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OF MIAMI

Putting a face — and a stop — to human trafficking

GAIL BULFIN

Florida Catholic correspondent

MIAMI GARDENS — A young girl from Detroit meets a guy by a pay phone. He says he wants to be her boyfriend, wants to take her to Florida so they can go to the Bahamas. He tells her he is a music producer, promises her jewelry. She thinks he likes her. She says yes. They arrive in Fort Lauderdale a few days later.

According to the FBI, he makes her walk the streets. He beats her when she doesn't bring in enough money. Then he sells her to another pimp who goes by the name "Snake." She's 17.

Farm-labor contractor Ronald Evans cruises homeless shelters looking for African-American men with substance abuse problems. It is how he staffs his labor pool. He makes them work 15-hour days, packs them into unfit housing, feeds them crack cocaine and alcohol at night, then charges them for their room, board and drugs. When convicted, he is sentenced to 30 years.

Authorities notice that many maids at upscale hotels in Florida's Panhandle are Eastern European. They are recruited in their homeland by Eurohouse Holding Corporation with promises of good-paying jobs. Most are students.

Upon arrival in the U.S., the promised jobs are nonexistent. The young travelers are presented with a bill for visa processing, job placement and transportation fees. They are forced to pay off their debt by working in hotels, and sleeping 15-20 people per condo.

The hotels have contracted with Eurohouse to supply labor. According to the federal indictment, the traffickers submitted more than 1,000 fraudulent visa applications.

These are just some of the real-life cases discussed at a workshop held Nov. 6 at St. Thomas University School of Law and sponsored by the Archdiocese of Miami. Examples from the report issued by the Center for Human Rights at Florida State University provide the stunning context around which the half-day workshop was designed.

PLEASE SEE **TRAFFICKING, A12**

ST. JAMES DAY



Sebastian Dilhomme, right, a St. James student, poses with his St. Brendan High School "guardian angel," Maria de la Iglesia, after having his face painted during St. James Day at the Westchester high school. St. Brendan High School students act as "guardian angels" to their young counterparts from St. James School in North Miami during the annual event. Now in its 13th year, St. James Day aims to introduce the inner-city kids to a suburban high school. St. Brendan also offers scholarships and financial aid to St. James students who attend the high school. See story, Page A19. (MARLENE QUARONI | FC)

Bishop John Noonan becomes Orlando's fifth shepherd

JEAN GONZALEZ

of the Florida Catholic staff

ORLANDO — It wasn't news Marian Congress participants expected to hear, but they reacted to the announcement and introduction in jubilant celebration.

Bishop John Noonan, auxiliary of Miami, was appointed bishop of Orlando by Pope Benedict XVI, and made his first public appearance in the nine-county diocese Oct. 23 at the diocesan Marian Congress, held at Holy Family Parish in Orlando. As some 200 participants entered the atrium of the parish, they noticed the Irish-born bishop with a soft smile and speculated, "Could this be our new bishop?" He shook hands and greeted those who approached him, and then awaited the official announcement.



Bishop John Noonan

Carol Brinati, diocesan secretary of evangelization and director of communications, made the announcement that the Holy Father had appointed the fifth bishop for the Orlando Diocese, which was met with sustained applause. She then asked Father Richard Walsh, diocesan administrator, to introduce Bishop Noonan.

"It's a great day to be Irish," quipped Father Walsh, Irish-born pastor of St. Margaret Mary Parish in Winter Park.

Father Walsh said he had only talked to Bishop Noonan once before. The 59-year-old bishop, who has called South Florida home since he was a young man, called Father Walsh the night before the Oct. 23 announcement. The two talked for a couple of hours, and Father Walsh told the crowd, "To know the man is to truly love the man." And with that statement, he introduced Bishop Noonan.

Bishop Noonan displayed his good-natured spirit when he told the crowd that he wasn't sure about the significance of becoming the fifth bishop of the Orlando Diocese, but hoped, "I don't act like a 5-year-old" in learning the ropes of his new challenges. But he also displayed his pastoral and prayerful nature as he reflected on the inspirational role of Mary in his life, and the fitting nature of the announcement being made at an event in honor of the Mother of God.

PLEASE SEE **BISHOP NOONAN, A16**

Cuban bishops: Meeting here fosters unity

Delegation from Cuba in Miami for annual meeting with exiled clergy, laity and religious

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO
Florida Catholic staff

MIAMI — Their experiences over the past 51 years may be different, but the Cuban Church is one and the Cuban people are one, regardless of which side of the Florida Straits they live in.

That was the message being repeated Nov. 8-11 as a delegation of clergy, religious and laity from Cuba took part in a four-day meeting with a delegation of clergy, religious and laity from the Cuban *diaspora*.

Those meetings have been going on since 1997, said Bishop Arturo Gonzalez of Santa Clara, who as head of the Cuban bishops' Commission on Human Mobility and Commission on the Family, led the 15-member delegation from Cuba.

At a press conference Nov. 8, Bishop Gonzalez emphasized that the annual meetings are aimed at "discovering the ties that bind" Cuban Catholics in every part of the world.

Quoting from the Gospel of John, "that all may be one," he expressed the hope that Cubans, regardless of where they live, "may be united in what is essential."

"We want to share our experiences ... our worries and our hopes ... to see how we can support one another," he said at the conclusion of a Mass a few hours later.

Coincidentally, the meeting took place just a few days after Archbishop Thomas Wenski led a delegation from the U.S. to Cuba for the dedication of a new seminary on the outskirts of Havana, the first church construction on the island since the Cuban revolution in 1959.

The cornerstone for the seminary was blessed by Pope John Paul II when he visited Cuba in 1998. The Cuban government of Fidel and Raul Castro gave permission for the construction and contributed some of the building materials. The Knights of Columbus of the United States also donated a significant

amount toward the seminary's construction, and some of their representatives traveled to Cuba for the dedication.

"The seminary is about the future," Archbishop Wenski said Nov. 6, during a press conference held at Miami International Airport after his return from the island. "(It is) a testimony that there is a future for faith, a future for the Church in Cuba."

MEETING HERE

Two days later, Archbishop Wenski, Bishop Gonzalez and a host of Cuban clergy from Miami and elsewhere in the U.S. concelebrated a Mass at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Charity to mark the beginning of the four-day meeting between representatives of the Church in Cuba and representatives of the Church outside the island.

Among the concelebrants were Miami's Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Agustin Roman and Auxiliary Bishop Felipe Estevez, as well as Auxiliary Bishop Octavio Cisneros of Brooklyn, N.Y., and Auxiliary Bishop Manuel Cruz of Newark, N.J.

At the press conference prior to the Mass, Bishop Gonzalez explained that the annual meetings between religious leaders on and off the island had taken place not only in Miami and other U.S. cities, but also in the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico, "although lately, Miami has become the host city."

Those earlier meetings have not received the publicity that this one has, acknowledged Bishop Estevez, who was part of the delegation that traveled to Cuba for the dedication of the new seminary.

Speaking to the *Florida Catholic* upon his return, Bishop Estevez said, until now, "there has been a climate of discretion to facilitate the utmost confidence and confidentiality of the conversations."

Now, however, "we are making a greater effort to invite a larger number of Catholics," which is why



Miami Auxiliary Bishop Felipe Estevez, left, and Santa Clara Bishop Arturo Gonzalez speak at a press conference before the Nov. 8 Mass marking the start of the annual meeting between Cuban religious leaders in exile and on the island. (PHOTOS BY ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO | FC)

the community was invited to two Masses that were celebrated that week: one Nov. 10 at St. Timothy Parish in Miami, and the closing Mass of the meeting Nov. 11 at St. John the Apostle Parish in Hialeah.

Hialeah is one of the epicenters of the Cuban exile community in South Florida, and that is exactly why it was selected, Bishop Estevez said. "We wanted to make the closing inviting to the Cuban community of Hialeah."

Bishop Estevez added that, "We are clear on the purpose and objec-

PLEASE SEE CUBA, A5



Under the mantle of Cuba's patroness at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Charity in Miami, Santa Clara Bishop Arturo Gonzalez addresses those present for the opening Mass Nov. 8 of the meeting between Cuban religious leaders living abroad and on the island.

'A peso from each Cuban'

Brooklyn's Cuban-born auxiliary bishop announces drive to restore Our Lady of Charity's shrine in Cuba

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO
Florida Catholic staff

MIAMI — In 2012, Cubans will mark the 400th anniversary of the finding of the image of Our Lady of Charity in the Bay of Nipe.

Tradition holds that three fishermen found the image floating in the water after praying for safety during a terrible storm. Since then, Our Lady of Charity has found a

home in the heart of the Cuban people, who venerate her as Cuba's patroness. And the National Sanctuary Basilica of Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre that houses the original image has become a place of pilgrimage.

The sanctuary, located within the Archdiocese of Santiago on Cuba's eastern edge, has fallen into disrepair during the past few decades, but plans are under way to

refurbish and improve the church and adjacent facilities in preparation for the celebration of the 400th anniversary.

During a Mass Nov. 8 at the Shrine of Our Lady of Charity in Miami, Cuban-born Auxiliary Bishop Octavio Cisneros of Brooklyn, N.Y., announced that he had begun a nonprofit organization aimed at helping Archbishop Dionisio Garcia of Santiago obtain the

necessary funds and materials for the refurbishing of the shrine.

Bishop Cisneros noted that Archbishop Garcia had begun a nationwide campaign asking for "A peso from every Cuban" on the island. Bishop Cisneros said he was changing that motto to "A dollar from every Cuban" in the U.S., or "A euro from every Cuban" in Europe.

Among the repairs that need to

be made, he said, is making the area where the statue is venerated accessible to the disabled and the elderly. The shrine also needs new facilities for the housing of pilgrims. ■

Contributions to the reconstruction of the basilica in El Cobre should be sent to: Our Lady of Charity of Cobre Foundation, P.O. Box 40368, Glen Oaks, N.Y. 11004-0368.

Teaching hope

When tragedy strikes, Catholic schools turn to faith to heal the wounds

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO

Florida Catholic staff

MIAMI — Three car accidents, one medical problem; four teens dead, one severely injured: Tragedy and sadness have taken a toll this year on three archdiocesan high schools and one parish community.

But pastors, administrators and students themselves have managed to turn their suffering into proofs of faith rather than tests of faith; into lessons that go beyond theory and books; into evidence that Catholic schools educate both minds and souls.

The car accidents came within days of each other:

- Oct. 1, Tony Acosta, a senior at Belen Jesuit Prep in Miami, killed on the Florida Turnpike;
- Oct. 4, Kevin O'Connell and Ian Guckian, both 18, best friends and graduates of St. Bonaventure School in Davie, killed in Miramar;
- Oct. 20, Palida "Monica" Pongpluempitchai, a senior at Archbishop Edward McCarthy High School in Southwest Ranches, loses her leg in a freak accident, when a car careens in reverse onto a school sidewalk.

Earlier, on Aug. 28, Daniella Tavaréz, a senior at Our Lady of Lourdes Academy in Miami, died of a ruptured aorta.

Rafael Ledesma, a school counselor for the junior and senior classes at the all-boys Belen Jesuit, still cries when telling the story. Tony, a "terrific student" with "amazing grades," was killed on a Friday afternoon.

"About half the senior class spontaneously came to the school," Ledesma recalled. "They packed the (first Friday) hour of adoration," then went up to the senior lounge and started telling stories, remembering their friend. "Then the president of the student council ended the whole thing with a prayer."

The students themselves decided to postpone the homecoming celebrations which were scheduled for that week, including that Saturday's dance. Tony's wake was held on Sunday evening, and the school cancelled classes on Monday for the funeral Mass. It was held in Tony's parish of St. Kevin although the liturgy was prepared by Belen's director of campus ministry and the homilist was Belen's principal.

