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OF MIAMI

WHIRLWIND OF WELCOME

Archbishop Thomas Wenski spends first two weeks in office visiting Catholics throughout archdiocese

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO
of the Florida Catholic staff

MIAMI — Miami's new archbishop wasted no time in reacquainting himself with the people and places of south Florida.

Just a day after his installation Mass at St. Mary Cathedral, Archbishop Thomas Wenski was off and running, celebrating a whirlwind of welcome Masses — 10 in 9 days — for Catholics from Key West to Fort Lauderdale.

WATCH THE PALLIUM MASS

The Pallium Mass can be viewed on the archdiocesan website, www.miam-iarch.org, live at 3:30 a.m. (9:30 a.m. Rome time) on Tuesday, June 29. It will air again on the website only once, at 6 p.m. that evening.

Also turn to the website for daily blog postings — pictures and stories — from Rome by Ana Rodriguez-Soto, editor of the Florida Catholic's Miami edition, who is accompanying Archbishop Thomas Wenski on the pallium pilgrimage.

multicultural Mass with representatives of all the different ethnic and cultural groups; and at Epiphany June 10 for a Mass with members of the papal and chivalric orders, as well as those who have received archdiocesan or papal honors.

PLEASE SEE **WELCOME, A2**

Clockwise from top left, Archbishop Thomas Wenski is greeted by Rabbi Solomon Schiff and his wife, Shirley Schiff, at Epiphany Parish in Miami; Adanma Osuji, a member of the Nigerian apostolate, applauds Archbishop Wenski as he enters St. Clement Parish; and Archbishop Wenski greets Flossie Abrigo, a Filipino, after Mass at St. Clement Parish in Fort Lauderdale.



PHOTOS BY BLANCA MORALES AND MARLENE QUARONI | FC

WELCOME: 'Remember that there is no greater priority for us than to make Jesus Christ known to all'



MARLENE QUARONI | FC

Anne Moise, center, holds a framed picture of Archbishop Wenski at a welcome Mass June 5 at Notre Dame d'Haiti in Miami.

FROM A1

He also celebrated the annual Red Mass for Catholics in the legal profession at St. Anthony Parish in Fort Lauderdale June 2, and a Mass June 5 to mark the graduation of 34 students of the two-year School of Ministry — and the commissioning or recommissioning of 47 others.

After taking a break to attend the U.S. bishops' meeting in St. Petersburg, he celebrated Mass June 20 for members of religious communities. In between, he managed to write opinion pieces for both the *Miami Herald* and the *National Catholic Register*.

Although he tailored his message for the audience at each Mass, Archbishop Wenski reiterated the theme he spoke about at his installation: The world has forgotten about God, therefore the world is without hope. That lack of hope manifests itself in drug abuse, abortion and other societal ills. The role of Catholics is to witness to the world that there is hope, and that hope lies in belief in God. Similarly, Catholics must witness to the joy that results from experiencing a personal encounter with Jesus.

"Remember that there is no greater priority for us than to make Jesus Christ known, loved, adored, announced and communicated to all," Archbishop Wenski told the lay ministers.

He also took the opportunity, in talking to Hispanics at St. Michael and members of all the cultural groups at St. Clement, to vigorously

defend immigrants.

"Diversity does not divide the Church," he said in his homily at St. Clement. "The word 'catholic' means universal. Today, the presence of so many ethnic groups that form part of our archdiocesan community should show that all can and do find a home in the Catholic Church. Our unity is found in Christ."

The groups included Haitians, Brazilians, Hispanics, Koreans, Filipinos, Chinese, Nigerians, Indians, Vietnamese and Americans. The archbishop said that everyone should feel at home in the Father's house and that the Church will continue its outreach to newcomers.

"We will speak their Mother's tongue," he said. "The newcomer, regardless of legal status, is a human person, he is a brother, she is a sister with a claim on our solidarity. We must build bridges, not walls."

At St. Michael, he challenged Hispanics, the largest minority and Catholic group in America, to be beacons of hope to the nation.

He said the vast number of Hispanic immigrants to the U.S. can provide "an antidote to the individualism and moral relativism that has infected American popular culture."

He also asked them to embrace and advocate for the undocumented, "the lepers of our day."

"Before those who want to let themselves be carried away by fear — and so build up walls of racism and lack of understanding — we have to be witnesses of a 'God love', a compassionate God, a God who is Father of all — whether they 'have



JONATHAN MARTINEZ | FC

Archbishop Thomas Wenski prays June 3 at the beginning of the first welcome Mass in Broward County at St. Gregory the Great Parish in Plantation.

papers' or not," Archbishop Wenski said.

He will conclude his first month as Miami's archbishop by traveling to Rome with about 250 pilgrims from Miami and Orlando. There, on June 29 in a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, he will receive — along with all the other newly named archbishops from around the world — the pallium, the symbol

of his office as metropolitan archbishop.

As metropolitan, Archbishop Wenski has limited jurisdiction over a group of dioceses referred to as a province, in this case the Province of Miami, which consists of the seven dioceses of Florida.

The pallium will be placed around his shoulders by Pope Benedict XVI on the feast of Sts. Peter and

Paul — a reminder of the bonds that bind the bishops around the world with the successor of St. Peter. ■

To read coverage of all of Archbishop Wenski's Welcome Masses, as well as some of the homilies he preached, go to www.miamiarch.org. Click on the "news center" tab, then on "news archive" and search by the keyword "Wenski."

NEWSbriefs

Learn to teach children to pray

The Ministry of the Friends of Jesus and Mary invites the community to its VI International Congress, to be held at Manresa Retreat House, 12190 S.W. 56 St., Miami, from July 15 to 18. This event is for adults, including parents, who are called to serve God by teaching children to pray and to love the Lord in their families and in their prayer groups. The information will be presented in Spanish; however, simultaneous translation will be available at no extra cost.

Donation for the four-day event is \$40. For reservations, call Florida Center for Peace, 305-412-1700 or 305-273-8730, or go to www.fcpeace.com, and click on the tab "Friends of Jesus and Mary," then on Events.

Advocate training begins in September

The Office of the Metropolitan Tribunal announces that classes for the Advocate Program 2010-2011 will begin Sept. 15. They are held at the School of Canon Law at St. Thomas University, 16401 N.W. 37 Ave., Miami Gardens, every other week on Wednesdays, from 7 to 9:30 p.m.

The deadline to receive nominations for new students is July 31. For more information, please visit <http://tribunal.miami.org>, call Roberto Aguirre at 305-762-1237, or e-mail robertoaguirre@bellsouth.net.

Theology of Body Congress in July

Ascension Press will host a national Theology of the Body Congress July 28-30 at Normandy Farms, Blue Bell, Pa. (near Philadelphia). Speakers include Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, Christopher West and Janet Smith. The three-day congress will feature more than 35 seminars, roundtable discussions, expert panels and keynote addresses. For registration and information, visit www.TOBcongress.com or call 1-877-263-1263.

Miami will host Respect Life conference

"Ignite the Spark Within Us!" is the theme of this year's Florida Respect Life Conference, which will be hosted by the Archdiocese of Miami Oct. 29-30 at the Fort Lauderdale Marriott North Hotel, 6650 N. Andrews Ave., Fort Lauderdale.

This conference is sponsored by the bishops of Florida, the Florida Catholic Conference and diocesan respect life directors.

Speakers will include: Father Alfred Cioffi, a Miami priest who serves as senior fellow of the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia; Claire Thuning-Roberson, director of pharmaceutical development at Thallion Pharmaceuticals, who will speak on advances in ethical stem-cell

research; D. Michael McCarron, executive director of the Florida Catholic Conference, who will speak about the death penalty; Joseph Mauceri, doctor of internal medicine, clinical research and bioethics, who will speak about the final hour of life; Father Carmello Romanello, a Miami priest who will speak about post-abortion healing; Augustinian Father Richard Mullen, who will speak about abortion in the context of Catholic social teaching; and Barbara Groeber, education coordinator for the archdiocese's respect life ministry, who will speak about sexual morality.

Catechist credits will be available for attendance at the conference. Registration fees are \$75 (individual), \$140 (married couple) and \$65 (student). The registration deadline is Oct. 15. For information, call the Respect Life Ministry Office at 954-981-2922.

If you have a special need or intention, the staff of the *Florida Catholic* will pray with you. Just send in your prayer requests and we will include your needs in our prayers. Mail to: Florida Catholic, P.O. Box 4993, Orlando, FL 32802-4993 or visit our Web site at www.thefloridacatholic.org.

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ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

Vol. 71, No. 10

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Miami, FL 33138
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Let 'illegals' earn their citizenship

To those who accused Jesus of breaking the laws of his day, he replied, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath" (Mk 2:27). This teaching underscores the point that positive law, even Divine positive law, is meant to benefit, not to enslave, mankind. The patriots, who broke the law by tossing tea into Boston Harbor, understood this — as did Rosa Parks, who broke the law by refusing to give up her bus seat to a white man.

When laws fail to advance the common good, they can and should be changed.

Our immigration laws need to be changed: They are antiquated and inadequate for the promotion and regulation of social and economic relations of 21st-century America. On this point everyone is seemingly agreed. However, the solutions proposed should not make the situation worse.

Outdated laws, ill-adapted to the increasing interdependence of our world and the globalization of labor, are bad laws. However, proposed changes must take into account both human dignity and the na-

tional interest; otherwise, bad laws will be replaced by worse ones.

For this reason, the U.S. bishops and a broad bipartisan coalition ranging from unions to chambers of commerce have supported broad comprehensive immigration reform that, while addressing future needs for labor by providing for a legal guest-worker program, also offers an "earned" path to legalization for those 10 million or so workers already in the country, as well as fixing the unacceptable backlogs for family reunification visas that keep families separated for intolerable lengths of time.

