I was not 100 percent sure if that was the way I wanted to go. I had some questions and wavering moments, but then, finally, it worked out this way."

## Person or event that triggered his vocation:

"There were two young parish priests in my home parish. They were very happy, committed and fulfilled in their vocation. They inspired me to become a priest."

## Person most surprised by his vocation:

"No one, really, but there were people who wanted me to leave my vocation. ... My father died when I was 21 and in our culture, the oldest son takes on the family responsibilities. So, when my father died, I was still in the seminary and some members of my family told me, 'It's time to leave the seminary, come home and take care of the family.'"

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

"I would have taken electronic engineering. Electronics was my hobby. I loved building my own little gadgets."

## What the seminary did not prepare him for:

The business aspect of the Church, administration and finances. "And I don't blame them, because that is not a business school. ... You learn things at the parish. That happens in any profession. I don't look at it as a negative."

**Electronics was my hobby. I loved building my own little gadgets.'**

## The most difficult aspect of being a priest:

"Trying to please everybody. It's almost impossible."

## His description of the ideal priest:

"The ideal priest is, naturally, Jesus Christ. Can we imitate Jesus Christ 100 percent? We are human beings; we try the best we can."

## On compassion and the law:

"It is always a juggling act trying to be compassionate, understanding, loving, caring and yet to fulfill the requirements of the laws of the Church. Being a canonist, it makes it more difficult because I know the law."

## A priestly stereotype that should be discarded:

That priests have no faults or failures. "Priests are human beings. ... They make mistakes. ... I don't mean that priests should not be holy; they should be. But we do not always reach the ideal."



Father Puthusseril is shown here tinkering with an amplifier in the auditorium of the papal seminary in Pune, India, in the late 1970s. He still loves tinkering with electronics and computers.

## What he does on his day off:

"I wear a different set of clothes and I work in my office during the morning, trying to catch up on all the things that I need to do, and all the paperwork. But in the afternoon, I try to relax a bit and go out for dinner."

## Favorite movie:

"Life is Beautiful"

## Favorite TV series:

"What is TV? I have no time for TV!"

## Last book read:

"The Case for Christ" by Lee Strobel, an investigative journalist and agnostic who became a believer.

## Favorite type of music:

"I mostly listen to spirituals in my mother tongue."

## Person he most admires:

"I do admire my mother greatly because of the struggles she had to go through: being a single mother raising seven children on her own; two or three of us were of age, but the others were still young."

## His greatest joy:

"I find great joy in celebrating the sacraments, in ministering to people."

## His greatest accomplishment:

Getting some of the fallen away Catholics back to the Church. "I can distinctly remember a couple of cases when the persons told me that they are back in Church because of the way I dealt with them in the sacrament of reconciliation."

## Thing he most fears:

"I really don't want to die without the sacraments."

## Regrets:

"I don't really have any. ... If you ask me if I would be a priest all over again, I would say 'yes!' even with all the challenges that are out there today."



## FATHER GEORGE PUTHUSSERIL

**Pastor, St. Andrew Parish,  
Coral Springs**

Born in 1955 in the state of Kerala, India, Father

Puthusseril was ordained for the Diocese of

Krishnagar, India, on Oct. 6, 1979. While studying for

his canon law degree in Rome, he made friends with

some priests from the northern United States, whom

he visited a few summers. That is how he found out

about Florida, where there was "great weather,

similar to what we have back in Kerala, India." He

came to Miami in 1990 and was incardinated (made

a part of the archdiocese) in 1995. Along with parish

work, he has served as archdiocesan coordinator for

high-tech, and a judge and defender of the bond in the

Metropolitan Tribunal. Since July 2002, he has been

pastor of St. Andrew Parish in Coral Springs.



Archdiocese of Miami  
9401 Biscayne Boulevard  
Miami, Florida 33138  
305.762.1043 Fax 305.751.6227



# HAITI

FROM A3

Miami Medical Missions has been learning quickly how to work more effectively in Haiti, and advance teams (including a retired U.S. Army colonel) have been conducting security assessments, locating patients and setting up pre-triage procedures so that when medical teams arrive, they can skip the medical history paperwork and move right into the hands-on clinical response.

Beyond that, the group wants to establish a presence not only in Port-au-Prince, but in rural clinics at

some of the byways where Haitians are moving as they migrate between Port-au-Prince and other key population centers.

"We hope to establish triage for people who have fled to Cap-Haïtien, Port-de-Paix, Gonaïves and other places where we can expect infrastructural development and with an idea to replicate medical centers," said Guillermo Cueto, a member of St. Patrick Parish in Miami Beach and a U.S. military retiree closely involved with strategy planning for the Miami archdiocesan efforts in Haiti.

Cueto added that a centralized approach from the Miami Archdiocese will encourage a defined objective and a permanent base of doctors and other health care specialists situated in Haiti.

"We want to make this grow, and we want as many doctors, medications, tents and resources involved as is possible. There is such a need and the disaster is so vast," he said, that the aid effort should not be exclusive to medical professionals in Miami.

Cueto, a Pedro Pan Cuban-American who took a course on national disasters through Case Western University, said there is a special sensitivity and sense of vocation when doctors go abroad and treat people in emergencies.

"When you get there and see the disaster and all the human misery, all your spiritual neurons are activated and an adrenaline activates



TOM TRACY | FC

In this photo taken in early March, Haitian doctors and nurses look at an X-ray at a field hospital on the grounds of St. Francis de Sales Hospital in Port-au-Prince, which was mostly destroyed by the Jan. 12 earthquake.



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from within and it makes you act and engage right away."

Some of the medical volunteers from Miami have worked in war and disaster zones in Afghanistan and elsewhere, but they all have been deeply moved by the staggering crisis in Haiti, Cueto added.

They are living out Pope John Paul II's call to put spirituality into action, and spiritually is the only way to prepare oneself for these situations, he said.

"Fortitude and heroism come from God and spirituality and a total conviction that you are in the hands of God, otherwise there is no way you can do it," Cueto said.

Miami Medical volunteers also

are working with the Archdiocese of Port-au-Prince to utilize a Church property and establish a national prosthetics factory and employee training program that will provide local jobs and artificial limbs for amputees throughout Haiti. One specialist has already been exploring options on the ground there.

"We can provide the technicians and trainers to teach the Haitians so they can do the prosthetics," Cueto said. "It will provide a sense of participation, pride and commitment."

Cueto also wants to partner with large nongovernmental organizations in Washington to do agriculture and development projects to link communities in the United

States with the communities in Haiti.

"This is going to be very beautiful in terms of Miami working with Haiti and other dioceses outside of Miami in receiving donations and doctors outside of the region," he said.

Other plans call for a physical therapy center and prefabricated housing program to help protect Haitians from malaria and dengue epidemics during the coming rainy season.

"We are one Catholic family and one family in the eyes of God," Cueto said. "We are reconnecting and this tragedy has connected us very deeply." ■

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