"What was incredibly impressive is that parents of students who were not seniors — parents of sixth graders, parents of any grade, relatives of

any student from Belen who didn't know Tony Acosta at all — went to the wake, went to the Mass," Ledesma said. "They were mourning as if they had known Tony all along."

When classes resumed on Tuesday, counselors followed Tony's schedule, so that "there were always two counselors in his classes" — not just for the kids, Ledesma said, but for the teachers as well "because by no means were the teachers any less affected than the kids."

A scholarship fund has since been established in Tony's name. At the senior ring ceremony, which took place the day after the funeral, his name was read and a moment of silence was observed. His best friend took the ring home to Tony's family, and two seniors sang a song they had composed in his honor.

"It's been tough but we have had God," said Ledesma, who has spent 24 of his 43 years as an educator at Belen. "That is what makes Belen and every Catholic school different. We haven't told the students anything ridiculous like this was God's will. Theologically and scripturally speaking, death is the last enemy that God will conquer. When death occurs, God is there to transform it into something good for us and for us to lean on. In explaining it that way, they have leaned on God and on each other. That is the advantage we have over other schools, that we can lean on love, literally, either of God or of one another."

A FAMILY

The funeral Mass for Kevin O'Connell and Ian Guckian was attended by more than 2,000 people, said Mary Arnold, resource director and teacher at the St. Bonaventure School where Kevin's mother also works. Kevin, too, worked in the aftercare program at the school and sang in the parish's teen choir.

Arnold, a teacher for 27 years, the last 13 at St. Bonaventure, called the outpouring of support for both families "overwhelming." She praised the pastor, Father Edmond Prendergast, for being "such a compassionate, caring shepherd."

"I've never seen an outpouring like that any place that I have been," she said. "People have continued an

outpouring of bringing food items and things like that to the families. Children in the school have continued to make cards."

Although Kevin had graduated from St. Bonaventure four years ago — he and Ian briefly attended Archbishop McCarthy High School and had just started at Broward Community College — he continued to be active in the parish. His presence was missed especially by the children in the aftercare program.

"They were very grief-stricken when they found out that Kevin wasn't going to be around. It's a very hard concept to explain to little children," Arnold said. "How do you explain it? This is our faith. Jesus went through the same process. He died but we know because of his death and rising that we will have the

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Rafael Ledesma

same opportunity to go to heaven. And they get that. They know he's with Jesus. And that's the thing that gets them beyond their grief."

About five years ago, St. Bonaventure lost a beloved teacher to a car accident on I-595, so this is not the first time the community comes together to grieve.

"It's been a rough go of things," Arnold said. "But as (Father Prendergast) said, there's something very special at this parish that he'd never seen in any other place either. There's just an overwhelming amount of family unity. Whenever anything is great, it's celebrated greatly as a family; and whenever anything tragic happens, it's celebrated in ways that only a family can understand. And the healing starts there."

PRAYERS

At Our Lady of Lourdes Academy, an all-girls high school in Miami, Daniella Tavaréz's classmates,

THE CHOICE: FAITH

Following is an excerpt from Father Wilfredo García-Tuñón's homily at the funeral for Tony Acosta. Father García-Tuñón is a Jesuit priest who serves as principal of Belen high school.

"...And yet in a world as intelligent as our own, a world where knowledge is power, we are powerless in the presence of death. Every single one of us, no matter how intelligent, no matter how innocent, will one day die; we will not and cannot escape that reality.

"...I understand... young people are not supposed to die. Seventeen year-old boys at the threshold of life, at the birth of a prospective future, are not supposed to die. Well, I remember the words my grandmother often said, a phrase taken from old-time Cuban wisdom: 'the only thing necessary to die is to be alive.'

"And I assure you that there is no pill, no cream, no surgery, no anything than can change that — ever. Science falls

short and leaves us ultimately empty and poor; intelligence is silenced and has nothing to say. But the fact is that I am not a scientist, I am not a doctor, I am a Christian and have been my whole life and as a disciple of Jesus Christ what I know is the one thing that goes beyond science — it's faith. Faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, faith in life after death, faith in the conviction that Tony is not dead but very much alive and actually more alive than ever before. A faith so powerful and so real that it is unafraid of death because it transforms it from an end to a means to an end: and our end is life with God, eternal rest in the arms of Jesus. And as a man of faith I know this to be truer than anything else I know.

"And why do I know? Because I have made a choice. I have made a choice to believe in Jesus Christ. ... We in our lives have to make that choice and the choice is to live, the choice is to believe, the choice is to hope..."

aided by the school's chaplain and campus minister, crafted a prayer service that was attended by the whole school, according to interim principal Sister Kathryn Donze, a member of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Daniella died on Saturday. The prayer service was held on Monday, with her father, a medical doctor, and her sister, Gaby, a Lourdes alumna in her final year of college, speaking at the service. School was cancelled that Wednesday for the funeral Mass.

"The school day proceeded as usual (on Monday) but students were given the opportunity to meet with counselors as needed," Sister Donze said.

The remembrances continued into November. The

first issue of the school newspaper published a tribute to Daniella. The senior class held a prayer meeting in late October to remember her. And on Nov. 2, the solemnity of All Souls, the students began the day with prayer on the patio.

"We remembered all our deceased relatives and friends, especially Daniella," Sister Donze said. "After the prayer, the seniors went to our front lawn where our chaplain blessed a small tree planted in Daniella's memory. On the altar in the chapel, there is a butterfly candle holder used in the prayer service, and her picture is displayed on the bulletin board."

COUNSELING

Monica Pong, as her friends know her, was injured as school was letting out at Archbishop McCarthy High School in Southwest Ranches. A student ambassador, she was returning from putting some visiting eighth-graders on their school bus

when the freak accident occurred.

Monica, 18, who wants to study biochemistry in college and become a cardiologist, is now out of the hospital and continuing to keep up with her studies from home. She has finished applying for college and visited the high school the first week of November. She is in a wheelchair, getting physical therapy, and preparing mentally and physically to be fitted for a prosthetic leg.

Her cheery, positive attitude in the face of the tragedy certainly has eased the worries of her friends and classmates. But in the hours following the tragic accident, the school turned to prayer.

"The first thing they did was hold a prayer service at the start of the school day," said Brother Angelo Palmieri, a Marist brother who serves as associate superintendent for the archdiocese's secondary schools.

Counselors also came from other Catholic schools and from Catholic Charities to help both students and teachers deal with the tragedy. "They had so many (counselors) that they had to ask other schools to wait until other days (to send theirs)," Brother Palmieri recalled.

But what really impressed him was the prayer service.

"I think it's very easy at a time like this to recognize the importance of God in our lives. In a tragedy, you recognize that you are part of a faith community, and as a faith community we help each other," Brother Palmieri said. "It was so evident to me that morning at McCarthy High School, where you had the whole student body there, half sitting in bleachers and half on the gym floor, and there was such silence. You knew that people wanted to feel God's presence in that room. And I do think God's presence was there."

"As a Catholic school," he added, "we want to put our focus on that. We put our trust in God. No matter what it is that happens to us, we have that faith that helps us through all tragedies." ■



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Cuba's new seminary: a sign of hope

This is a translation of the homily preached by Archbishop Thomas Wenski at the Mass celebrated Nov. 8 at the Shrine of Our Lady of Charity to mark the opening of the meeting between representatives of the Church in Cuba and the Church in exile.

I have been traveling to Cuba for more than a decade — always to visit and support the Church on the island. Last week, I was there to take part in the ceremonies marking the dedication of the new seminary. In August of last year, I visited the seminary while it was under construction, along with Cardinal Sean O'Malley of Boston. During this visit, part of whose purpose was actually to see where and how the post-hurricane aid sent from the United States had made a difference, we held a press conference at the retreat house where we stayed. One reporter asked: What does Cuba need now? The answer I gave I have yet to see in print, but it was brief. I answered with one word, "hope." Today, Cuba is marked by growing uncertainty and an increasing sense of hopelessness. For many, especially the youth, hope is defined as "leaving."

The construction of this new seminary is a sign of the hope that Cuba needs so much. The seminary has played this role not only throughout

the ecclesiastical history of Cuba, but also throughout its civic history — because within its classrooms were forged the national and religious identity of Cubans. And it will do so in the future as well.

As Cardinal Jaime Ortega said in his talk last Wednesday at the civil ceremony marking the opening of the seminary: "It is faith in God, or the suspected or certain presence of God in the horizon of our lives, that guarantees the values in a society, that supports the virtues of a human being in his family and social life, that serves as the foundation for the spirituality of the people. It is by looking toward the heavens that men and women go beyond their daily lives to be able to overcome crises, to avoid rancor, to love and forgive." And so, he said, referring to the seminary, "that is the fundamental importance of this house."

In "*Spe Salvi*," Pope Benedict wrote: "A world without God is a world without hope." When a society closes the door to the Infinite, to transcendence — whether by adherence to ideological materialism (as in the case of Marxist-Leninism) or by adherence to practical materialism (as is increasingly the case in our Western democracies) — hope is exiled. While Cuba is no longer an

officially "atheistic" state, 50 years of communism during which religious practice was actively discouraged has had its effect on Cuban society. As Cardinal Ortega said in the same talk: "From a heart that is empty of God no word can come out that the faithful and our people can fruitfully receive."

Through it all, the Church — though weakened and reduced in numbers — survived. Today, the Church in Cuba, beyond just surviving, is striving to be a witness to hope. And, in spite of difficulties and lack of resources, she is gaining new members, and more space in which to carry out her mission. Pope John Paul II's visit in 1998 certainly had a hugely positive effect. And, in hundreds of parishes throughout the island, in countless projects of social assistance offered by Caritas, Catholics in Cuba witness to that hope that does not disappoint, the hope with a human face: Jesus Christ.

I cite once again the words of Havana's cardinal this past Wednesday: "The mouth speaks of the abundance of the heart' and the men and women who surround us, young and old, await nothing more from us than a word that will open them to the profound realities of the Spirit. In effect, the priest and the seminarian, in one way or another, have to speak to the people about God."

How often in the history of the

world has the dragon of the Apocalypse (cf. Revelation 12:1-18) in its various incarnations attempted to swallow up the Bride of Christ? Yet it is the dragon that is ultimately vanquished — for love always proves more powerful than hatred. As Pope Benedict XVI said: "In all ages, the Church, the People of God, also lives by the light of God and as the Gospel says is nourished by God. ... Thus in all the trials, in the various situations of the Church through the ages, in different parts of the world, she wins through suffering. And she is the presence, the guarantee of God's love against all the ideologies of hatred and selfishness" (Aug. 15, 2007). ■

APPOINTMENTS

Archbishop Thomas Wenski has made the following appointments:

Effective Oct. 29:

Msgr. Andrew Anderson — to full-time faculty member, St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary, Boynton Beach.

Effective Nov. 1:

Father George Puthusseril — Judicial Vicar of the Archdiocese of Miami.

Father Jesús Medina — parochial vicar, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Cutler Bay.

Deacon Angelo Gervasi — permanent deacon, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Coral Springs.

Nuevo seminario es 'señal de esperanza'

Esta es la homilía predicada por el Arzobispo Wenski en la misa que se celebró el 8 de noviembre en la Ermita de la Caridad para marcar la apertura de la reunión entre representantes de la Iglesia de Cuba y de la Iglesia en la diáspora.