A narrow, restrictive legislation focusing on solely "enforcement" will only make matters worse.

Indeed, a billion dollars has been spent on border enforcement over the past 10 years — and yet illegal immigration until this current recession had increased because the labor market demanded willing and able workers.

Illegal immigration should not be tolerated — for it leads to the abuse and exploitation of the migrants themselves; and, ultimately, busi-

nesses which rely on their labor — and, in doing so, help fuel the growth of the American economy — would prefer and benefit from a reliable and legal work force.

But fixing illegal immigration does not require the "demonization" of the so-called "illegals." America has always been a land of promise and opportunity for those willing to work hard. We can provide for our national security and secure borders without making America, a nation of immigrants, less a land of promise or opportunity for immigrants.

Victor Hugo's 19th-century novel, "Les Miserables," tells how pride and neglect of mercy represented in the bitterly zealous legalism of Inspector Javert ultimately destroys him. Today, modern-day Javerts, on radio and TV talk shows, fan flames of resentment against supposed lawbreakers, equating them with terrorists intent on hurting us. However, these people only ask for the opportunity to become legal — to come out of the shadows where they live in fear of a knock on their door in the dead of night or an immigration raid to their workplace. Like Jean Valjean, today's migrants only look for the opportunity to re-

deem themselves through honest work.

Today, many take umbrage at the Catholic bishops' advocacy on behalf of these "illegals" — but in doing so, we stand in a proud moral tradition, like the novel's benevolent Bishop Myriel, who gave his candlesticks to the desperate Jean Valjean and protected him from arrest by Javert.

For this reason, we call upon Congress to seize the opportunity for a comprehensive fix to our broken immigration system. To date, its failure to act has contributed to neo-Nativist anti-immigrant sentiment and to ill-advised initiatives like Arizona's recent immigration law that usurps what is the purview of the federal government.

A nation that honors lawbreakers like the patriots of the "Boston Tea Party," a nation that can allow the dignified defiance of Rosa Parks in her act of lawbreaking to touch its conscience, is a nation that also can make room for modern-day Jean Valjeans. We can be a nation of laws, without becoming a nation of Javerts. As Jesus reminded the embittered zealots of his day, laws are designed for the benefit — not the harm — of humankind. ■



FROM THE
ARCHBISHOP
Thomas Wenski

Necesitamos cambiar las leyes de inmigración

A quienes acusaron a Jesús de transgredir las leyes de su tiempo, Él replicó: "El sábado ha sido hecho para el hombre, y no el hombre para el sábado" (Mc. 2:27). Su enseñanza subraya el punto de que la ley positiva, aún la ley divina positiva, debe beneficiar a la humanidad, no esclavizarla.

Los patriotas que violaron la ley durante el motín del té en el puerto de Boston, lo entendían, como lo entendió Rosa Parks, quien quebrantó la ley cuando rehusó ceder su asiento en el autobús a un hombre blanco.

Cuando las leyes fracasan en permitir el progreso del bien común, deben y tienen que ser cambiadas.

Nuestras leyes de inmigración necesitan un cambio; son anticuadas e inadecuadas para la promoción y la regulación de las relacio-

nes sociales y económicas de América en el siglo 21. Parece que todo el mundo está de acuerdo con este punto.

Sin embargo, las soluciones propuestas no deben empeorar la situación. Las leyes anacrónicas, adaptadas equivocadamente a la creciente interdependencia de nuestro mundo y a la globalización laboral, son inadecuadas. Los cambios propuestos deben considerar tanto la dignidad humana como el interés nacional. De lo contrario, las leyes malas serán remplazadas por leyes peores.

Por esta razón, los obispos católicos de los Estados Unidos y una amplia coalición bipartidista de uniones y cámaras de comercio, han apoyado una reforma abarcadora de inmigración que trate las necesidades laborales futuras al establecer

un programa legal de trabajadores temporales; que ofrezca un camino a la legalización para los 10 millones de trabajadores, aproximadamente, que se encuentran en el país; y que elimine los atrasos en las visas de reunificación, que mantienen a las familias separadas por períodos inaceptables de tiempo.

Una legislación limitada y restrictiva, concentrada exclusivamente en el "cumplimiento", sólo empeorará la situación. De hecho, durante los pasados 10 años se han invertido miles de millones de dólares en la protección de la frontera, pero la inmigración ilegal aumentó hasta la actual recesión, debido a que el mercado laboral exigía trabajadores diestros y dispuestos.

La inmigración ilegal no debe ser tolerada, pues conduce al abuso y a la explotación de los propios in-

migrantes; en última instancia, los negocios que necesitan el trabajo de los inmigrantes — lo que contribuye al crecimiento de la economía americana — preferirían y se beneficiarían de la fuerza laboral legal y responsable.

La solución a la inmigración ilegal no requiere calumniar a los supuestos "ilegales". América siempre ha sido una tierra de promesa y oportunidades para quienes están dispuestos a trabajar arduamente. Podemos proteger nuestra seguridad nacional y nuestras fronteras sin que América, una nación de inmigrantes, deje de ser una tierra de promesa y oportunidades para los inmigrantes.

La novela del siglo 19, "Les Miserables", de Víctor Hugo, trata el

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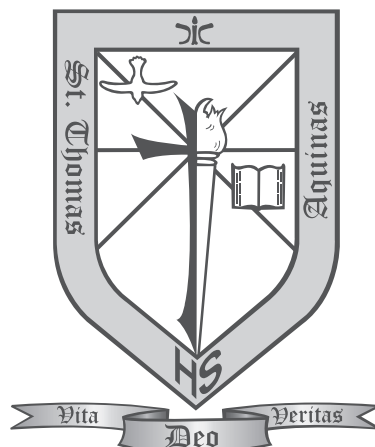
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Catholic schools: Faithful evangelizers

Survey finds at least 700 Catholic school students, parents, staff joined Church this year across the country

Florida Catholic staff

ARLINGTON, Va. — While Catholic schools traditionally are prized for their high academic standards and orderly behavior, occasionally the evangelizing mission of schools is taken for granted. After all, aren't all students in Catholic schools Catholic?

They are not, according to statistics compiled annually by the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), the professional membership organization for Catholic schools and parish religious education programs.

According to figures released this spring, approximately 14.5 percent, or nearly 308,000 students, enrolled in Catholic schools are not Catholic. The percentages vary widely from region to region, from few non-Catholic students in rural areas to inner-city schools where Catholic students may be the minority.

In the Archdiocese of Miami, for the school year 2009-2010, nearly 9 percent of the 34,418 students in Catholic elementary and high schools were not Catholic.

The full effect of a school's evangelizing mission is difficult to pinpoint precisely. However, based on an e-mail survey conducted by the NCEA this spring, Catholic schools around the country reported more than 700 youths, parents and staff members connected to Catholic schools chose to become Catholic this year.

Responses represented 17 percent of the nation's 178 Latin-rite dioceses or archdioceses, so actual nationwide numbers would be higher if statistics were available.

According to Karen Ristau, president of the NCEA, "These numbers speak impressively to the effectiveness of U.S. Catholic schools in sharing and spreading the faith. It's testimony that religion is an integral part of the educational program and of students' daily life at school."

Many schools reported that the numbers of those received into the Church were in the ones and twos, but several dioceses reported significant numbers of new members during the 2010 Easter season.

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia reported that 100 students in elementary and high schools joined the Church this year. The Archdiocese of Baltimore reported



FILE | FC

In this 2008 file photo, St. Brendan fifth-graders take part in a Mass at St. Mary Cathedral, which kicked off the start of Catholic Schools Week in the archdiocese.

that 74 students and seven adults connected to schools joined the Church. The Archdiocese of Atlanta reported 10 students. The Diocese of Jackson, Miss., where about 50 percent of the diocese's students are Catholic, reported that 30 students, 15 parents or guardians, and two teachers were received into the Catholic Church during Holy Week. The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, with 18 of 22 schools responding, reported 41 students, 60 parents and eight teachers joined the Church. The Diocese of Little Rock, Ark., said that 37 adults and 39 children were received into the Church.

The Archdiocese of Miami reported 76 students among 35 schools joined the Church. Christian Brother Richard DeMaria, executive director of Christian Formation for the archdiocese, said, "This supports the impression that Catholic schools are the most important form of evangelization in a parish."

While many of the new Catholics were among students in the early grades, larger numbers came from the upper elementary grades and high schools. In some cases, students took the step independently; others were accompanied by their parents and other family members.


At least 54 of the new Catholics were faculty and staff, including several school secretaries.

The individual stories are inspiring. In Des Moines, Iowa, a family of five (parents and three children) began the process after the oldest child in Catholic school began to wonder why his family did not attend any church.

John Paul II School in Sacramento, Calif., reported eight students this year, and noted that the school has experienced one or two baptisms since the school opened in 2005. "We celebrate the baptisms as a school community because it's a powerful witness to all of our students," wrote Principal Fran Wise.

At St. Margaret Mary Catholic School in Winter Park, Fla., a teacher of math, science and social studies for the sixth grade joined the Church during the Easter Vigil. "Many of the students were present for his baptism," said school Principal Kathleen Walsh. "This experience has been such an incredible blessing for our school community and especially for the sixth-grade class."

A number of schools also reported that students received their first Communion or confirmation after their families returned to the practice of their Catholic faith. ■




Valedictorian: Adara Tognozzi

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NEWSbriefs

Installation Mass video now available

Copies of the video that captured the historic Mass of installation for Archbishop Thomas Wenski, fourth archbishop of Miami, are now available from the archdiocese's Communications Department. So are the pictures of many of those who personally greeted the new archbishop after the Mass ended.

The cost of the DVD is \$10 per copy, and it is available with commentary in English or Spanish. To order, write to:

Archdiocese of Miami
c/o Communications Department

9401 Biscayne Blvd.
Miami Shores, FL 33138

Make checks payable to the Archdiocese of Miami. In the memo section of the check, please write Installation Mass DVD. Make sure to include the address where you would like the DVD mailed and which language (English or Spanish) you prefer.