Como ustedes saben, viajo a Cuba a cada rato — siempre para visitar y apoyar a la Iglesia de Cuba. La semana pasada estuve para asistir a las ceremonias que se celebraron por el nuevo seminario. En agosto del año pasado, visité el seminario en construcción con el Cardenal Sean O'Malley de Boston. Durante esa visita, cuyo propósito también fue de evaluar cómo se utilizaba la ayuda que vino de los Estados Unidos después de los ciclones, tuvimos una conferencia de prensa en la Casa Sacerdotal. Y en aquel entonces, un reportero me preguntó: ¿Qué necesita Cuba ahora? Mi respuesta fue breve. Y, yo creo, no lo público después. Respondí con una sola palabra, "esperanza". La Cuba de hoy está marcada por una cre-

ciente incertidumbre y un sentido de desesperanza. Para muchos, especialmente para los jóvenes, la esperanza se define como "marcharse."

Una señal de esa esperanza que Cuba tanto necesita ha sido la construcción de este nuevo seminario. El seminario desempeñó este papel no solo en la historia eclesiástica de Cuba sino también en su historia cívica — porque dentro de sus aulas se forjaba la identidad nacional y religiosa del cubano. Y lo hará en el futuro también. Como dijo el Cardenal Jaime Ortega, en su discurso en la ceremonia cívica que tuvo lugar el miércoles pasado: "...es la fe en Dios, o la presencia sospecha o cierta de Dios en el horizonte de nuestras vidas, la que garantiza los valores en la sociedad, la que apoya las virtudes del ser humano en su vida familiar y social, la que fundamenta la espiritualidad del pueblo. Es mirando hacia lo alto como el hombre y la mujer se so-

brepan en su vida diaria y son capaces de superar crisis, de evitar rencores, de amar y perdonar." Por lo tanto dijo, refiriéndose al seminario, "esta es la importancia fundamental de esta casa".

En *Spe Salvi*, el Papa Benedicto escribió: "Un mundo sin Dios es un mundo sin esperanza." Cuando una sociedad cierra la puerta hacia el infinito, o la transcendencia del ser humano, lo mismo por adherirse a una ideología materialista (como es el caso del Marxismo-Leninismo) como por adherirse al materialismo práctico (que va en aumento en nuestras democracias occidentales) la esperanza está exiliada. A pesar de que Cuba ya no es oficialmente un estado "ateo", 50 años de comunismo durante el cual las prácticas religiosas han sido activamente desalentadas han tenido su efecto en la sociedad cubana. Como dijo el Cardenal Ortega en ese mismo discurso: "...de un corazón vacío de Dios no sale ninguna palabra

que sus fieles y nuestro pueblo puedan recibir con provecho."

A través de todo esto, la Iglesia — a pesar de su situación debilitada y sus números reducidos — ha sobrevivido. Hoy día la Iglesia en Cuba, más allá de haber sobrevivido, está luchando por dar un testimonio a la esperanza. Y, a pesar de las dificultades y la falta de recursos, está ganando nuevos miembros y más espacio en la cual llevar a cabo su misión. La visita del Papa Juan Pablo II en el 1998 ciertamente surtió un inmenso efecto positivo. Y en cientos de parroquias a través de la isla, en innumerables proyectos de asistencia social ofrecidos por Caritas, los católicos en Cuba son testigos de esa esperanza que nunca defrauda, la esperanza que tiene un rostro humano: Jesucristo.

Cito otra vez el discurso del cardenal de la Habana del miércoles pasado: "De la abundancia del

PLEASE SEE **ARZOBISPO, A18**

'Promise' of freedom still on the table

Cuban bishop addresses issue of release of political prisoners on the island

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO
Florida Catholic staff

MIAMI — The Cuban government may have missed a deadline to release 13 prisoners of conscience detained in Cuba, but the work of the Church on their behalf — and that of all prisoners on the island, regardless of their offense — will continue, said Cuban Bishop Arturo Gonzalez of Santa Clara during a press conference Nov. 8.

The Cuban Church, led by Havana's Cardinal Jaime Ortega, has been successfully negotiating the release of Cuban prisoners of conscience since this summer, when the death of one of the prisoners, who was on a hunger strike, and the rough treatment of the Ladies in White, a group of women who protested peacefully each Sunday in Havana, brought international con-

demnation to the Castro regime.

So far, thanks to the intervention of the Cuban Church, 39 from a list of 52 dissidents have been freed and repatriated to Spain, along with more than 200 of their relatives. However, some of the dissidents have said that they want to be released and allowed to remain in Cuba.

"There is an offer of liberty for those prisoners who want to leave, and a promise of liberty for those prisoners who want to stay in the country," Bishop Gonzalez said in his carefully worded response to questions from the media.

He said the work of the Church on behalf of the prisoners has been ongoing, "effective" and not always public.

"We have the promise that this process of the liberation of prisoners will continue," Bishop Gonzalez

said. "Already a good number of prisoners have obtained their freedom, not only those of the group of 75."

That number refers to the number of dissidents taken prisoner during a Cuban government crackdown in the spring of 2003. Shortly thereafter, the Ladies in White, who are wives and mothers of those who were imprisoned, began their marches through the streets of Havana. Typically, the women began their marches after attending Mass at a Havana church.

Bishop Gonzalez stressed, however, that the work of Cuba's Church on behalf of prisoners is not a recent phenomenon and not limited to dissidents.

"It has been going on for a long time," he said. "The Church is working with prisoners of every type and also with their families." ■



Bishop Arturo Gonzalez of Santa Clara greets some of his former parishioners after the Mass at the shrine. (PHOTOS BY ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO | FC)

CUBA: Archbishop Wenski: Seminary is about 'the future,' 'testimony' that there is a future for Church of Cuba

FROM A2

tives of these encounters, which is for the good of the Church here and there ... (and) so that the Church (there) may be more understood and appreciated, even when it comes to its relationship with the government."

ANGRY CALLS

That is a touchy subject in South Florida. The Archdiocese of Miami received a number of angry phone calls during the days Archbishop Wenski was in Cuba. Callers vehemently objected to the archbishop's visit and to the presence of Raul Castro at the civil dedication ceremony for the seminary.

"It is a totalitarian society. Contact is inevitable," Bishop Estevez told the *Florida Catholic*.

He said he himself did not speak to Raul Castro while in Cuba, but

Archbishop Wenski did, at the reception that followed the civil dedication ceremony. Fidel Castro was not present at any of the seminary events.

According to Archbishop Wenski, Raul Castro mentioned that he had read some comments the archbishop had made to the *Miami Herald* before leaving for Cuba — and he did not like them. Then he said something to the effect that "the system" here was to blame for the archbishop's perceptions of the Cuban reality. To which Archbishop Wenski said he replied, "Both here and there, we have to overcome the systems."

"One can speak truth to power without falling into vulgarities and disrespectfulness," Archbishop Wenski said at the airport press conference.

He said the seminary marked an important milestone in the life of

the Church in Cuba, and "we went there to be in solidarity with the Church in Cuba."

This was not the first time either Archbishop Wenski or Bishop Estevez has traveled to Cuba. Bishop Estevez first traveled back to his homeland in 1986, when he was rector of St. Vincent de Paul Seminary in Boynton Beach and was invited by the Cuban bishops to attend a historic nationwide gathering of Cuban clergy and laity known as ENEC.

Since then, he has visited the island a number of times on Church business, including for the visit of Pope John Paul II in 1998.

"It is always difficult" to return, said Bishop Estevez, one of the 14,000 unaccompanied minors who left Cuba in the early 1960s a part of the "Pedro Pan" program.

This time, he was able to visit his hometown of Jovellanos, see cousins and uncles who still live there, and celebrate Mass at the parish church where he once served as an altar boy.

It is a place "very rich in memories and affection and nostalgia," Bishop Estevez said.

HEALING

Though difficult, those return trips can be moments of healing, as many exiles found out when they first returned to the island for the pope's visit. Healing is also the goal of the ongoing meetings between religious leaders in exile and religious leaders in Cuba.

"We believe it is very important to heal the pain of absence from the island of Cuba," Bishop Estevez said at the Nov. 8 press conference, adding that both the bishops here and there hope that the upcoming

400th anniversary of the finding of the image of Our Lady of Charity on the Bay of Nipe would provide an opportunity "for a re-encounter that will favor unity and peace."

Our Lady of the Charity is Cuba's patroness, and devotion to her is deeply seated in the Cuban psyche, regardless of religious belief — or non-belief.

Bishop Estevez said a number of pilgrimages from Miami to the shrine in El Cobre were being planned for 2012, in the hope that the pilgrimages "would involve a healing of memories," so that despite the years of oppression and family separation, "we (can) reconnect with the Cuban people, with the Cuban families."

"Not all Cubans think alike or are of the same faith," Bishop Gonzalez said. But "we must discover our roots and our origins and look at what unites us."

Bishop Gonzalez added that, despite a half-century of government-imposed atheism during which the Church's ability to function has been greatly restricted, "faith still has a place in the heart of the Cuban people."

"To announce Jesus Christ also involves a commitment with the human being. Cubans support the Church, respect the Church, and have it as a point of reference," Bishop Gonzalez said, because they know "the Cuban Church has been by their side." ■



Archbishop Thomas Wenski presides at the celebration of Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Charity Nov. 8 to mark the beginning of the annual meeting of Cuban religious leaders in the island and in the diaspora. At left is Bishop Arturo Gonzalez of Santa Clara, Cuba; at right is Miami's Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Agustin Roman.

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New missal: Changes capture original meanings

A guide to the new English translation of the Mass, which Catholics will begin using November 2011

JAMES BREIG

Casual observers of the Roman Catholic Church often remark that it hasn't changed in 2,000 years. Actually, just like any living institution, it is constantly changing. Over the centuries, where and when the Mass is celebrated, how saints are chosen, and the method of electing popes are some of the ways the Church has adjusted its traditions and policies.

Now come changes to the Roman Missal, the book containing the prayers for the Mass. For years, the Church has been working to more accurately translate those prayers from the Latin in which the original Missal is promulgated into modern languages, including English.

Msgr. Kevin Irwin, dean of the School of Theology and Religious Studies at The Catholic University of America in Washington, said those alterations were necessitated by two factors.

"First, the committee charged with the English translation of the Roman Missal issued the post-Vatican II translations very quickly," he said, referring to the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s. "They realized, after a few years' use of the Missal, that some translations should have been more accurate. Second, some feasts have been added to the Church's liturgi-

'All of us — laity, clergy and religious — will need to take time to review the changed words and come to appreciate what we may not have understood or appreciated before.'

Msgr. Kevin Irwin

cal calendar in recent years, for example, St. Padre Pio's. Those Latin Masses need to be translated into English."

Peter Finn, associate director of the International Commission on English in the Liturgy, compared the changes "to the cleaning of an old painting whose images are brought to clearer light in the cleaning process. ... The translations have sought to achieve a suitable balance between the word-for-word, literal meaning of the Latin and the demands of good proclamation, style and intelligibility."

One of the most significant changes, Msgr. Irwin said, involves the familiar phrase, "And also with you," which the congregation recites after the celebrant of

WHY A NEW TRANSLATION?

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops — Office of Media Relations

The Congregation has approved a new English translation of the Roman Missal, Third Edition, the ritual text containing prayers and instructions for the celebration of the Mass, for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. The first use of this new text in the United States will be on the first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 27, 2011.

The implementation of this new English translation raises many questions for U.S. Catholics. Why do we need a new translation? What prayers will be different? Who are the new saints included with the edition? How will this translation affect lay ministers and liturgical musicians?

None of these questions has a short, simple answer. This is the third in a series of articles produced by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops that seeks to answer those questions.

Sample texts of the changes, and much more information, are available at the U.S. bishops website, www.usccb.org/romanmissal.

the Mass says, "The Lord be with you."

He explained that "the congregation will now say, 'And with your spirit.' This places the English translation in line with most other languages. The response is not to the person of the priest but to the Spirit of God, who ordained him to permanent service in the Church. It is an acknowledgment of the 'spirit' and grace which is in him."

Msgr. Anthony Sherman, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat of Divine Worship, offers another example. Instead of saying, "We believe" at the beginning of the Creed, Catholics will soon recite, "I believe."

The reason for the shift, he said,

is "to underline the fact that, although we share our belief together with our brothers and sisters, each one of us is called to make an individual profession of faith."

As the changes are introduced, parishioners will have many guides to help them learn their new responses.

"Plans are underway by a number of publishers to print up Mass booklets or cards containing the changes," Msgr. Irwin noted.

Msgr. Sherman added, "Eventually all participation aids and hymnals will include the new responses of the people."

Finn noted that "today, the people's responses can be made more readily available not only in printed editions, but also on websites,

CDs, iPhones etc."

One website already available to help people become familiar with the new translation of the Roman Missal is sponsored by the U.S. bishops: www.usccb.org/romanmissal.

Average Catholics may not immediately grasp the necessity and benefits of the changes, Msgr. Irwin admitted, but the familiarity that comes with time should lead people to comfort with and understanding of the words.

"All of us — laity, clergy and religious — will need to take time to review the changed words and come to appreciate what we may not have understood or appreciated before," he said.

"There are layers of meaning to liturgical texts, not just one meaning. These translations and the education we shall receive before they are implemented will offer us a chance to 'brush up' our knowledge of the Mass and of our beliefs."

Msgr. Sherman said the changes "will invite the faithful to pause and reflect on what, after so many years, we may have taken for granted. People will listen more attentively to the various prayers proclaimed by the priest and these will convey a much deeper richness, which can be the basis for meditation and prayer for the enrichment of one's spiritual life." ■

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Coming together

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary and St. Richard begin process of merging

DANIEL SOÑÉ
 Florida Catholic correspondent

MIAMI — Father Luis Alberto Perez is pulling double duty as a pastor. He has all the responsibilities of other pastors, but over two parishes: Our Lady of the Holy Rosary in Cutler Bay and St. Richard in Palmetto Bay.

Father Perez's double duty is due to a merger of the two parishes, whose properties are about a four-mile drive apart. The merger was announced by Archbishop Emeritus John C. Favalora in April 2010.

This has raised concerns among Holy Rosary parishioners that their parish is shuttering up as others had to do last year. Father Perez disagrees.

"The position has never been that it was closing," Father Perez said, referring to Archbishop Favalora's letter announcing the merger. "It is being united with a neighboring Catholic Church. Therefore, we are joining and sharing resources, talents and gifts. That is a new vision: a new beginning for two faith communities."

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary was the first parish established by Archbishop Coleman Carroll, Miami's first archbishop, when the diocese was founded in 1958. About 20 years ago, it embarked on the process of building a permanent church, which was dedicated five years later.

But the building had major structural flaws, and after years of unsuccessful fixes, it was condemned as unsafe by the county and had to be torn down. That process of building, repairing and demolition left the parish deeply in debt and parishioners gathering for Mass in the parish hall, the only one of the newly constructed buildings that could be repaired. For awhile one summer, they celebrated Mass under big tents on the parish grounds.

The way the merger is structured, parishioners will meet for Mass at St. Richard, but Our Lady of the Holy Rosary School will continue to exist at its current location. St. Richard does not have a parish school.

One sign of the expansion created by the upcoming merger is the large combined number of children enrolled for religious education this year — more than 900. Another sign of growth, Father Perez said, is in music. "We also have more than 100 music ministers because they'll be coming together. All these things are taking place and it is wonderful."

The transition, however, has not been without hardship for his parishioners, he said. "All this has happened in five months. There

hasn't been much time for human nature to analyze and digest these changes."

This was evidenced by the initial reaction to Archbishop Favalora's letter. Passionately opposed to the archbishop's recommendation, Holy Rosary's parishioners "gathered petitions from everywhere — in parking lots and other places. Even people visiting from Cuba signed the petitions," Father Perez said.

Since then, things have calmed down. Father Perez and his transition committee has been facilitating the process while reaching out to those who are still hurting from the news. As the liturgical year draws to a close, the parish is preparing to take the next major step in the merger.

"On the first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 28, all Masses will be transferred to St. Richard's," Father Perez said. The next-to-last Sunday Mass at Holy Rosary will be Nov. 21, the feast of Christ the King.

"We didn't intentionally plan it this way, but it coincides with the end of the liturgical year and the beginning of the new one," he said.

At that point, the worship spaces

and other portions of the property will not be used because they will have moved to St. Richard Parish. The school, however, and associated buildings at Holy Rosary will remain and "continue to move forward."

It was originally proposed that the unused portions of the property would be sold to rid Holy Rosary of its nearly \$5 million debt. However, with the installation of a new archbishop June 1, the fate of that property remains unclear.

Sister Elizabeth Worley, a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph who serves as the archdiocese's chief operating officer and chancellor for administration, said there is "no final decision regarding whether excess property at Holy Rosary Parish will be sold or whether the land will be retained with hope of future use by the archdiocese."

Although the merger has been painful in some respects for Father Perez and his Holy Rosary parishioners, he remains positive. "I was presented with a challenge and I saw the possibilities. And the possibilities were greater than the disabilities. So coming together brings a new life and a new vision." ■

'(T)he possibilities were greater than the disabilities. So coming together brings a new life and a new vision.'

— Father Luis Alberto Perez

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MIA A7

Respect life: The whole truth

Speakers at statewide Respect Life Conference focus on misinformation about scientific facts and Church teaching

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO
of the Florida Catholic staff

FORT LAUDERDALE — Seeing the whole picture. Seeing the whole truth.

That could have been the theme for the statewide Respect Life Conference, which drew nearly 400 people from Miami and across Florida to Fort Lauderdale Oct. 29-30.

Speaker after speaker emphasized the importance of looking beyond the headlines and past the misconceptions about topics such as stem-cell research, artificial contraception, human sexuality, social justice, the death penalty and what the Catholic Church teaches about all these issues.

"We are constantly challenged to reach tens of millions of people who just don't get it, who just don't hear it," said Barbara Groeber, education coordinator for the Archdiocese of Miami's Respect Life Ministry, whose talk focused

on Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body.

"This is what you have to get if you're going to understand all these other life issues in their entirety," said Groeber, referring to the 129 short talks given by Pope John Paul II between 1979 and 1984.

In those talks — now known collectively as the Theology of the Body — the pope sought to formulate for a new generation, using updated language, the Church's teachings on the basic questions of life: Who am I? What is the purpose of my existence? How am I called to live?

Groeber said that Pope John Paul II used the analogy of marriage as "the best example we have, a foretaste of what heaven is going to be like."

Beginning with Genesis and continuing through the writings of St. Paul, the Theology of the Body makes clear that God's plan for humanity is "stamped in (our) bodies," Groeber said.



Russ Amerling, national publicity coordinator for Choose Life license plates, tells conference participants that the tags are now available in 25 states and have raised \$13 million nationwide for adoption and pro-life organizations. Of that total, \$7.5 million has been raised in Florida. Nearly 400 people gathered in Fort Lauderdale Oct. 29-30 for the statewide Respect Life Conference, hosted this year by the Archdiocese of Miami. (ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO | FC)

In fact, our bodies "make visible" the mystery of God. Married love — the one-flesh union between man and woman — is meant to image the love of the Trinity: freely given, forever faithful and always fruitful.

"Think about what (God) is saying about the human body" in choosing to accomplish the Incarnation through the body of a woman, Groeber added.

The Theology of the Body also makes clear the connection between artificial contraception and abortion, or as John Paul II called it, the "contraceptive mentality."

The Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, which legalized abortion, would not have been possible without a precedent, Griswold v. Connecticut in 1965, where the Supreme Court enshrined "a right to marital privacy" in order to invalidate a law against contraception.

Today, 50 percent of the women who get abortions are using contraceptives, said Groeber, who teaches the Theology of the Body during the life issues workshops sponsored each month by the Miami respect life office. She also visits the high schools to teach the same thing to young people.

"Evil is not an entity in itself. It is the truth turned upside down," Groeber said, summarizing the challenge faced by the Church in proclaiming its pro-life teachings. "We cannot wait for people to come to us. We have to go to them."

STEM CELLS

Stem-cell research is another aspect of the Church's teaching that is often misunderstood and misrepresented. But so are the scientific facts on the subject,

said Claire Thuning-Roberson, a scientist, director of pharmaceutical development for Thallion Pharmaceuticals, and chairwoman of Citizens for Science and Ethics, a political action committee that opposes the use of state funds for embryonic stem-cell research.

"They're not ethical. They're not necessary. There are other stem cells in clinical trials and some approved for use. It is a drain of money on other research," she told the *Florida Catholic* prior to her talk.

She noted that "there is a tremendous misconception. It has always been out there," about the effectiveness of embryonic stem cells — which are obtained by killing human embryos — versus adult stem cells, which are obtained from people's own bodies, the umbilical cords of newborns, amniotic fluid or the placenta — without harming the donor. The Catholic Church supports research using adult stem cells, but opposes research using embryonic stem cells.

Thuning-Roberson said the profit motive is behind the push for government funding of embryonic stem-cell research, because of the possibility of obtaining patents for it.

"It's a business. They can sell it as a product," she said, whereas there would be no "business" in adult stem-cell research, since the stem cells are "your own" — just like blood or bone marrow donations.

Thuning-Roberson noted that

currently, worldwide, about 2,000 clinical trials are going on with adult stem cells.

They are already being used successfully to treat heart disease, vascular disease, cerebral palsy, stroke, spinal cord injuries, diabetes and ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease.

Even in California, where voters passed Proposition 71 in 2004, allocating \$3 billion in government funding over 10 years for stem-cell

research, no cures, no therapies and little progress has been made using embryonic stem cells, according to a January 2010 article in *Investors Business Daily*.

In fact, Thuning-Roberson said, just last month, the state agency created by Proposition 71, the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, awarded a total of 19 grants worth \$67 million for stem-cell research — and only five of those were for research with embryonic stem cells. The number was 4 of 14 in 2009.

"They're having to revert to putting more money for adult stem-cell (research) because embryonic is not working," Thuning-Roberson said.

"It is the right of the public to know what is going on," she added, urging her audience to "tell them the facts. Tell them the medical facts, the scientific facts."

DEATH PENALTY

Other speakers at the conference included Michael McCar-

donations. PLEASE SEE RESPECT, A9

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LIFE

FROM A8

ron, executive director of the Florida Catholic Conference, who spoke about the death penalty by tracing the Church's teachings back to the story of Cain and the writings of St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas.

McCarron summed up the Church's constant teaching this way: "Use of the death penalty was licit, but we'd rather not have to do it if we can keep society safe."

"The Church has not changed from the very beginning, from the way that God handled the first murder in the Bible," McCarron said.

Another speaker was Father Carmelo Romanello, parochial vicar at St. Augustine Parish in Coral Gables, who is involved with *El Viñedo de Raquel*, the Spanish version of Rachel's Vineyard, the post-abortion healing retreat.

He noted that South Florida is the first place to have the retreat in Spanish, and it takes place twice a year. "Men attend this retreat as well," he noted.

"The perception and the fear is that I'm not going to be forgiven for what I've done," Father Romanello said, referring to those who attend the retreat. The fact is "they're having a hard time forgiving themselves." The retreat allows participants "to be embraced by God who is love and mercy."

Joan Crown, archdiocesan director of respect life, described the overwhelming attendance at



Barbara Groeber, education coordinator for the Miami Respect Life ministry, is congratulated after her talk on the Theology of the Body. Nearly 400 people gathered in Fort Lauderdale Oct. 29-30 for the statewide Respect Life Conference. (ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO | FC)

the conference as "a miracle" — 380 people signed up and there was a waiting list because the hotel facilities simply could not accommodate any more people.

The conference is sponsored by the bishops of Florida, the Florida Catholic Conference and the diocesan respect life directors, and hosted each year by one of the seven dioceses in Florida. Miami's last turn as host was in 2003.