Those wishing to look through the photos should go to: <http://tinyurl.com/wenskigreeting>. Photos may be viewed and purchased directly from that site, www.DotPhoto.com. To view or purchase photos from Archbishop Wenski's installation and other events he has attended since then, go to www.DotPhoto.com.

com and sign in as a "guest" with the user name "flcmiami."

'Don Bosco Among Us': Saint's relics coming

The year 2015 marks the second centenary of the birth of St. John Bosco, founder of the Salesians, who are known for their education ministry to the poor around the world. To prepare for that observance, the saint's relics have been traveling from Turin, Italy, on pilgrimage through 130 countries.

The relics will arrive at Immaculata-La Salle High School, 3601 S. Miami Ave., Miami, on Sunday, Sept. 25, where an all-night vigil will begin at 8 p.m. It will conclude with a Mass at 8 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 26. The relics will then be moved to St. John Bosco Parish, 1358 N.W. First St., Miami, where they will be venerated from noon until midnight. These events are open to the public.

The vigil at Immaculata-La Salle also will include activities for high school and middle school students. All schools and parish youth groups are invited to participate. For more information, call Salesian Sister Teresa Gutierrez at 786-427-5788 or Maria Morales at 305-283-7642. More information is also available at <http://donboscoamongus.org> or call 305-649-5464.

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ARCHBISHOP CURLEY NOTRE DAME



Valedictorian Adela Maria Hurtado



Salutatorian Laura Angela D'Ovidio

ARCHBISHOP MCCARTHY



Valedictorian Victoria DeLeo



Salutatorian David Mercado

BELEN JESUIT



Valedictorian Charles Cavalaris



Salutatorian Derek Saffe

CARDINAL GIBBONS



Valedictorian Nicholas Picon



Salutatorian Giancarlo Champin

CHAMINADE-MADONNA



Valedictorian Gregory John Vitale



Salutatorian Lorraine Candido

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS



Co-Valedictorian: Christian-Immanuel S. Oliveros



Co-Valedictorian: Matthew S. Piscitelli



Salutatorian Jorge I. Cuello

IMMACULATA-LA SALLE



Valedictorian Adara Tognozzi



Salutatorian Paul George

MSGR. PACE HIGH



Valedictorian Natalie Lamelas



Salutatorian Nicole Vila

OUR LADY OF LOURDES



Valedictorian Stephanie Leiva



Salutatorian Cristina Brea

ST. BRENDAN



Co-valedictorian Veronica Diaz



Co-Valedictorian Katrina Torres



Salutatorian Lian Garcia

Head of the class

Catholic high schools honor valedictorians, salutatorians for the Class of 2010

Florida Catholic staff

MIAMI — The *Florida Catholic* congratulates all the members of the Class of 2010 in the Archdiocese of Miami. May you rely on the lessons you learned in Catholic school — both academic and spiritual — to succeed in college and beyond.

Following are the valedictorians and salutatorians of the Class of 2010 in archdiocesan Catholic schools that submitted their information.

ARCHBISHOP CURLEY NOTRE DAME, MIAMI

Valedictorian: Adela Maria Hurtado, 5.22 GPA, accepted into New York University.

Salutatorian: Laura Angela D'Ovidio, 5.05 GPA, accepted into Barry University, Miami Shores.

ARCHBISHOP MCCARTHY, SOUTHWEST RANCHES

Valedictorian: Victoria DeLeo, 5.25 GPA, accepted into University of Georgia, Clemson University, Cornell University, Drexel University,

Texas A&M, University of New Mexico, Tulane University, University of Maryland, University of Rochester, and Washington University.

Salutatorian: David Mercado, 5.14 GPA, accepted into University of Florida, Arizona State University, Auburn University, Boston University, Carnegie Mellon University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Louisiana State University, Texas A&M, University of Alabama, University of Arizona, University of Oklahoma, University of Central Florida, University of Illinois, Uni-

versity of Michigan, and the University of Texas at Dallas.

BELEN JESUIT, MIAMI

Valedictorian: Charles Cavalaris, accepted into Florida International University, University of Florida, University of Miami Honors Program for Medicine, and Notre Dame University; attending University of Miami.

Salutatorian: Derek Saffe, accepted into Duke, University of Florida, Johns Hopkins, University of Miami and Washington Univer-

sity in St. Louis; attending Duke.

CARDINAL GIBBONS, FORT LAUDERDALE

Valedictorian: Nicholas Picon, 5.031 GPA, accepted into Georgia Institute of Technology, Cornell, Notre Dame, Princeton, University of Florida; attending Georgia Institute of Technology.

Salutatorian: Giancarlo Champin, 4.990 GPA, accepted into University of California, Cornell,

PLEASE SEE **GRADUATES, A13**

'Run so as to win'

Brother John Corcoran's recovery from serious car accident inspires everyone at Archbishop Curley Notre Dame High School

LYNN RAMSEY

Florida Catholic correspondent

MIAMI — When Christian Brother John Corcoran suffered injuries in a major automobile accident, he knew he could rely on God to get him through. But students and athletes at Archbishop Curley Notre Dame High School, where he teaches English and coaches cross-country, also answered the call to support the 62-year-old brother.

The high school and Brother Corcoran's fellow Christian Brothers prayed for and visited him during every step of his recovery. The school also supported him in other ways and gave him a warm welcome when he returned to the classroom.

Curley Notre Dame's boys cross-country team capped the welcome with better finishes at the district, regional and state meets in 2009.

Brother Corcoran is an intensely private man who directs all the praise to God, the brothers and the high school. However, to illustrate how the school and the brothers supported Brother Corcoran, it is best to show how far he came from the day of his crash.

'GREAT SHOCK'

The journey began June 11, 2008, around 7:10 a.m. Brother Corcoran was returning from Mass at a local parish. Since it was the last day of the school year, the high school was hosting its faculty luncheon.

Brother Corcoran said via e-mail that he did not remember the details of the crash. He said that it was several days before he regained consciousness.

"The first memory I have is of awakening in a strange room and seeing one of the brothers, who told me I had been in a major car crash," he said. "I think I simply had a feeling of helplessness in the sense of realization of things just being beyond my control."

Christian Brother Patrick Sean Moffett, the high school's principal, said that by the time he heard of the accident the students had left school.

"It was a moment of great shock," Brother Moffett said. "All I could say (to the faculty) is that it seems there's been a terrible accident."

Getting word about the accident to the students proved slow. Eventually, they started finding out, spreading the word through cell phones, e-mail and social-networking sites.

Sanjay Singh, a junior cross-country athlete, had heard that



COURTESY PHOTO

Brother John Corcoran, a member of the Christian Brothers who staff Archbishop Curley Notre Dame High School, is seen here coaching the track team the year before the car accident that nearly left him unable to walk.

Brother Corcoran might not be able to walk again. Kevin Smith, a senior captain on the cross-country team, said the thought of losing Brother Corcoran made him fearful.

The high school held a memorial Mass for Brother Corcoran, which gave the school its first chance to pray for him as a community.

"I started breaking down" at the Mass, Kevin said. "I was so afraid to

lose him."

The mood in the Christian Brothers' house in Miami was one of disbelief. They were also left to deal with Brother Corcoran's surgeries and questions of whether he was supposed to live.

"This was a fellow who could always run five miles, and then to have an accident — that wasn't supposed to happen," Brother Moffett

said.

JOURNEY BEGINS

After the initial shock, Brother Corcoran began the work of healing from his injuries. He suffered compression of his spinal cord, fractures of the right ankle and right kneecap and a tear in the intestines.

Dr. Mark Shaya, a neurosurgeon, told the brothers that without sur-

gery Brother Corcoran would not walk again. After two operations in the eight days following the accident, he spent time in North Shore Hospital's Intensive Care Unit.

He suffered a couple of bouts of pneumonia during his recovery and developed deep-vein thrombosis (a blood clot) in his left leg three days before he was released.

His journey took him from North Shore Hospital to Memorial Hospital in Hollywood and the Sister Emmanuel Hospital, a long-term acute-care facility at Mercy Hospital in Miami. Despite the injuries, he relied heavily on God.

"I remember several times telling people that although I did not understand why this happened, I didn't need to understand," Brother Corcoran said. "I firmly believed that God knew the reason, that I was always within the circumference of his love, and that I wanted to continue to try to live my life according to his will."

People with ties to the high school guided him in his recovery. Christian Brother Richard DeMaria, archdiocesan superintendent of schools, said that a member of the school faculty who had worked at North Shore's emergency room helped the brothers understand the treatment options.

"This is the second time that this hospital has provided cutting-edge medical care to a member of our community," Brother DeMaria said.

He added that it was at this point where the students became the true heroes and showed a sense of family that he calls "miraculous." They stepped up with prayer and visits.

"There is a group of students (and their parents) who would do anything for Brother Corcoran; I call them his fan club," Brother DeMaria said. "The students were so affected by this accident."

"They immediately asked if they could organize a Holy Hour in the early hours of the morning and asked Father Daniel Kent if there could be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament during that. My memory is that about 70 students appeared at 7 a.m."

In summer 2008, current and former Curley Notre Dame athletes would get together for weekly "fun runs" as a way to stay in shape for the following season. Jay Velasco, currently a senior at Cornell University, and K.C. Della Fera, a junior at the University of Florida, led the runs. They began each run with a

PLEASE SEE **CORCORAN, A11**

Catholic students honored with Silver Knights

Annual awards recognize excellence in academics and community service

Florida Catholic staff

MIAMI — Students from south Florida's Catholic high schools garnered four Silver Knight awards and 10 honorable mentions in the annual contest sponsored by the *Miami Herald* to recognize graduating seniors who excel at both academics and service to the community.