"I think just people are hungry for this message," Crown said. "They just started coming out of the woodwork."

Other speakers at the conference were:

- Archbishop Thomas Wenski, who celebrated the opening Mass.
- Bishop Felipe Estevez, who presided at an opening prayer service Oct. 29.

- Augustinian Father Richard Mullen, parochial vicar at Little Flower Parish in Hollywood, outlined how abortion deals specifically with the destruction of innocent life and therefore is part of the Church's social justice teaching.

- Dr. Joseph Mauceri, who spoke about "the last hour" of life and how "euthanasia will actually be necessary to keep (a single-payer health insurance) system financially on its feet."

- Father Alfred Cioffi, a bioethicist in residence at Immaculate Conception Parish in Hialeah, who spoke at the closing banquet. ■

All the talks given at the conference were recorded and are available from the respect life office. For information, call 954-981-2922.



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Catechists called 'gift the Church cannot live without'

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO
Florida Catholic staff

MIAMI LAKES — Nearly 400 catechists got affirmation and information during the annual Catechetical Day held Nov. 6 at Our Lady of the Lakes Parish.

This year, the men and women — most of them volunteers — who teach religion in archdiocesan parishes and schools heard words of wisdom from three keynote presenters and the archdiocese's chancellor, as well as a group of liturgical musicians.

"This is a beautiful day for all the catechists and DREs (directors of religious education)," said Maria de la Fe, the director of religious education at St. Benedict Parish in Hialeah. "We not only learn but we share with each other."

"You are very important," said Maria José Mitsoulis, archdiocesan director of religious education, in her welcoming remarks to the catechists.

Her words were echoed by Father Chanel Jeanty, archdiocesan chancellor, who led the opening prayer. He recalled an experience he had as a seminarian, visiting an elderly man in the hospital. As he left the room, Father Jeanty remembers what the man told him: "It is because of people like you that people like us can go on."

That, in essence, is the mission of catechists, Father Jeanty said.

"It is through you and me that (Jesus) is coming into the world," he noted. "You and I need each other to come to know who God is. We need a face. That is precisely why Jesus has come, to show us the face of the Father."

"It is those who come to you who can and will go on to believe in Jesus, because of what you have shown them: the face of Jesus in the present moment," Father Jeanty concluded.

His words were followed by those of Diana Dudoit Raiche, executive director of the Department of Religious Education at the National Catholic Educational Association in Washington, D.C., and a consultant to the U.S. bishops' Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis.

Dudoit Raiche, who has been a catechist since the age of 15, emphasized that "catechists must be witnesses."

"The answers are not in method. They're not in procedure. They're not in knowing all the pedagogy in the world," she said. "If we are not witnesses to the faith, hang it up. If we do not have Jesus deep within the very marrow of our bone, we cannot be catechists."

She said "to catechize is to reveal the person that we know," and added that those whom God has called to the "special task" of religious education are "a gift that the Church cannot live without."

Another keynote speaker at the conference was Hosffman Ospino, who gave two talks, one in English and one in Spanish. Ospino is a professor of pastoral theology and religious education at Boston College's School of Theology and Ministry. His talk in English focused on the psychological development of teenagers, in order to help the catechists better understand and reach them.

He noted that most catechists teach the 15 percent of young people "who are already here," that is, who come to church

regularly or are involved in youth groups.

But 85 percent of teenagers fall into two other broad categories: those who are disengaged completely from religion and those who are spiritual seekers but not committed to any particular faith.

Many young people also subscribe to a uniquely American view, now being exported to the rest of the Western world, which detaches religion from spirituality: They believe there is a God but "I don't want an institution telling me what to do."

In fact, Ospino said, "even those who come to church constantly critique the institution." And studies show that young people are only active in youth groups for an average of two years.

Psychologically, teenagers are neither children nor adults, but in the process of becoming "selves," Ospino said. In that sense, much of their questioning — of God, of faith, of the Church — is developmentally appropriate.

The role of catechists — along with parents — is to help adolescents come to know who they are; to help them understand that faith and life go together; and to expand their horizons.

"Evangelization is accompanying women and men in our community (on their journey) to become disciples of Christ," Ospino said. "How much room do we leave in the Catholic Church for young women and men to be Church?"

He suggested that catechists, as well as parents, not be afraid to tackle topics that connect with the lives of teenagers, even if those topics are challenging, such as sexuality or abortion. He also suggested that they try and present the Catholic tradition in creative ways.

Above all, catechists must strive to convince young people that spirituality and religion are not opposed, Ospino said. "We must work to bring them together every time we have a chance."

The third keynote speaker at the conference was Angelina Karpinski, who works in the Office of Stewardship and Development for the Diocese of St. Petersburg. Speaking in Spanish, she offered practical suggestions for how catechists can devise lessons that their students, in turn, will share with their parents.

During the final session, musicians Sal Rendina, Patricia Zeiler, Michael Sayers and María Pérez-Rudisill, who together form the group Dell 'Oro Voice, led a bilingual workshop designed to help catechists become familiar with the linguistic changes that will be taking place in English-language Masses beginning in November 2011.

Catechists also honored nine of their own who have completed the Level 4 certification, the highest that can be achieved by religion teachers. Five of those were present at the conference: Susan Dotten of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish in Cutler Bay; Manuela Herrera of Sacred Heart Parish in Homestead; Dominican Sister Joan Kehn of St. Gregory Parish in Plantation; and Cecilia Sosa and Beth Ann Kaz, both from Our Lady Queen of Heaven in North Lauderdale.

Kaz, a volunteer catechist since 1999, recalled how she was tapped to teach religion. "I was in Bible study and the director (of religious education) led Bible study. She said, 'You have to be a teacher.' I had no choice."

It has taken her since then to achieve the Level 4 certification, a task that means attending classes at nights and during the summers, while holding down a paying job and continuing to teach religion after school and on weekends.

It was a lot of hard work, Kaz said, but it's "definitely worth it. I'm a better catechist, absolutely; knowledgeable on Catholic doctrine and the Catechism of the Catholic Church."

And, she added, "I'm not stopping. I'm still going to classes." ■



Diana Dudoit Raiche



Angelina Karpinski



Hosffman Ospino



Sister Marlyn Monge of the Daughters of St. Paul shows some children's religion books to catechist Elaine Rubianogroot of Blessed Trinity Parish in Miami Springs. Annual Catechetical Day, held Nov. 6 at Our Lady of the Lakes Church, Miami Lakes, drew nearly 400 religion teachers. (PHOTOS BY ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO | FC)



Manuela Herrera, center, of Sacred Heart Parish in Homestead, receives her certificate for reaching Level 4 certification as a catechist from Christian Brother Richard DeMaria, archdiocesan superintendent of schools, and Maria Jose Mitsoulis, archdiocesan director of religious education.



Elysée Mpasi Manshia, a catechist at Notre Dame d'Haiti Mission in Miami, right, prays with Lucy Bird, director of religious education at St. Maurice Parish in Dania Beach, left.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO FOUR PARISHES



Archbishop Thomas Wenski celebrates St. Vincent's 50th anniversary Mass with current pastor Scalabrinian Father Joseph Pranzo, second from right, and former pastor Father Joseph Maroor, far right. St. Vincent Parish in Margate marked for its 50th anniversary with a trilingual Mass Nov. 7. (MARLENE QUARONI | FC)



Regine Lamaute helps Khaman Foster, 6, reach out to touch the newly-dedicated bronze statue of St. Jerome, which is inside a fenced-in area in front of the Fort Lauderdale church. The statue was unveiled and blessed Nov. 10 to kick off the parish's 50th anniversary celebration. To read all the parish anniversary stories, go to: www.miamiarch.org. (MARLENE QUARONI | FC)



Children from St. Timothy School help to provide the music for the Miami parish's 50th anniversary Mass, attended by more than 3,000 people. During the outdoor Mass Oct. 31, the new pastor, Msgr. Tomas Marin, was officially installed by Archbishop Thomas Wenski. (BLANCA MORALES | FC)



Bishop John Noonan and St. Mark's former and current pastors concelebrate the 25th anniversary Mass for St. Mark Parish in Southwest Ranches Nov. 6. (JONATHAN MARTINEZ | FC)



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TRAFFICKING

FROM A1

The workshop is the first step in a process designed to bring awareness to the issues of human trafficking. Parishes were invited to send one or two church-going representatives to the session with the hope that they will serve as a resource for their parish community. Over 125 people representing 67 parishes attended the session.

Albert Harm-Alvares of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Kendall said, "My pastor tapped me and I was honored. I've learned a great deal already."

In late January or early February 2011, a letter from Archbishop Thomas Wenski will be sent to parishes along with a video, "Invisible Chains," created specifically for this project. These efforts are the result of collaboration between the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Florida bishops targeting three specific audiences: students from grade six to college, Catholic health facilities and Mass-attending Catholics.

Michael McCarron, executive director of the Florida Catholic Conference, said this statewide effort is a step in the right direction. "People are seeing this and saying, 'Yes, I will get more involved.'"

Miami's workshop was the sixth of seven conducted by the three-member team of Tom Gillan of the Office of Criminal Justice for Catholic Charities of Central Florida; Terry Coonan of Florida State University's Center for the Advancement of Human Rights; and McCarron. The program is designed to serve as a national model for educating communities about the prevalence of human trafficking — and the destruction it causes.

Gillan shared sobering facts about victims of human trafficking. Dozens of hands were raised when he asked the crowd if anyone had ever tried to run away when they were younger.

"Within 24 hours of running away, someone will proposition them," he said of the dangers today's young people face. "Florida is a destination for runaways and they are particularly vulnerable to coercion. Someone is offering them love, se-

FYI

Human trafficking:
By the numbers

- Worldwide, about 12 million people exist in some form of slavery.
- 800,000 people are trafficked across U.S. borders each year.
- 1.2 million children each year — primarily 9-11 years old — are either forced into communal sex and/or forced labor.
- 95 percent of sex traffic involves women and children.
- 65 gangs in the U.S. are now involved in human trafficking.
- Florida is No. 3 in the country for human trafficking.
- Human trafficking is estimated to make \$31.6 billion in profit.

curity and belonging. The runaway thinks the person being nice to them, offering them food or a place to stay, really likes them or understands their plight. Unfortunately, it's a persona the criminal wears in order to coerce the victim."

ONLINE

Criminals identify victims online as well as in person. While many are familiar with warnings to watch children's computer use, Gillan goes a step further. "Get a Facebook account."

He said parents should go on Facebook to see what their kids are doing. "Kids today are posting everything on Facebook. That's how we communicate with our kids and how they communicate with each other. And that's how the predators communicate with our kids. Find out what your children and your grandchildren are doing."

Coonan warned the crowd to look deeper at places where victims might be hiding in plain sight. "Pimps are recruiting right outside of juvenile hall. They are in the parking lots at Disney." And at the mall.

While most victims are women, many are men who often don't see themselves as victims. Coonan said this makes it hard for officials to identify male victims. But he encouraged the audience to recognize that these victims could be "your daughters or your sons."

Recent hot spots for human trafficking are hotels and resorts, res-

taurants, nail salons, farms, day labor pools and factories.

Some traffickers even allow their victims to attend church. They are dropped off in front of the church, told to sit in the back in the last pew and to leave church right after Communion. The trafficker usually sits in the van, watches the victims go in and waits for them in the van until they leave.

Coonan said the traffickers then tell their victims, "I let you go to church, now you need to do something for me."

NOT NEW

The Church's commitment to stopping human trafficking is long-standing. In 1965, the Second Vatican Council declared "slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children, and disgraceful working conditions where people are treated as instruments of gain rather than free and responsible persons" are affronts that poison human society and constitute "a supreme dishonor to the Creator." Both Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI have been vocal in their support of efforts to end what Pope John Paul II called a modern plague.

This was not the first conference on human trafficking for the St. Thomas School of Law, one of the few law schools offering advanced degrees in Intercultural Human Rights.

Roza Pati, a professor of international and human rights law at the school, is one of the key members of the archdiocese's action team. She has spent much of her adult life working on ways to bring awareness to this international crisis.

She first became aware of the issue while living in Albania, shortly after the fall of the Berlin Wall. People were suddenly free to move across borders. Pati was involved in local politics and her parish priest asked her to visit his home. Upon arrival, he brought her to his backyard where she could see dozens of tiny crosses with names scratched on them. "He told me those were the names of all the young girls missing from my parish."

They visited the home of one of the missing girls and it "absolutely broke my heart. She was barely 14 years old," Pati said.

In 2004, Archbishop Wenski said, "We cannot rest until traffick-

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: FAST FACTS

- Sexual victims often are rotated from location to location. It serves to disorient the victim and prevent him or her from establishing relationships with clients.
- Victims typically are unable to move around independently and freely outside of the forced labor environment. They are usually always accompanied by someone when they are outside.
- Victims of domestic labor abuse are often from the same source country as the trafficker.
- Victims often don't speak English. They tend to be poor or

vulnerable due to age, disability or education.

- One sign of trafficking may be a large number of people living in one residence.
- Outside locks on doors and windows are an indication of forced capture.
- Victims' families are often threatened in their home countries.

Sources: U.S. State Dept., Florida State University Center for the Advancement of Human Rights, humantraffickingawareness.com, Archdiocese of Miami.

ing in human persons is eliminated from the world." The workshop, video and educational materials are the tools. He is counting on the Catholic community to rally behind the cause. ■

For information on human trafficking and efforts of the Catholic Church, go to www.usccb.org/prolife, www.cahr.fsu.edu and www.sharedhope.org. If you suspect trafficking, call 1-888-373-7888.

More on the Web

Here's a look at some stories that ran on the archdiocesan website, www.miamiarch.org, in the past month.

To see them, click on the "news center" tab and look along the column on the right, or click on "news archive" and search via keywords.

- A blog on "Last Things," as well as recent homilies and opin-

ion pieces by Archbishop Thomas Wenski.

- "Loving Stitches" ministry at Mother of Our Redeemer Parish.
- Our Lady of Mercy Parish blesses remodeled church building.
- Animal Planet's "whale chaser" visits Immaculata-La Salle High School.

- New book recalls work of Brothers to the Rescue.

- Archbishop Curley-Notre Dame High School dedicates "field of dreams."
- Mother Teresa stamp unveiled at St. Maurice Parish.
- News briefs from schools and parishes throughout the archdiocese.

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NEWSbriefs

St. Gregory Church to be rededicated

The family of St. Gregory the Great Parish joyfully invites the community to two events to mark the rededication of its parish church.

On Wednesday, Nov. 24, beginning at 7 p.m., all parishioners and neighbors from the Plantation community are invited to attend an interfaith prayer service of thanksgiving. A reception of light food and refreshments will be served following the service, and the school choir will perform. All are welcome.

The rededication Mass will take place at noon Sunday, Nov. 28, with Archbishop Thomas Wenski as the main celebrant. This formal rededication and reopening liturgical service will be followed by a reception of light bites and refreshments.

St. Gregory the Great is located at 200 N. University Drive, Plantation. For information and to R.S.V.P., call 954-473-8170, ext. 12..

Walks for life coming up

Local high schools will be hosting their annual Walks for Life, to raise funds for the archdiocese's Respect Life Ministry as well as

raise awareness of pro-life issues in anticipation of the anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion.

The walks will begin at 9 a.m. and last roughly until noon. They are scheduled as follows:

- Sunday, Dec. 5, at St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Fort Lauderdale.

- Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011, at Msgr. Edward Pace High School in Miami Gardens; Archbishop Edward McCarthy High School in Southwest Ranches; and Archbishop Coleman Carroll High School in Miami.

For more information, call the respect life office at 954-981-2922..

Local high schools among top 50

Three high schools from the Archdiocese of Miami have been named to the National Catholic High School Honor Roll for 2010-2011. Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy High School in Southwest Ranches, Belen Jesuit Preparatory School in Miami, and St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Fort Lauderdale were named among the top 50 U.S. Catholic high schools.

The purpose of the honor roll is to recognize and encourage excellence in Catholic secondary educa-

tion. It distinguishes schools that excel in three categories: academic excellence, Catholic identity and civic education.

Since the list was first published in 2004, Archbishop McCarthy High has made it to the list of top 50 schools four times; Belen Jesuit and St. Thomas Aquinas have each made the list five times.

Two other high schools in the archdiocese received honorable mentions this year: Christopher Columbus High School in Miami for academics and Cardinal Gibbons High School in Fort Lauderdale for civic education.

The honor roll is an independent project of the Acton Institute, an international research and educational organization. It is produced in consultation with an advisory board comprised of Catholic college presidents and scholars.

Fiesta de San Lázaro en Hialeah

La parroquia de San Lázaro en Hialeah celebrará su fiesta patronal el 17 de diciembre, comenzando a las 7:30 p.m. con una misa, seguida de una procesión por las calles con la imagen del santo. La parroquia de San Lázaro está situada en el 4400 W. 18 Avenida de Hialeah. Para más información llamar al 305-556-1717.

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Catholics Playing Vital Role In Haiti Reconstruction

Port-au-Prince resident Caline Brevil was on her way to the tap-tap station to pick up a friend when the violent earth-quake struck Haiti in January. Her mind raced to her family, who were back at their home. She had to get back to them.

As Caline — nine-months pregnant — pushed through the demolished streets of the city, she had to step over the bodies of men, women and children blocking the way. At first, she said "Excuse me" as she stumbled through, but she soon realized all the people lying prone in the streets were dead.

When her own home finally came into view, all she could see of her house was the roof. It had collapsed, becoming the floor of the building. The damage was so severe in her neighborhood that there was no one alive to ask about the fate of her husband and 5-year-old, twin daughters.

She never did find them.

In the first month following that fateful day, Caline slept in a tent outside of Port-au-Prince. There, she gave birth to a daughter, Ronese, the child she had been carrying when the earthquake struck. To protect her new baby, Caline decided to leave the smoldering city for someplace safe. Begging a ride, she made her way to Hinche, a rural town north of the capital. She now lives there in a dilapidated shack that she shares with her grandmother.

Caline has nightmares and often can't sleep at night. In her recurring dream, she and her husband are together when the earthquake hits. He carries the children and they run away. They come to the fork in the road, and Caline goes one way and her husband and children go another, never to be seen again.

"I've seen too much. I've seen too much," she sobs. "I'll never forget."

Nearly everyone in Haiti carries similar emotional and economic burdens today. Old lives are completely gone, and most people have lost at least one close family member.

"More than 200,000 men, women, and children were killed when the earthquake struck earlier this year. Though the initial tremor lasted only 35 seconds, it was enough to reduce entire neighborhoods to fields of

**"I've seen too much.
I'll never forget."**

Earthquake survivor, Caline Brevil

rubble and forever change lives of hundreds of thousands of Haitians," explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross International Catholic Outreach, one of the prominent ministries involved in relief and recovery efforts within Haiti today.

The January earthquake was the worst disaster the country has seen in 200 years. Not only did Haiti lose national landmarks such as the Presidential Palace and the Catholic Cathedral, but more than one million people were left without homes after the quake. These traumatized survivors fled to the countryside in search of food, water, and shelter.

According to Cavnar, emergency aid from Cross Catholic and other agencies initially focused on helping survivors living in tents and temporary shelters.

Since the six-month anniversary of the earthquake, much of the aid efforts have shifted to long-term recovery. Though it will be years before Haiti's capital city is restored,



Huge tent cities can be found throughout the Port-au-Prince area, but many earthquake survivors seek safer shelter in the country's rural towns.

individual people — victims like Caline — have hope of living vastly improved lives, thanks to continued support from generous American Catholics.

"We are focusing on improving the lives of individuals. If you get caught up in broad



statistics and the issues of governments, you miss the point. Caline is a living, breathing person who needs help, and there are hundreds of others like her who are facing similar problems that we can help solve. That should be our focus now," Cavnar said. "Our donors have this perspective too. They are staying involved in our Haiti outreach, and their continued support is making a huge difference in the lives of the earthquake survivors."

Cavnar pointed to Anise Verdieu's story as an example.

Verdieu, 55, lost her house in the earthquake and has been living in a tent with her family since then.

Verdieu and her family are one of several

who are receiving a sturdy new home through a major housing project being organized by Cross International Catholic Outreach and funded by the charity's U.S. donors.

"As a Christian I've been taught to be faithful and to pray — knowing that God will provide," she said. "Getting a new house is proof that God does provide. It is the greatest gift God could give me; if I die tomorrow, now I will know that I'm leaving a house for my children."

In the first phase of this special outreach, hundreds of homes will be built for traumatized earthquake survivors across the country.

"Verdieu was thrilled to have been selected to receive a new home," Cavnar said. "She had felt like a lost soul — one among tens of thousands in need, with no hope of recovering from this disaster. Now, thanks to the American Catholics who are contributing to our Haiti housing outreach, she has new hope."

Cross Catholic is also working with Pwoje Espwa, an orphanage for more than 750 children in southern Haiti. There, it will build specially-designed temporary shelters for displaced orphans who lost their parents in the earthquake.

"In addition to providing high-quality homes for orphans and refugee families, this project will also create jobs for local workers, which will benefit Haiti's economy," said Berthony Piard, Espwa's assistant director for the housing project. "Every structure we build

will employ 10 to 12 people, allowing them to earn enough money to feed their families and send their kids to school."

In addition to constructing homes, Cross Catholic is undertaking other rebuilding projects over the next year to help the people of Haiti recover. This will include rebuilding schools that were demolished.

"Our ultimate goal is to bring complete and lasting rehabilitation to Haiti. The process has required lots of patience, creativity and ingenuity — and we could not do any of it without help from our Catholic supporters in the U.S.," said Jim Cavnar, president of Cross International Catholic Outreach.

For earthquake survivor Caline Brevil, the 23-year-old who lost her husband, twin daughters, and home in the disaster, this support from America is a literal answer to prayer.

"My sole source of hope through this horrible time of loss has been God," she said. "He is continuing to answer my prayers through the generosity of others."

To make a tax-deductible contribution to Cross International Catholic Outreach and its work with Catholic ministries overseas, use either the enclosed postage-paid brochure or send donations to: Cross International Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC00692, 490 White Pond Drive, PO Box 63, Akron, OH 44309-0063.

How to Help:

Your help is needed for Cross International Catholic Outreach to help the poorest of the poor. Use the enclosed postage-paid brochure to mail your gift or send it to Cross International Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC00692, 490 White Pond Drive, PO Box 63, Akron, OH 44309-0063.



PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Cross Builds Innovative Earthquake Resistant Housing For Haiti's Poor

Aid efforts in Haiti are entering a new phase — shifting from emergency relief (food and medicine distributions) to major rebuilding and recovery projects focused on creating greater safety and stability for earthquake victims struggling to move on with their lives.

One Catholic organization, Cross International Catholic Outreach, is taking a novel approach with its rebuilding efforts, including the use of cutting-edge technology to build earthquake-resistant homes for traumatized survivors. The Florida-based charity plans to build hundreds of these unique houses using technology designed by an American non-profit founder and businessman, Donald A. Stevens.

Created as a housing solution for victims of the 2004 tsunami in Sri Lanka, the cost-effective and flexible *Shelter2Home* technology allows even an inexperienced labor force to construct a strong shelter in a matter of hours, without the use of heavy equipment or sophisticated tools. Once the first stage of these homes has been erected, it can easily be converted into a permanent, stucco covered home for greater safety and permanence.