The awards are for students in public and private high schools in Miami-Dade and Broward counties. Nominees must complete an extensive application followed by an interview with a distinguished panel of judges. Winners in each category receive \$2,000 and a Silver Knight statue, plus a medalion presented by American Airlines. Three honorable mentions in each category receive \$500 and a plaque.

Following are brief biographies of the winners and a listing of those who earned honorable



Mathematics: Nicole Paez, St. Brendan High School



In athletics: Arturo Daniel Martinez, Belen Jesuit



In social science: Sergio Andres Segrera, Belen Jesuit



In music: D'Bria Anais Bradshaw, Msgr. Edward Pace High School



Mathematics: Nicholas Picon, Cardinal Gibbons High School



In athletics: Trenton John Fehl, Cardinal Gibbons High School

mentions.

IN MIAMI-DADE

Mathematics: Nicole Paez, St. Brendan High School

Nicole did not speak until the age of 7, and doctors predicted she would not advance past the fifth grade. In fact, she not only graduated out of her Exceptional Student Education math class

into mainstream classes, she did it while volunteering hundreds of hours to help others.

Nicole started a nonprofit organization called Angel's Touch, and with help from her friends, has launched a number of projects, including raising \$8,000 to help a Uruguayan boy obtain a kidney transplant. Angel's Touch also has collected

supplies for hurricane victims in Haiti, food for 27 families at Thanksgiving, and rounded up toys for Ronald McDonald House.

Honorable mentions:

In athletics: Arturo Daniel Martinez, Belen Jesuit Preparatory

In music: D'Bria Anais Bradshaw, Msgr. Edward Pace High

School

In social science: Sergio Andres Segrera, Belen Jesuit

IN BROWARD

Mathematics: Nicholas Picon, Cardinal Gibbons High School

Nicholas has a 5.012 grade-point average and is ranked first

PLEASE SEE **KNIGHTS, A13**

CORCORAN

FROM A10

group prayer for Brother Corcoran.

The school's bookstore sold orange shoelaces to honor Brother Corcoran. Proceeds from the shoelaces went to the school's key charities — its sister school in Haiti and the Christian Brothers' programs in Peru. Kevin, the cross-country captain, said he bought three pairs and put them on all his shoes. The athletes also wore T-shirts during workouts honoring him.

The return of school also brought prayers for the teacher/coach during morning announcements and Masses.

Jessica Velasco, a senior cross-country athlete, said there was never a big push to honor Brother Corcoran. "It came natural. Even students he never taught were saddened by it," she said. "Even the freshman class was saddened. The school is such a community. It affected every person in the school."

The crash also affected his fellow Christian Brothers. Brother Moffett said that the brothers considered putting Brother Corcoran in the Christian Brothers' retirement home during his recovery, but Brother Corcoran wanted to stay in the Miami area. They also visited as much as their schedules would allow.

Brother Corcoran said that he also received visits from a long list of people — many school personnel, parents, alumni, past and present members of the cross-country team, people from his two churches, co-workers from his summer volunteer time at Mercy Hospital,

former brothers and Archbishop John C. Favalora.

"With such a multitude pulling for me, how could I not be inspired to 'run so as to win?'" Brother Corcoran said.

FROM INSPIRED TO INSPIRATION

As Brother Corcoran continued to heal, progress came in bits and pieces. Physical and occupational therapists began by helping him transition from the bed to a wheelchair. Next came walking with a walker, then a cane.

He said that his left side suffered the greater damage from a spinal cord injury. His left arm and shoulder were locked against his torso; with therapy, now there is a moderate range of motion. But he said the numbness and tightness reduce practical use of his left hand to about 15 percent.

On his birthday, Curley Notre Dame's cross-country team ran a workout route that took them by Mercy Hospital. With him on their minds, they decided to pay Brother Corcoran a visit.

They had seen him bedridden in prior visits, but Brother Corcoran surprised them — walking with assistance using a walker.

"It was so enlightening," Kevin said. "You could see how happy he was. It was amazing that he was walking within four months of his accident. It was incredible."

Brother Corcoran's desire to teach and coach again spurred him to heal.

"My stride is staggered rather than flowing and about a foot rather than a yard in length," Brother Corcoran said. "Alas, running has not

been possible, but teaching, coaching and walking — thank God — are eminently doable."

He sees benefits from the accident, especially when he reads the hundreds of cards and notes sent to him while he was in the hospital. He prays daily in thanksgiving to those who supported him, including those at the hospitals who helped him recover.

The recovery also taught him extra patience and acceptance that daily tasks will take longer. "Consequently, I'm also more patient with and understanding of others," he said.

HE'S BAAAAACK!

Then came Brother Corcoran's return to school. He walked into Archbishop Curley-Notre Dame High on Friday, Oct. 24, 2008. He returned to teach one class a day the following Monday. He also returned for the team's final home cross-country meet.

"It was a very special experience for me and for the team," he said.

Brother DeMaria said he was amazed when Brother Corcoran decided to return to the classroom, considering his mobility was limited.

"I wondered whether he would still be able to maintain the discipline and rapt attention of his students, given his disability," Brother DeMaria said. "But I should have known that the students at (Curley Notre Dame) would never take advantage of the situation."

Brother Corcoran did not return to coaching the cross-country team until the 2009 fall season. Julia Cilona, who had been hired to be his assistant coach, ran the team in his



COURTESY PHOTO

Brother John Corcoran, a member of the Christian Brothers who staff Archbishop Curley Notre Dame High School, poses with the girls track team in 2008, as he slowly began recovering from the car accident that nearly left him unable to walk.

absence and led the boys to the 2008 state meet.

"I owed a world of thanks to Julia Cilona," Brother Corcoran said. "She had done a spectacular job and I was not about to step in as coach at that point."

Brother Corcoran's return to coaching gave the cross-country team a boost. The boys team improved its regional-meet finish, taking fourth. The team then repeated its 21st-place finish at the state meet. The girls took ninth at the Region 4-1A meet, their first regional meet in five years.

"Even though half the team was new, we were all encouraged by Brother (Corcoran)," Jessica said. "Every race was dedicated to him and every practice was dedicated to him."

Brother Corcoran's inspiration

goes beyond the cross-country team. The school's juniors asked him to speak to them at their overnight retreat about prayer. He said Mark 1:29-39 had been part of his prayer for a while by then: "Jesus at communal and private prayer, as well as on 'retreat,' and also in mission feeling deep compassion for the suffering multitude."

But as inspiring as his journey was to the high school, Brother Corcoran ultimately directs the focus to God and his students.

"Anyone who questions the power and the goodness of Catholic education in any aspect — academics, athletics, spirituality, interpersonal and social relationships, morality, emotional growth, citizenship, etc. — should come and spend some time in this gem of a school," Brother Corcoran said. ■

Haiti bishops: Earthquake recovery a slow process

Seminary and parish rebuilding among reconstruction priorities

TOM TRACY

Florida Catholic correspondent

MIAMI — Efforts to find interim shelter for Haiti's homeless populations and local clergy and religious following the Jan. 12 earthquake remain the major aim of Church recovery there as the hurricane season gets under way.

In Miami for the installation Mass of Archbishop Thomas Wenski, several members of the Haitian episcopate as well as the papal nuncio to Haiti and the director of the U.S. bishops' Office for Latin American Affairs spoke with the *Florida Catholic* about the recovery efforts a half-year after the historic catastrophe.

"We met with the president (of Haiti) just a few days ago and his main preoccupation is the people under the tents as a bad hurricane season has already been predicted," said Bishop Joseph Lafontant, apostolic administrator of Port-au-Prince. "The Church doesn't have the facilities to help them all in that way.

"In the provinces we can get some materials together and provisional shelters that will help, but people are taking advantage of the situation by selling materials at increased prices," Bishop Lafontant added. "Many of the rectories have collapsed and clergy have no shel-



TOM TRACY | FC

PLEASE SEE **HAITI, A19**

Child earthquake refugees pose for the camera at a tent city in Port-au-Prince.

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KNIGHTS

FROM A11

in his class of 282. (His unweighted GPA of 4.0 represents straight A's for four years.) Nick is a National Hispanic Merit Scholar, a National Merit Commended Scholar, and has been named an AP Scholar with Distinction.

He has volunteered for two years at Boca Community Hospital and started the Gibbons lacrosse program — even helping to find a coach for the team. As the sport boomed in popularity, he was inspired to start a tournament as a fundraiser for the Alzheimer's Association in honor of his great-grandmother. Nick recruited 110 players, found sponsors, and built a website. The event raised \$4,000 and was covered with stories in local newspapers.

Nick and his parents have long made the daily drive from West Boca Raton to come to Gibbons. He will attend the Georgia Institute of Technology this fall.

Social Science: Bridget Bambenek, Archbishop McCarthy High School

Bridget was one of 2,200 Coca-Cola Scholars semifinalists and won Wendy's High School Heisman award for her school, as well as the Chatham University Book award.

She signed on with Youth Leadership Broward and worked for eight months to instill self-esteem and leadership qualities in a group of eight ele-

mentary school children at the Boys and Girls Club. She also has volunteered hundreds of hours at her church, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and with McCarthy's Environmental Club.

Speech: LaShaunda Hayes, St. Thomas Aquinas High School

LaShaunda has volunteered at the Broward Outreach Center for the Homeless, staging a clothing drive, working at dinners and giving haircuts. She and her mother initiated a project at the Pines Recreation Center to keep kids off the street by involving them in dance classes. Her family also has become a foster family. LaShaunda was elected governor at Florida Girls State, served as student council president and was captain of Aquinas' varsity basketball team.