"The houses have a galvanized steel frame that maintains its stability in severe weather conditions, including earthquakes, explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross International Catholic Outreach. "Once the frame is up, we wrap it in a resilient metalized foil cloth. At that point, it has a tent-like appearance, but it is waterproof, sturdy and can provide privacy and shelter. The covering reflects nearly all the sun's rays (temperatures are far cooler than normal inside the home) and provides protection against fires, termites, mold, and mildew."

While the home is in this first phase, it can also be moved — an important benefit since land use is complicated by the slow recovery of the Haitian government. It can sometimes take months to iron out disputes over property use and ownership.

When the home owners are ready, the final phase of construction is organized. This involves covering the outside of the house with a proprietary stucco-like material that — once dried and painted — looks like one of the many cement homes common to Haiti. A single-family home can be built for just \$5,000 to \$10,000.



Everywhere you turn in Port-au-Prince, you see the rubble and ruin of destroyed homes and lives.

"And the same technology can be used to build schools, clinics, dormitories, and other buildings up to four stories tall," Cavnar said. "Our donors are beginning to learn about these

plans now, and we expect many will want to help Haiti by sponsoring a home or school. If you want to do something profound to help, this is certainly the most tangible and impacting thing you could do."

To maximize the impact of its housing efforts, Cross International Catholic Outreach plans to set up a factory in Haiti where the components of these homes can be built and stored for quick delivery.

"This strategy will also help Haiti families by creating jobs within the country," Cavnar said. "Unemployment was extremely high before the earthquake — now, things are even worse. This factory will include job training. Once a man has learned how to construct a home, he will have a valuable skill. Tens of thousands of homes were destroyed and will need to be rebuilt. A trained worker will have the best opportunity to land those jobs."

To make a tax-deductible contribution in support of Cross International Catholic Outreach and its projects overseas, use either the postage-paid brochure inserted in this newspaper or send your donation to: Cross International Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC00687, 490 White Pond Drive, PO Box 63, Akron, OH 44309-0063.



At left, a rendering showing both the frame and tented covering of the house. At right, the final version of the house with the stucco exterior in place.

Cross Recognized, Endorsed by Nearly 50 U.S. Catholic Bishops

As Cross International Catholic Outreach (CICO) continues its range of relief work to help the poor overseas, its efforts are being recognized by a growing number of Catholic leaders in the U.S.

"We've received an impressive number of endorsements and letters of support from American Bishops and Archbishops — nearly 50 Catholic leaders at last count," explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross International Catholic Outreach. "They're impressed by the fact that we've done outreaches in more than 40 countries and that we undertake a variety of projects; everything from feeding the hungry and housing the homeless to supplying safe water and supporting educational opportunities for the poorest of the poor."

Archbishop Robert Carlson of St. Louis sent one of the more recent letters of encouragement, writing: "It is my hope that this ministry will

continue to flourish and reach as many people as possible. I will inform the priests of the Archdiocese of St. Louis of the important work that Cross International Catholic Outreach does and elicit their prayerful and financial support for the service you provide to the less fortunate around the world."

Bishop Kevin Vann of Fort Worth was just as enthusiastic about Cross Catholic and its mission. "I also know that many of the Bishops in Texas think very highly and endorse the work and mission of Cross International Catholic Outreach — as well as do other Bishops whom I know from my days of graduate studies in Rome. Please know of my prayers and support for this vital work..."

In Archbishop Gregory Aymond's case, the endorsement came with a personal note of thanks for the role Cross Catholic played in helping families hit hard by Hurricane Katrina.

"I'm happy to acknowledge that Cross International Catholic Outreach was of tremendous help to the Archdiocese of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina," he said.

Bishop Thomas Rodi of Biloxi had similar praise.

"Your quick response to the needs of the people in south Mississippi in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina will always be remembered and greatly appreciated," he said. "Thank you for all the good you do, and may God bless you and your ministry."

In addition to praising the work CICO accomplishes, many of the Bishops and Archbishops are also impressed by the unique collaborative relationship Cross has with the Pontifical Council Cor Unum in Rome. This allows the charity to participate in the mercy ministries of the Holy Father himself. In his praise of CICO, Archbishop Dennis Schnurr of

Cincinnati underscored this unique connection.

"Cross International Catholic Outreach's close collaboration with the Pontifical Council Cor Unum is a source of encouragement," the Archbishop said. "The Holy See has unique knowledge of local situations throughout the world through its papal representatives in nearly two hundred countries and through its communications with Bishops and others who care for the poor and needy in every corner of the world."

CICO president, Jim Cavnar, explained the significance of this connection.

"Our collaboration with Cor Unum allows us to fund outreaches in virtually any area of the world, and we have used that method in special cases — to help the victims of natural disasters, for example," he said. "It only represents a small part of our overall ministry, but it can be a very important benefit in those special cases."

BISHOP NOONAN

FROM A1

"Mary's response to God's call to become the Mother of Jesus is the greatest and most powerful response ever given by any living person," Bishop Noonan said. "Mary's response is a great example of humility, strength, faith and love. We are called to imitate Mary's example of discipleship."

Along with thanking Father Walsh and Archbishop Thomas Wenski, fourth bishop of Orlando, for their service to the diocese, Bishop Noonan said he gives humble thanks for the confidence displayed by Pope Benedict XVI for his appointment. He said he looks forward to learning more about the Orlando Diocese in the next few months. His familiarity with the area is limited, but Bishop Noonan said he knows there is more to it than just Disney

World.

During the press conference, a representative of a local CBS affiliate asked, "What would be your focus in the diocese?"

"Well, I just got here last night," Bishop Noonan said with a laugh, "but I hope you will ask me that again after I've become more familiar with the diocese and its people."

But he also answered the secular media representative's question with "a simple goal."

"My main focus is to be like Mary and bring Christ to the world," he said, receiving applause from the crowd.

Before serving as auxiliary of the Miami Archdiocese, Bishop Noonan served as a pastor, youth chaplain, and dean of men and later rector/president of St. John Vianney College Seminary in Miami. He looks forward to ordaining young men to the priesthood, which he did not do as an auxiliary, because only the ordinary of a diocese (in the case of Miami, the archbishop) celebrates ordinations. He said working with seminarians and then witnessing their ordination is like "watching my own children" succeed.

As auxiliary, Bishop Noonan served as director of priestly life and ministry, and as shepherd of Orlando he hopes to serve as a "bridge of support" for the priests and consecrated religious.

"I want them to know that somebody is there to support them, to encourage them and to lead them," he said. "As a bishop, laity approach and offer me affirmation and recognition, and I hope that recognition

can be shared. The laity should offer that affirmation to the their priests so they realize there are people who support them and realize there is a toll put upon them."

When asked to describe himself as a bishop, he said he describes himself first as a priest — an extrovert who enjoys meeting people and sharing the faith with them.

"Without the laity we are nothing," Bishop Noonan said, adding that everyone has a role in the Catholic faith — from young people who serve as the present and future Church to the elderly who humbly remind him of deep faith as they tell him, "I pray for you every day."

"I hope to get out as much as possible. My first love is being with the people," he said.

As the press conference ended, Bishop Noonan took a look at the crowd and the cameras flashing and rolling. Before exiting, he asked the some 15 priests present to stand with him behind the podium.

"These (men) are my new family," Bishop Noonan said. "Are they OK?"

The crowd's response told the bishop, "Yes, they are." ■

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NEWS**briefs**

Donations sought for Tomás victims

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami Inc. has established a disaster relief fund to assist the people of Haiti affected by Hurricane Tomás. "Haitians living in Leogane, already displaced and dispossessed by the January 2010 earthquake, have lost everything they own," said Deacon Richard Turcotte, chief executive officer. "Catholic Charities and the Archdiocese of Miami, together with the people of South Florida, stand in solidarity with our Haitian brothers and sisters in their time of suffering."

Donations will be accepted through the Catholic Charities website, www.ccadm.org/donate. Select "Disaster Relief - Haiti Hurricane Tomas Floods" to designate your donation for Haiti.

Donations via check may be made payable to: Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami, 1505 N.E. 26 St., Wilton Manors, FL 33305. Please designate your donation by noting, "Disaster Relief - Hurricane Tomás" in the memo line.

Hospice collecting unwrapped toys

Catholic Hospice and Catholic Health Services of the Archdiocese of Miami are collecting unwrapped toys for the holiday season. The toys will be given to the children of underprivileged families served by Hospice and the children in Centro Mater day care in Miami.

Hospice is accepting toy donations until Dec. 15 at any of their three locations, Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.:

- Miami Lakes office: 14875 N.W. 77 Ave., Suite 100, Miami Lakes.
- South office: 9415 S.W. 72nd

St., Suite 111, Miami.

- Broward office: 2900 W. Cypress Creek Road, Fort Lauderdale.

Catholic Health Services is accepting toys through Dec. 10 at all of their facilities, which include the Catholic cemeteries, apartments for the elderly, assisted living facilities, nursing homes and rehabilitation hospitals.

For information, call 954-484-1515, ext. 5238; or 305-351-7102.

Revised schedule for TV Mass tapings

Because of his appointment as bishop of Orlando, Bishop John Noonan will not be taping the English-language TV Mass on Dec. 1. That taping, which was announced in the last edition of the *Florida Catholic*, will no longer be open to the public. The public is invited to attend the following tapings:

- On Tuesday, Nov. 23, Auxiliary Bishop Felipe Estevez will tape the Spanish Masses for Sunday, Dec. 12 and 19. The tapings begin at exactly 3 p.m. and should conclude by 4 p.m. The public is asked to arrive by 2:30 p.m.

- On Wednesday, Dec. 15, Archbishop Thomas Wenski will tape the Mass for Sunday, Dec. 26, in both English and Spanish. The taping will begin at 10 a.m. and should conclude by 11 a.m. The public is asked to arrive by 9:30 a.m.

No one who arrives late will be allowed inside. All tapings take place at La Milagrosa Mission of Corpus Christi Parish, located at 1860 N.W. 18 Terrace, Miami.

The English Masses air Sundays at 10 a.m. on WPXM-35 (Ion Media Networks). The Spanish Masses air on Univision 23 at 6:30 a.m. every Sunday. For more information, call Teresa Martinez at 305-762-1046.

Se necesitan juguetes para los pobres

La Sociedad de San Vicente de Paul, Conferencia de Radio Paz, solicita donativos de alimentos, juguetes nuevos o dinero para las actividades de los días festivos:

- *jueves, 25 de noviembre, cena de Acción de Gracias para personas de escasos recursos, en Radio Paz, después de la misa de mediodía;*
- *sábado, 11 de diciembre, 10 a.m., entrega de cajas de comida y artículos personales, en colaboración con Feed the Children, en Radio Paz;*
- *viernes, 17 de diciembre, 2 p.m., entrega de juguetes a niños cuyos padres no tienen recursos para adquirirlos, en la capilla de Nuestra Señora de la Altagracia, en Miami;*
- *domingo, 19 de diciembre, 11 a.m., entrega de juguetes a niños de trabajadores agrícolas, Misión de Santa Ana, Homestead.*

Para más información sobre los lugares de recaudación, llame al 305-474-9010, o escuche el programa de la Sociedad, los domingos a las 3 p.m. en Radio Paz, 830 AM

Pedro Pan marks 50th

To mark the 50th anniversary of the program that spirited 14,000 children out of Cuba during the early years of the communist revolution, Operation Pedro Pan Group Inc. will host a showing of "Under

the Wings of God" on Wednesday, Dec. 1, 7 p.m., in the Gato Gallery at Barry University in Miami Shores.

Light refreshments will be served following the presentation, which is free and open to the public. A panel of former Pedro Pan children also will look back and provide firsthand accounts of what became a triumph of the human spirit in overcoming personal tragedy and adversity, as well as a moving testimony of the depths of parental love for their children.