Honorable mentions:

In art: Julie Fliegenspan, Archbishop Edward McCarthy High School

In athletics: Natalie Anne Sesto, St. Thomas Aquinas High School; Trenton John Fehl, Cardinal Gibbons High School

In general scholarship: Justin Borroto, Archbishop McCarthy High School

In science: Ryan Taylor Goodman, St. Thomas Aquinas

In speech: Jenna McCord, Archbishop McCarthy High School

In world languages: Ann-Marie Katherine Rodriguez, St. Thomas Aquinas High School. ■

GRADUATES

FROM A9

Duke, Georgia Institute of Technology, Princeton, University of Southern California, University of Florida; attending University of California.

CHAMINADE-MADONNA, HOLLYWOOD

Valedictorian: Gregory John Vitale, accepted into Brandeis University, Emory University Scholars Program, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Tufts University, University of Miami, Villanova University; attending Tufts University.

Salutatorian: Lorraine Candi, accepted into Boston College, Florida State University, University of Florida, University of Miami, University of Notre Dame; attending University of Florida.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS, MIAMI

Co-valedictorians: Christian-Immanuel S. Oliveros and Matthew S. Piscitelli. Christian-Immanuel was accepted into the University of Notre Dame, University of Florida, Florida State University, University of Miami, and Florida International University. Matthew was accepted into Duke University, University of Pennsylvania, Johns Hopkins University, University of Florida, University of Miami, and Swarthmore College.

Salutatorian: Jorge I. Cuello, accepted into Johns Hopkins University, University of Notre Dame, University of Miami, University of Florida, and Florida International

University.

IMMACULATA-LA SALLE, MIAMI

Valedictorian: Adara Tognozzi, accepted into University of Miami, Georgetown, Boston University, Florida International University; attending University of Miami.

Salutatorian: Paul George, accepted into Florida State University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of Miami, Florida International University; attending Florida State University.

MSGR. PACE HIGH

Valedictorian: Natalie Lamelas, 5.18 GPA, attending University of Miami

Salutatorian: Nicole Vila, 5.12 GPA, attending University of Florida

OUR LADY OF LOURDES, MIAMI

Valedictorian: Stephanie Leiva, accepted into Boston College, Dartmouth College, Emory University, Georgetown University,

Northwestern University, University of Miami, University of Notre Dame, University of Virginia, Vanderbilt University; attending Boston College

Salutatorian: Cristina Brea, accepted into Florida International University, Florida State University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, University of Florida, University of Miami; attending University of Miami.

ST. BRENDAN, MIAMI

Co-valedictorians: Katrina Torres, 5.05 GPA, will attend the University of Miami; Veronica Diaz, 5.05 GPA, will attend the University of Miami.

Salutatorian: Lian Garcia, 5.04 GPA, will attend Florida International University. ■

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'We have to look to the future with confidence'

Miami's new archbishop says, despite economic problems, Catholics in south Florida must be 'witnesses to hope'

Following is an edited version of Archbishop Thomas Wenski's first interview with the Miami edition of the Florida Catholic. The interview took place May 30, two days before his installation as archbishop of Miami. It also can be heard online at www.miamiarch.org by clicking on "Conversations with Archbishop Wenski."

Q: How does it feel to come back home, this time as archbishop?

A: It's still quite new because for the past seven years Orlando also has become home. But I'm comforted by the familiar faces I see and also the very warm welcome that I've gotten to date. So it won't take me too long to get back into the swing of things and feel at home.

Q: How will your new position affect your relationship with priests who were friends and classmates? How do you deal with that now that you are in a position of authority? Does that make your job here harder than if you went to a diocese like Orlando where you really didn't know all that many people?

A: It's going to change a lot of things. In the position I have as archbishop, I will try to be friendly with everyone. But at the same time, it is a position of authority over priests and others whom I have known and have been friends with, so there's going to be a re-definition of that relationship. It's natural that, for professional integrity and for the understanding of the lines of authority, certain boundaries be established.

In Orlando, I didn't know many priests before I got there although one priest was a former classmate of mine. So there was something similar there. But again, it's sort of like in a family, the parent always has to be a parent. The parent can't confuse his role as a parent and become a buddy to his child. That image might seem perhaps a little bit too paternalistic; however in any professional relationship something similar occurs. Even when it's a family business, you can't let the lines of authority be blurred.

Q: Does that mean a bishop can't have friends?



COURTESY EL CLARIN

Archbishop Thomas Wenski is shown here offering a radio address during his time as bishop of the Diocese of Orlando.

A: A bishop has friends. As I said, this archbishop will try to be friendly to everyone. But at the same time, there's a certain professionalism that everyone is expecting — in the sense that no one wants to think that so-and-so has it easier or better access than someone else; or that so-and-so's advice or counsel is more highly regarded than others' because of a personal relationship.

Q: Your name had been rumored for so long. Were you surprised at the announcement? You told the Orlando *Florida Catholic* your initial reaction was to "stay put." Why?

A: The rumors were going on for a long time. Previous to the rumors about my coming to Miami, there were also, I think at one time, some strong rumors, at least in Orlando, that I was going to another diocese up in the north where winter lasts for six months. Obviously, I'm much more elated that this rumor and not the previous one proved to be true. The rumors at one point were getting to be a little irksome and bothersome because I did not want to let the people in Or-

lando think that I was a lame duck.

At the same time, my first reaction was to stay put because, again, there is a very special relationship between a bishop and his Church, and his diocese. Although I was only there for just short of seven years — five and a half years as the ordinary — I think there was a bonding that took place between myself, my priests in Orlando and the people of Orlando; a similar bonding which I'm confident will also take place here as I now return in my new capacity as the archbishop.

However, those rumors were hot and heavy and this was over a year ago that they first started coming. I was involved in a very important capital campaign in the Diocese of Orlando that came out of our diocesan synod. I had also just initiated the renovation of the cathedral church of the Diocese of Orlando which had started last summer. So I had a lot of irons in the fire. I was a bit concerned about leaving Orlando with my work unfinished.

Of course as the time came on, a lot of that work, although it did not finish, did get closer to the finish. For example, our capital campaign that we began in January 2008 and will end in December of this year

has to date raised over \$107 million and we still have about 30 percent of our parishes yet to participate. The campaign was staged so that different waves of parishes participated at different times. It was a strategic way of us approaching the capital campaign in Orlando. However, the goal is to raise \$150 million. I am confident that the campaign is on track and even without my presence it can achieve that goal.

Of course, the cathedral renovation project is still under way. It started as I said last July and it won't be finished until November of this year. So this is one project that I had to leave undone. But I'm not the one that's hammering nails into the roof or putting plaster on the walls so it'll get done without me. I'll be proud to go back and visit it and to take credit for having initiated the renovation project even though someone else will be there for its completion.

Q: In your "Building the City of God" profile you said you were able to be a "missionary in my own backyard." Have you been able to continue that type of ministry as a bishop in Orlando, and if so, how do you plan to continue it as archbishop of Miami?

A: Every baptized Catholic is expected to be both a disciple and a missionary of Jesus Christ. In fact that was the theme of the fifth general conference of CELAM, the organization of the bishops from Latin America that met two years ago in Aparecida in Brazil. The theme of that was the Church as disciple and missionary.

The Haitian experience here in south Florida was a great blessing to me. Because from the time I was in the seminary I felt an attraction to working with the poor but also working outside my own culture. I remember in the seminary at one point I thought about asking to go study in Latin America. There was a program at the time where a seminary in Chile was taking people from other parts of the world to prepare them for work in Latin America. That was attractive to me. I remember speaking to the vocation director about it at the time. He discouraged me and he discouraged me simply by saying that I don't have to go to Latin America because Latin America is coming here. I think he was right.

So when I was ordained a priest I fully expected to be working in a Hispanic community here in south Florida; in a Hispanic and Cuban community. When I was a deacon, I was at St. Benedict in Hialeah; that was a great experience with a parish that was perhaps evenly mixed between Anglos and Hispanics. Those Hispanics at that time were overwhelmingly Cuban.

Then in my first assignment as a priest I went to Corpus Christi Parish in Miami, where I remember that even our staff meetings were held in Spanish because everybody spoke Spanish and I did too and I didn't think it was strange at all that the language of business in that parish was in Spanish.

It was there when I was at Corpus Christi that I encountered the Haitian community. I started learning a few words in order to be friendly to the people who were coming there to Mass. Just by happenstance I saw in the paper that there was going to be a Creole-language course that was going to be offered under the auspices of FIU at one of the local grammar schools in the area, so I signed up for it. As they say, the rest

PLEASE SEE WENSKI, A15

WENSKI: Priests, religious need to communicate hope to all

FROM A14

is history. The archbishop at the time, Archbishop McCarthy, found out that I was learning Creole and in less than a year I was assigned full time to work with the Haitian population. That happened almost at the same time that the numbers of Haitians arriving to south Florida expanded exponentially. So I was in the right place at the right time, I guess.

Having been a priest of the Archdiocese of Miami, growing up here, I knew the lay of the land so it was relatively easy for me to be a bridge between the growing Haitian community and the wider Catholic community. For example, when I heard that there were Haitians in Immokalee, I didn't really need a road map to find out where Immokalee was because I had been there. I had worked there as a seminarian, briefly, with the Hispanic ministry. When I realized the Haitians needed a Mass in the Fort Lauderdale area, I could go and knock on the door of the then-pastor of St. Clement, which was then Father (Patrick) McDonnell and say I need a church; and it was hard for him to refuse me because years and years ago when I was in grade school I asked him if I could be an altar server in my home parish.

So that, I think, enabled me perhaps to assure that the Haitians were integrated into the local Church structures. As I said at that time, I always understood my mission to make the Church present to the Haitian community and at the same time to make the Haitians present to the broader Church. I think having known the various priests who I had to interact with in order to get the use of parish facilities was one way of making the Church present to that Haitian community because otherwise they would have remained invisible. As far as the opposite end, I think the fact that when the Holy Father arrived here in 1987, that he spoke in English, Spanish and Creole also signified that indeed the Church knew that the Haitians were there. So he made the Haitians present to the Church and the Church present to the Haitians.

Q: Lately we've been going through difficult times in Miami: MorningStar retreat center is up for sale. A proposal has been made to merge Our Lady of the Holy Rosary and St. Richard. I just wondered, is there anything you can tell the people involved in those? Have you even had a chance to study that? What are your plans right now for those properties?

A: At this point, I've been very busy as the bishop of Orlando. In fact, even the Friday before my installation I was in Ocala celebrat-



JONATHAN MARTINEZ | FC

Archbishop Thomas Wenski listens to the Gospel during the first welcome Mass in Broward County at St. Gregory the Great Parish June 3.

ing a Mass for the graduating high school class of Trinity High in Ocala. So I've been very busy working to the very end in my responsibilities as the bishop of Orlando. June 1, I assume the responsibilities of being archbishop of Miami and these issues I've heard about them and I've gotten some input from various people, but I haven't really had the opportunity to study them or to be really informed enough to make any intelligent comments about them.

I hope to be a quick study. I know that the economy, the economic downturn has affected the Archdiocese of Miami as well as other institutions in south Florida. Perhaps this recession has had a greater negative impact here in south Florida than it has had in central Florida. We see Jackson Memorial Hospital laying off a significant number of staff people. We see Miami Dade County government having very serious issues in meeting its budget.

The Church is supposed to be not 'of the world' but it is certainly 'in the world,' so the problems of the world do affect it. As I said on the day of my announcement when a reporter asked me that same question, when the recession started a lot of the airlines had to cancel a number of their regularly scheduled flights. So the airlines are putting a lot fewer planes in the air than they did before the economic downturn took place. They had to do that because they couldn't afford to fly half-empty planes. They had to downsize or perhaps even right-size in order to face the crisis.

So I've just been observing from

a distance so I don't really have a full grasp on everything that we're faced with. But I surely will be told very quickly and hopefully I'll be hearing some good news as well as a lot of the bad news.

Again, as I said on the day of that announcement, the history of south Florida has been a history of booms and busts. You can go back to the 1890s when Julia Tuttle was trying to get Henry Flagler to bring the railroad to Miami, you had a series of great spurts of economic growth followed by downturn, (and) doomsayers were writing the obituary of the city of Miami. They were always proved wrong because, after those downturns, Miami has always bounced back. I think that will be true again of this region.

As the region bounces back, I expect the Church to do so as well. So I think while optimism is a secular value, as Catholics and as Christians we have to be hopeful. Hope is a theological virtue. So I think we have to look to the future with confidence, because of the hope that is ours, that hope that will never disappoint us, namely Jesus Christ.

Q: The sexual abuse crisis has kind of dominated the headlines for the last eight years or so. It has affected every bishop in the country and now in other parts of the world. Do you see that as continuing or will it ebb now that the Church in the U.S. has taken steps to deal with the crisis?

A: I'm not sure if the media coverage will necessarily ebb because again the Church has, as you said, taken steps to deal with

the crisis and I think they've been very effective steps. So that I believe we can say that this crisis has been surmounted at least here in the United States. However, it does sell newspapers apparently, so lots of newspapers and other media like to revive the coverage of the crisis. Hopefully the people who are reading, following the media, will notice that most of the cases, the overwhelming majority of the cases they are citing, are cases that occurred 40 years ago, 30 years ago and not something that has happened yesterday or is happening today.

Again, I think right now the Church here in the United States is committed to providing a safe environment, and to being a safe environment for children and young people, and I think it has done that to a degree that is unprecedented and unparalleled, and other similarly situated institutions have not done as much as the Catholic Church has done.

Of course, I think recent attention to scandals in Germany and elsewhere has also helped bishops in other countries perhaps become more aware of this issue and hopefully they will look at the procedures and policies that the bishops of the United States have put in place and try to emulate them.

But again, what the research has shown is that this was an epidemic of demonic proportions that affected the Church at a particular time in its history, namely from the early '60s to the late '70s or early '80s. By the mid-'80s and later this epidemic had pretty much run its course in the Church.

This is not to belittle by any means the pain and the suffering of those who were affected by this epidemic of child sexual abuse. Why this epidemic happened and how many people it affected is still something that will be studied by social scientists and perhaps they'll come up with some findings that will help us to avoid situations like this in the future. But this has not been the narrative of the Church in its 2,000 years of history and it will not be the narrative of the future.

I think we still have to analyze the broader cultural context of that time. From the late '50s to the early '80s we witnessed in our nation and in the culture of the West an unprecedented shift in social values with the sexual revolution and other changes that were happening at an unprecedented pace. Certainly that has a lot perhaps to do with explaining what happened, much more than some of the facile explanations that sometimes are offered up in the media — like for example that this has something to do somehow with celibacy. If those perpetrators had been celibate there would have been no scandal because there would have been no victims. So celibacy is not the problem. So we have to look beyond the facile explanations which are usually used as barbs by some people trying to advance their own agendas.

Q: In your last column for the Orlando edition of the *Florida Catholic*, you said your role is "to witness that God matters" to a secular society by taking public stands on issues of morality and social justice. Miami would seem to be a tremendous platform for that. At the same time, it might bring you lots of criticism from Catholics and non-Catholics alike. We live in a very polarized environment right now. How do you plan to deal with that?

A: In my years in Orlando, I've spoken out quite openly and quite freely both in our diocesan media but also in the public media, the secular media, like the various daily newspapers that are published in central Florida, and I hope to continue to do likewise here.

We live in an increasingly secular society or secularized society, I would say. I think there's probably a difference that is not well appreciated but there's a subtle difference between secularism and secularism. Now secularism is a healthy thing, for example the difference between Church and state. But secularism is more understood as an ideology that seeks to basically marginalize God.

Secularism seeks to organize life without taking God into account; or as I said in that article, as

PLEASE SEE Q&A, A16

COLUMN

FROM A4

tema de la soberbia y la negligencia en la misericordia, representada en el amargo fervor legalista del inspector Javert, lo que termina destruyéndole. En la actualidad, los Javert modernos de la radio

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cia en la misericordia, representada en el amargo fervor legalista del inspector Javert, lo que termina destruyéndole. En la actualidad, los Javert modernos de la radio

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y la televisión, avivan el resentimiento contra los que, supuestamente, han quebrantado las leyes, comparándolos con los terroristas que intentan hacernos daño. Sin embargo, estas personas sólo piden la oportunidad de legalizarse, de salir de las sombras en las que viven, temerosos de que toquen a sus puertas durante la noche o que se haga una redada en sus lugares de trabajo. Como Jean Valjean, los inmigrantes de hoy sólo buscan la oportunidad de redimirse a través del trabajo honesto.

Hoy, muchos se ofenden ante el apoyo de los obispos católicos a estos "ilegales" pero, al defenderlos, continuamos nuestra digna postura de tradición moral, como el benévolo obispo Myriel de la novela, quien dio sus velas a un desesperado Jean Valjean y le protegió de ser arrestado por Javert.

Por eso pedimos al Congreso que aproveche esta oportunidad para arreglar abarcadoramente nuestro ineficaz sistema de inmigración. Hasta la fecha, su fracaso en actuar ha contribuido al sentimiento neonativista y contra los inmigrantes, y a iniciativas desacertadas, como la reciente ley de inmigración en Arizona, que usurpa la responsabilidad del gobierno federal.

Una nación que honra a infractores de las leyes como los patriotas del "Boston Tea Party", una nación que puede permitir el desafío digno de Rosa Parks cuando transgredió la ley para tocar su conciencia, es una nación que también puede ceder espacio para los nuevos Jean Valjean. Podemos ser una nación de leyes, sin convertirnos en una nación de Javerts.

Como lo recordó Jesús a los feroces amargados de su tiempo, las leyes son creadas para el beneficio de la humanidad, no para hacerle daño.

Q&A

FROM A15

if God did not matter. We see it all through our culture. It even affects Catholics. Catholics don't go to church on Sunday as much as they used to and as often as they should, which is every Sunday, and that's partly because of the sway of secularism. If you think that God doesn't matter, then it doesn't matter if you go to church. But again, a society that believes that God doesn't matter begins also to think that man does not matter either.

As archbishop, and as Catholics here in south Florida and throughout the world, we have a mission, which is to model to the world how joyful life can be and how meaningful life is when people in fact live knowing that God does matter. We do this by what we say and do, and we do that sometimes by what we won't do.

That's what the world needs to see in us, is that witness. It has to be a witness to hope because again, a world that has eliminated the transcendent, or has shut the infinite out, a world that has no room for God teeters on the brink on despair. In a world that has lost hope — and in many ways our world has lost hope, which is probably why politicians can take the word "hope" and use it as a campaign slogan — but in a world that has lost hope, as a Catholic community we have to witness to hope, and to witness to the hope that has a human face, the hope that will not disappoint, the hope that is Jesus Christ.

Q: What would you say initially is your message to priests here, to laity here and to religious here?

A: Well, again, if we want our people to be witnesses to hope, then we too have to also witness to that hope. I think hope is central to the life of a priest. Because we celebrate the sacraments and the sacraments basically are a celebration of hope. Even the Mass is the foretaste, the pledge of future glory. If you don't have hope then there is no reason for sacraments. So sometimes people when they lose hope — sometimes it's not because they lose faith — but when they lose hope, then they drift away from the regular practice of the sacraments.

A priest or religious who has lost hope gets away from prayer because prayer is, again, part of the way that we express our hope. So to the priests and religious, the deacons of the diocese, we have to really imbue ourselves with hope and to communicate that to our people.

There are certainly reasons for hope. First of all, we are the Church. We are the body of Christ. Christ's body is not a dead body because he has been risen. Christ, through the gift of the Spirit, has made us alive. Because we are members of Christ, we have no reason to become prophets of doom; because the Resurrection announces to us an alternate reality that is ultimately joyful. In spite of it all, God wins and if we're with God we share in that victory.

As we look forward to confronting the different tasks that lie before us — and there's some serious work that we have to do together — we have to remember that Jesus has given us his assurance that "I'm always with you." He is with us. As St. Paul says, to paraphrase him, if God is with us, who can be against us? ■

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MISSION MASS



Archbishop Thomas Wenski blesses the missionary cross of Anamari Jimenez, a member of the missionary group *Amor en Acción* who will be traveling to the Dominican Republic this summer during the Archdiocese of Miami Mission Network's annual "send-off" Mass for groups of volunteers traveling to work in missions in the Caribbean and Latin America.

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO | FC

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Summer fun runs, through Thursday, July 29, 6:30 p.m., Miami Shores Community Center, 97th Street and Park Avenue. For all ages and ability levels; runs are split into three groups: walkers, short distance, longer distance. A good way to get some exercise or to get away from the pressures of a tough day. Sponsored by Archbishop Curley Notre Dame High School. jcorcoran@acnd.net.

Almuerzo en honor del Padre José "Pepito" García, domingo, 27 de junio, 2 p.m., Signature Gardens, 12725 S.W. 122 Ave., Miami. Organizado por la comunidad parroquial de St. Kevin para celebrar el 58vo. aniversario sacerdotal del Padre García y la designación del tramo desde la avenida 117 S.W. a la 127 S.W. como "Padre José Pepito Way". Costo: \$33/ persona. fbriz57@gmail.com, jmdorado1@aol.com.

"Ecological Integrity: Reconnecting Humans, Health and Habitat," Tuesday, July 13, Sofitel Miami, 5800 Blue Lagoon Drive, Miami. Conference, dinner sponsored by Center for Earth Jurisprudence, an initiative of Barry and St. Thomas universities. Keynote: Dr. Vandana Shiva, renowned environmental activist, author and founder of Navdanya, a movement that created the largest fair-trade organic network in India. Conference: \$45, general public; \$15, students. Dinner and keynote address with Dr. Shiva: \$50. Both events: \$90. www.earthjuris.org/events.

CONCERTS

Regeneration Miami, Saturday, June 26, 7:30 p.m., St. Kevin Parish hall, 12525 S.W. 42 St. (Bird Road), Miami. Youth group for ages 13-18; young adults also welcome. Come for a night of praise and worship featuring "One Body" ministry. 305-223-0633.

A musical tribute to the Roaring '20s, Thursday, July 15, 4 p.m., Archbishop Curley Notre Dame High School, 4949 N.E. Second Avenue, Miami. Summer Knights performing arts finale. Free; donations accepted. 305-751-8367, ext. 22; acndprep.news@gmail.com.

FAITH EDUCATION

VI International Congress, July 15-18, Florida Center for Peace, 9779 S.W. 72 St., Miami. For families, catechists who want to grow spiritually and deepen their knowledge of how to teach children the faith and how to pray. Discussions on spiritual formation in the mornings followed by practical workshops in the afternoon. In Spanish, with simultaneous translation. 305-412-1700, info@fcpeace.com.

Tercera Conferencia Hispana para Músicos Pastorales del Este, 29 de julio-1 de agosto en Tampa. Con el Padre Juan Sosa, Mary Frances Reza, Damaris Thillet, Diego Correa, Pedro Rubalcava y Jaime Cortez, entre otros. La conferencia brindará la oportunidad de enriquecer y fortalecer los conocimientos musicales y litúrgicos. 856-583-8273, www.amphe.org.

Escuela de Dirigentes, Cursillos de Cristiandad. Martes, 8 p.m., iglesia de St. Stephen,

6044 S.W. 19 St., Miramar. www.cursillos.org.

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:

- "Sacramentos y Creatividad Litúrgica", 12 al 30 de julio, sobre los orígenes bíblicos y desarrollo histórico-teológico de cada sacramento, su interpretación actual a la luz de los documentos del Concilio Vaticano II, los fundamentos básicos de la liturgia de la Iglesia, y la aplicación de estos conocimientos a ejercicios prácticos para el estudiante.

MASSSES/PRAYER SESSIONS

Memorial service for persons lost to AIDS, Wednesday, July 28, 6:30 p.m., Chapel of St. Raphael, St. John Vianney Seminary, 2900 S.W. 87 Ave., Miami. A dessert reception will follow. Part of the third national assembly of Catholic HIV/AIDS ministers, sponsored by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami. www.seccam.org. Free, but R.S.V.P. requested: 404-567-5854, seccaminfo@gmail.com.

Cursillo Ultreya in English, last Fridays, 7-9 p.m., St. John Neumann Parish, Room F, 12125 S.W. 107 Ave., Miami. The Ultreya is the sharing of our Christian life with one another. www.cursillomiami.org, 305-710-0121.

RETREATS/DAYS OF REFLECTION

Camino del Matrimonio, 10 al 11 de julio, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., SEPI, 7700 S.W. 56 St., Miami. Programa de educación y preparación matrimonial que ofrece la Archidiócesis de Miami; una oportunidad para que las parejas se tomen un tiempo para reflexionar sobre su relación, dialogando acerca de los temas que más afectan el éxito de la relaciones matrimoniales. http://caminodelmatrimonio.org.

Matrimonios en Victoria, 31 de julio-1ro de agosto, iglesia católica de Mother of Christ, 14141 S.W. 26 St., Miami. Una oportunidad para que los matrimonios pasen un tiempo alejados de la agitación diaria y reflexionen sobre su vida y su relación con Dios. 305-479-0408.

Retiro de mujeres de Emaús, 6-8 de agosto, iglesia católica de Mother of Christ, 14141 Coral Way, Miami. Información e inscripción: 305-613-9460, 786-972-1030.

MorningStar Renewal Center, 7275 S.W. 124 St., Pinecrest. Registration required for all programs. 305-238-4367, ext. 102, or visit www.morningstarrenewal.org:

- "Finding Jesus in the silence of our hearts," Sept. 3-5, Labor Day weekend, with Father Jose Alfaro of the Archdiocese of Miami. Special weekend of silence in prayer, with periods of

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 website and in the newspaper, go to www.miamiarcb.org, click on the banner "announce your event for free" and follow the instructions. Notices may be sent by e-mail: arsoto@theadom.org; fax: 305-762-1132; mail: The Florida Catholic, 9401 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, FL 33138.

input and teaching, ample time for personal prayer, reflections, and growing in the presence of Jesus, who will fill your quietness with joy. All-inclusive weekend: \$160 per person.

SCHOOL EVENTS

Summer Knights performing arts/athletic camp, through July 16, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Archbishop Curley Notre Dame High School, 4949 N.E. Second Ave., Miami. For fifth-graders to incoming ninth-graders to learn the fundamentals of drama, acting, singing and musical instruments. Students will focus on the creation and performance of a Broadway play for the community. Athletic camp features basketball, football, softball and baseball fundamentals, seven on seven flag football, and a competition course. 305-751-8367, ext. 22.

Kidventure, through Aug. 6, St. Timothy School, 5400 S.W. 102 Ave., Miami. Open to students in PreK2 through grade eight. Fun activities, sports, field trips. 305-274-8229 or myyoung@sttimothymiami.org.

Soccer summer camp, for boys and girls ages 5 to 16, through July 23, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Archbishop McCarthy High School, 5451 S. Flamingo Road, Southwest Ranches. Full-day sessions beginning at \$135/week; half-day sessions beginning at \$100/week. www.futbolhpcamps.org.

Immaculata LaSalle summer camp, through July 16, 3601 S. Miami Ave., Miami. Activities and experiences to enhance Christian development. www.ilsroyals.com.

Summer camp and summer school, Good Shepherd, 14187 S.W. 72 St., Miami. Summer camp: through July 30; Summer school: through July 16. Registration: 786-715-4188 or gscscamp@gmail.com.

Immaculate Conception summer school, through July 17, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 125 W. 45 St., Hialeah. Remedial summer school classes for kindergarten-seventh grade in reading, language arts, math. Cost: \$350. 305-822-6461.

"Jump Start" summer enrichment program, through July 16, Archbishop Edward McCarthy High School, 5451 S. Flamingo Road, Southwest Ranches. Students entering grades seven or eight can earn a half credit toward high school graduation by enrolling. Classes in personal fitness, computer/keyboarding, art, band or drama. sbrown.mccarthyhigh@comcast.net or 954-434-8820, ext. 206.

Maverick summer soccer camp for girls ages 9 to 17, two five-day sessions, July

12-16 and Aug. 2-6, 8 a.m.-noon, Archbishop McCarthy High School, 5451 S. Flamingo Road, Southwest Ranches. Fee: \$110 per session; \$200 for both sessions. T-shirt, drinks and snacks included. 954-605-9565, msica86@aol.com.

VOCATIONS

Vocations awareness weekend, Nov. 12-14, St. John Vianney College Seminary, 2900 S.W. 87 Ave., Miami. For men ages 18-35 who are considering a vocation to the diocesan priesthood. This unique weekend experience offers an opportunity to spend a weekend experiencing seminary life. Register now; space is limited. 305-762-1137, vocations@theadom.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Respect life, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., English-, Spanish-, Creole-speaking, to work in Respect Life Office, 3600 S.W. 32nd Blvd., West Park. 954-981-2922 or ilovelife@bellsouth.net.

Detention Ministry training new volunteers, first Mondays, 6-9 p.m., Pastoral Center, 9401 Biscayne Blvd., Miami Shores. 305-762-1093, efarias@theadom.org or www.detentionministry.org.


YOUNG ADULTS

Ave Maria University youth conference 2010, July 9-11, Ave Maria University, 5050 Ave Maria Blvd., Ave Maria. Dynamic talks, praise and worship, adoration, fellowship and entertainment with musician Martin Doman of Steubenville, Ohio. \$115 per person, includes lodging and meals. Registration due by Thursday, July 1. 239-280-2541 or www.youthconference@avemaria.edu.


St. Augustine young adults' group, Tuesdays, 8 p.m. St. Augustine Parish hall, 1400 Miller Road, Coral Gables. Join our discussion group for young adults ages 25-35 as we strive to grow in our faith and live the Gospel truth in a community of friends and peers. 305-803-1860, staugyag@gmail.com.

In Christ United invites young adults ages 18-25 to grow in the love of Christ through fellowship, the holy Mass and service. Meetings: Wednesdays, 8 p.m., Prince of Peace Parish, 12800 N.W. 6 St., Miami. icu_yam@princeofpeacemiami.org.

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MIA A18

HAITI: Life in tent cities is totally chaotic

FROM A12

ter, so we are working on this urgently with Catholic Relief Services."

His comments came a day after a June 1 meeting in Miami of the Haiti bishops and the Haiti Advisory Group of the U.S. bishops' Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America. The meeting was held the same morning as Archbishop Wenski's installation and was attended by Boston Cardinal Sean O'Malley, Brooklyn Auxiliary Bishop Guy A. Sansaric and many of Haiti's bishops.

Participants reviewed the initial findings and recommendations of a Haiti Site Assessment report compiled in part by Archbishop Wenski, who traveled to Haiti in April but who was unable to attend the meeting as he prepared for his installation. Oblate Missionary Father Andrew Small, director of the U.S. bishops' Office for Latin America, briefed the committee on the findings.

"We are talking to the Haitians about setting up a foundation through which to run the projects and have very clear protocols about how we do distribute funds to make sure that it is to standards that we want carried out," Father Small said.

He added that a substantial amount of emergency funds has already been spent following the earthquake, but that the majority of the donations toward ecclesial rebuilding have yet to be used.

'TOTALLY CHAOTIC'

In addition to making long-range plans to get Catholic life back to some sense of normalcy, it is the interim recovery and shelter-related efforts in Haiti that need urgent attention and greater emphasis, according to Archbishop Bernardito Auza, papal nuncio to Haiti.

He described the situation in the Port-au-Prince streets as "totally chaotic." Migrations of peoples in and out of the city and to and from the provinces, combined with gang activity in the tent cities, have undermined an orderly response to the earthquake.

"There needs to be more transitional housing solutions for the homeless," Archbishop Auza said. "People from the provinces who were not really affected by the quake have come in to work; others who were affected have left the area for the provinces."

"The experts in earthquakes tell us that the real reconstruction should not begin until six months or one year until after the earthquake and in that respect Haiti is not behind (schedule)," Archbishop Auza said, "but in the intermediate reconstruction and response efforts, Haiti is behind."

According to a report of the Haiti Advisory Committee, the various



A child is pictured here at the makeshift medical clinic near the cathedral in Port-au-Prince.

Church partners plan to move forward in their analysis, design and reconstruction of key priority projects — but within a process that attempts to guarantee that such destruction won't happen again to Haiti's Church infrastructure.

Church officials say that future Church structures should withstand both earthquakes and hurricanes, and also be a place of refuge for the local populations until the country as a whole adopts more substantial design and construction practices.

A budget of approximately \$36 million collected during a special appeal for Haiti in U.S. parishes is providing both transitional and permanent relief to key Church sites identified earlier this year, in part by Archbishop Wenski. Approximately \$40 million additional funds were collected for Catholic Relief Services projects, many of which focus on emergency and humanitarian needs.

Some of the priority long-range reconstruction sites in the Port-au-Prince Archdiocese include the severely damaged Sacred Heart Parish; the Grand National Seminary; St. Francis de Sales Hospital; the National Cathedral; St. Therese Parish and St. Louis de France Montfortan Church and seminary. Other Church and related projects have been identified in the nearby provinces, including the areas of Jacmel, Leogane, Gressier, Lilavois, Petit Goave and Grand Goave.

SEMINARIANS

Another major priority of the funding projects is to sustain seminarian education in Haiti. On April 6, seminarian classes resumed under tents on land provided by the Haiti Bishops Conference and the Scalabrini Fathers. The new school year schedule is set to end on July 16.

A larger piece of land is being considered for a permanent new seminary complex and multiuse housing and educational campus, but nothing has been finalized, according to the nuncio. Funding for the land itself is being sought from new sources rather than the special collection monies.

Bishop Lafontant said all of the

seminarians have participated in psychological evaluation and therapy programs following the earthquake. Seventeen diocesan and religious seminarians perished in the tragedy and three suffered loss of limbs. Of those, two were sent to France to receive a prosthesis and six months of rehabilitation. A third is likely to go to France for special care as well.

All the internal and international partners have agreed that the Haitian Church should initiate the priorities through its own committees, and diocesan commissions are working with funding partners to identify the needs.

In the short term, many parishes have already been finding ways to construct temporary shelters to serve as open air churches and places of worship. Many of the clergy and religious are living in the rough and are in dire need themselves.

"They are doing their best," Bishop Lafontant said. "Along with CRS, I am trying to put them in provisional housing and to put them in conditions to work normally. Some of them bought tents, some rent spaces. ... I have two or three who have camps on their parishes and they minister there regularly."

GO WHERE PEOPLE ARE

As Haiti's government has relocated people from some of the tent cities in public squares to larger areas outside of town, there is a new need for clergy and religious to minister to people where they are living now.

"I am ready to tell the pastors to go to where the people are moving because the Protestants are there with their tents. It is not a matter of competition, but pastoral care," Bishop Lafontant said, adding that Archbishop Wenski has already printed 40,000 simple daily prayer booklets in Haitian Creole language for use in the tent cities.

In terms of parochial and Catholic schools, many of them have reopened, Bishop Lafontant said, with a great deal of help from the nuncio and U.S. AID and other organizations. These groups are providing weather-resistant huts for temporary classroom space, some of which are 300 square meters large.

St. Francis de Sales Hospital has been temporarily transitioning its operations to a temporary space on an archdiocese-owned property of the major philosophy seminary in order to allow time for proper cleanup and rebuilding of the old location. St. Francis de Sales was severely damaged by the earthquake.

"The vocation of that hospital is for the people in that middle-class and poor neighborhoods and it has to remain there," Bishop Lafontant said. "Some said we should relocate it permanently, and I said no. It belongs to the archdiocese and they take care of the people for less cost than other hospitals."



PHOTOS BY TOM TRACY | FC

A child cooks a meal at an earthquake refugee tent city in Port-au-Prince.

MIAMI EFFORTS

Bishop Lafontant said a piece of land already has been purchased and is being prepared so that the Miami Archdiocese's ongoing relief efforts in Haiti will have a base of operations.

"They can send teams of doctors who would rotate, and priests who can stay there. We bought the land already, so they are fencing it and soon they will start building that center," Bishop Lafontant said. "Priests from Miami could go there and help the priests who could come to Miami and rest a little bit, and doctors could come here and have a place to stay."

A longer-term consideration is the fate of the National Cathedral of Haiti in the badly damaged area of downtown Port-au-Prince. Bishop Lafontant said that until recently he was unsure if the Haitian government would start rebuilding in downtown at all. But now he said he sees signs that the downtown will probably be reconstructed, giving him confidence that the cathedral should stay there.

"A month ago I was watching TV and they were putting the new cornerstone for the Ministry of the Interior across the street from the cathedral, where the U.S. Embassy used to be. Because they want to rebuild downtown, I was now at ease to say if we get help then maybe we could rebuild the cathedral in the same location, but maybe not the same size."

He added that the priests of the

diocese want to preserve the front of the cathedral which did not collapse and which is an icon of the Church in Haiti. When people arrive by plane into the Haitian capital, they are accustomed to seeing the cathedral and the National Palace just before landing.

"Now they say there is something missing when they don't see the cathedral and the National Palace. We have offers from the cathedral in Lyon, France, and other benefactors to help rebuild the cathedral," Bishop Lafontant said. "From two or three different sources I can foresee help coming for the cathedral. Of course it will be a big thing, but I think that symbol should stay there."

ELECTIONS COMING

With national elections set for November, Church leaders in Haiti have also been communicating to people the importance of participating in the elections and holding the government accountable for providing assistance in a time of crisis.

"We are a bit concerned about the future because people are not motivated yet to go to elections and that is one of our preoccupations," Bishop Lafontant said. "We made a statement about that, telling the people the government should be responsible, and make sure that the people get what they need in terms of assistance and in terms of consideration for their situation." ■

WELCOME MASSES



GAIL BULFIN | FC

Archbishop Wenski catches up with St. Thomas More Society board member and Fort Lauderdale Mayor Jack Seiler after the Red Mass celebration June 2 at St. Anthony Parish.

Archbishop Wenski addresses Catholics in the Keys June 8 during his homily at St. Mary Star of the Sea. He asked them to "join with me and be those witnesses to hope. Let us show the world that God does matter."



ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO | FC



BLANCA MORALES | FC

Archbishop Thomas Wenski blesses brothers Juan and Josh, and their mother Tere Rubio of *Comunidad La Nueva Jerusalem* in Miami after the Spanish-language welcome Mass June 4. Archbishop Wenski celebrated the Mass with members of the archdiocese's Hispanic apostolic movements at St. Michael the Archangel Parish.



MARLENE QUARONI | FC

Archbishop Wenski laughs at the gifts of fruit, including a watermelon, taken up during the offertory procession at the welcome Mass June 5 at Notre Dame d'Haiti in Miami, his former parish.



BLANCA MORALES | FC

Knights of Malta await the beginning of a welcome Mass June 10 at Epiphany Parish in Miami for members of chivalric orders, papal and archdiocesan medal recipients, and members of Legatus.