The event is co-sponsored by Barry University and its University Archives and Historical Collections, its Office of International and Multicultural Programs, and its Department of History and Political Science. Barry University is the repository of the Pedro Pan papers. Operation Pedro Pan Group Inc. is the nonprofit, charitable organiza-

tion created by the now-grown children of Pedro Pan.

The Gato Gallery is located inside Thompson Hall on the campus of Barry University, 11300 N.E. Second Ave., Miami Shores. R.S.V.P. to 305-899-3780. The website for Pedro Pan group is www.pedropan.org.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

AIDS Awareness fundraiser, Saturday, Nov. 27, 7:30 p.m., St. Bartholomew, 8005 Miramar Parkway, Miramar. DJ and goodies. Organized by Youn Renmen Lôt ministry. \$25 per person. 954-981-9966.

Paintings of Father David Russell, retired priest of the Archdiocese of Miami, on exhibit through Sunday, Nov. 28, Hibiscus Room, Pinecrest Gardens, 11000 Red Road, Pinecrest. Father Russell's work moves from figurative art to the abstract, emphasizing color as a way of speaking to the greater mystery of the human journey. 305-669-6990.

Spirituality and art, Monday, Nov. 29, 6 p.m., St. Andrew School, 9990 N.W. 29 St., Coral Springs. World-famous artist X. Tresaco presents a guest lecture on the spirituality of art. His works and books will be available for viewing. Free, but donations accepted to school's scholarship fund. 954-753-

ARZOBISPO

FROM A4

corazón habla la boca' y no esperan de nosotros otra cosa los hombres y mujeres que nos rodean, adultos o jóvenes, sino una palabra que los abra a realidades hondas del espíritu. En suma, que el sacerdote y el seminarista, de un modo u otro, deben hablar de Dios a su pueblo."

¿Cuán a menudo en la historia del mundo el dragón del Apocalipsis (cf. Revelación 12:1-18) en sus varias encarnaciones ha querido devorar la Esposa de Cristo? Sin embargo, es el dragón que al final termina vencido pues el amor siempre triunfa, pues es más poderoso que el odio. Como dijera el Papa Benedicto XVI: "....en todos los tiempos la Iglesia, el pueblo de Dios, también vive de la luz de Dios y —como dice el Evangelio— se alimenta de Dios... Así, la Iglesia, sufriendo, en todas las tribulaciones, en todas las situaciones de las diversas épocas, en las diferentes partes del mundo, vence. Es la presencia, la garantía del amor de Dios contra todas las ideologías del odio y del egoísmo." (15 de agosto de 2007).

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St. Theresa School fair, Dec. 3-5, 2701 Indian Mound Trail, Coral Gables. Live entertainment, food, rides, games, gift items for sale, something for everyone. 305-446-1738.

Assumption Church craft and gift show, Saturday, Dec. 4, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., 2001 N. Ocean Blvd., Lauderdale-by-the-Sea. Organized by the Altar Guild. Many unique crafts and gifts at reasonable prices. A few vendor spots remain available. 954-942-9946.

"Discover Photojournalism. Discover Ourselves," Saturday, Dec. 4, 6-9 p.m., Archbishop Curley Notre Dame High School, 4949 N.E. Second Ave., Miami. A conversation with award-winning photojournalist and Curley-Notre Dame alumnus Carl Juste; for high school and college students, photojournalism professionals, educators, and supporters of visual arts. Free. Register at news@acnd.net or 305-751-8367.

Our Lady of Lourdes Christmas bazaar, Dec. 4-5, 11291 S.W. 142 Ave., Miami. Homemade baked goods, unique gift items, arts and crafts. Sponsored by parish Council of Catholic Women. 305-408-9935.

St. David arts and crafts show, Dec. 4-5, 3900 S. University Drive, Davie. Vendors needed; tables \$65. 954-423-9265 or 954-261-1464.

"Grandma's Attic" flea market, Sunday, Dec. 5, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., St. Bernard Parish, 8279 Sunset Strip, Sunrise. Many good used items on sale, special antiques table. 954-723-5652 or emc030@email.mot.com.

St. Agnes Academy Christmas bazaar, Sunday, Dec. 5, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., 122 Harbor Drive, Key Biscayne. Shopping, food and entertainment for the entire family. St.Agnesebazaar@gmail.com.

"Camino de Santiago: Two Perspectives," on display through Dec. 5, Barry University's Andy Gato Gallery, Thompson Hall, second floor, 11300 N.E. Second Ave., Miami Shores. Art exhibit featuring works by Laura Luna and Silvia Lizama. mdelapena@mail.barry.edu or 305-899-4887.

St. John Neumann golf tournament, Friday, Dec. 10. An opportunity to network with community business members in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Benefits the school. 305-255-7315, ext.127; or crodriguez@sjncs.org.

St. Bartholomew Christmas dinner/dance, Saturday, Dec. 11, 7-11 p.m., 8005 Miramar Parkway, Miramar. Hosted by Knights of Columbus Holy Spirit Council 6032. \$20 per person. 954-732-7700 or 954-431-7481.

Catholic Hospice toy collection, through Dec. 15. Annual collection of unwrapped toys for children of underprivileged families served by Catholic Hospice. Toys are collected Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at: 14875 N.W. 77 Ave., Suite 100, Miami Lakes; 9415 S.W. 72 St., Suite 111, Miami; and 2900 W. Cypress Creek Road, Fort Lauderdale. Toys will be distributed on Saturday, Dec. 18. 305-351-7103.

St. Stephen flea market, Saturday, Dec. 18, 7 a.m.-2 p.m., 2000 S. State Road 7, Miramar. Spices: \$25. 954-987-1100.

Pancake breakfast, third

Sundays, 8:30-11 a.m., Sacred Heart Parish, 106 S.E. First Drive, Homestead. Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Homestead Council 4998. Features pancakes, eggs, sausages, bacon, potatoes, biscuits and fruit at a moderate price. pancake@kofc4998.org.

CONCERTS

St. Martha-Yamaha Concert Series, Sunday, Dec. 12, 3 p.m., "Young Stars Rising," St. Martha Parish, 9301 Biscayne Blvd., Miami Shores. Soprano Sara Wolfson and tenor Noah Stewart, with pianist Paul Posnak, perform show tunes, arias, duets, and holiday classics. \$10 general admission; \$20 Blue Circle includes reception with artists. 305-751-0005, 1-800-595-4849 or www.saintmartha.tix.com.

FAITH EDUCATION

Life issues workshop, Saturday, Dec. 4, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, 1401 Coral Ridge Drive, Coral Springs. Learn what and why the Catholic Church teaches about the critical life issues of our day, how to defend the sanctity of human life at all stages and how to become part of the solution. R.S.V.P.: 954-981-2922.

Serie de reflexiones sobre el Adviento, 1 y 15 de diciembre, St. Michael the Archangel School, 300 N.W. 28 Ave., Miami. 305-643-4661.

MASSES/PRAYER SESSIONS

TV Mass tapings, at La Milagrosa Mission of Corpus Christi, 1860 N.W. 18 Terrace, Miami. Mass airs Sundays, 10 a.m., on WPXM-35 (Ion Media Networks) in English; and 6:30 a.m. on Univisión 23 in Spanish. Please arrive at designated times; no late arrivals will be allowed in. 305-762-1046:

- With Bishop Felipe J. Estévez, Tuesday, Nov. 23, taping of Spanish Masses for Sunday, Dec. 12 and 19. Please arrive by 2:30 p.m.; taping begins at 3 p.m. and should conclude by 4 p.m.
- With Archbishop Thomas Wenski, Wednesday, Dec. 15, taping of Masses in English and Spanish for Sunday, Dec. 26. Please arrive by 9:30 a.m.; taping begins at 10 a.m. and should conclude by 11 a.m.

RETREATS/DAYS OF REFLECTION

MorningStar Renewal Center, 7275 S.W. 124 St., Pinecrest. Registration required for all programs. 305-238-4367, ext. 102, or visit www.morningstarrenewal.org: "Breakfast with the Saints," Tuesday, Nov. 23, 7:30 a.m. Sainly friends tell their faith story; short presentation follows, highlighting aspects of saint's life. Donation: \$7.

Retiro de Adviento, sábado 4 de diciembre, SEPI (Southeast Pastoral Institute), 7700 S.W. 56 St., Miami. Día de reflexión para enriquecernos espiritualmente y centrarnos en el verdadero sentido del Adviento; anime a otros a compartir este día en preparación para las fiestas de Navidad. Costo: \$10, no incluye almuerzo. 305-279-2333, sepimiami@aol.com o www.sepimiami.org.

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.miamiarch.org, click on the banner Save the Date 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.

Abba parish renewal missions, featuring praise, music, song, sacrament of reconciliation, Mass, anointing of the sick. 305-934-8319 or vmcin7501@aol.com:

- Nov. 29-Dec. 1, in Spanish; Dec. 13-15, in English, 7:30 p.m., St. Louis Parish, 7270 S.W. 120 St., Pinecrest. Preachers: Father John O'Grady (Nov. 29-Dec. 1) and Augustinian Father Richard Mullen (Dec. 13-15).

- Dec. 6-8, in English; Dec. 14-16, in Spanish, 7 p.m., St. Bernard Parish, 8279 Sunset Strip, Fort Lauderdale. Each night will feature a different preacher.

- Saturday, Dec. 11, youth mission, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., St. Bernard Parish, 8279 Sunset Strip, Fort Lauderdale. Presented by talented youth ministers. Ends with Mass at 3 p.m.

Engaged Encounter: "Life Skills Day." Engaged couples can explore life skills as they apply to married life. Registration: 305-762-1140 or famlife@theadom.org:

- Saturday, Dec. 11, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, 1401 Coral Ridge Drive, Coral Springs.
- Saturday, Dec. 18, Little Flower, 2711 Indian Mound Trail, Coral Gables.

PRAYER MEETINGS

Cenáculo contemplativo de la Divina Misericordia, martes a las 8 p.m., capilla de la iglesia católica de St. Louis, 7270 S.W. 120 St., Pinecrest. Contemple y venera la imagen de Jesús de la Misericordia con cantos, oraciones y el rezo de la Coronilla de la Divina Misericordia, meditando el diario "La Divina Misericordia en mi alma" bajo la espiritualidad de santa Faustina. misericordia7@live.com.

Enthronement of the Sacred Heart, first Saturdays, 6 p.m., St. Clement, 2975 N. Andrews Ave., Fort Lauderdale. Exposition of Blessed Sacrament followed by 7 p.m. Mass. 954-568-4315.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Virtus workshops: To help parents, teachers and anyone who works with children recognize signs of sexual abuse and spot abusers. Free. All sessions in English, except where noted. Information: 305-762-1250 or jrayburn@theadom.org:

- Monday, Dec. 6, 7 p.m., in Spanish, Sacred Heart Parish, Homestead.
- Monday, Dec. 13, 7 p.m., St. Kevin Parish, Miami; and St. Andrew Parish, Coral Springs.
- Thursday, Dec. 15, 6 p.m., Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy High School, Southwest Ranches.

SCHOOL EVENTS

"Lucky Stiff," a musical murder mystery, Dec. 2-4, 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 5, 2:30 p.m., Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy High School, student and performing arts center, 5451 S. Flamingo Road, Southwest Ranches. Cost: \$15, preferred seating; \$10, adults; \$8, students. 954-434-8820.

Christopher Columbus High open house, Saturday, Dec. 4, 3000 S.W. 87 Ave., Miami. Columbus is a college preparatory school for boys providing Marist educational excellence. 305-223-5650.

St. Brendan Elementary open house, Tuesday, Dec. 7, 9 a.m., 8755 S.W. 32 St., Miami. 305-221-2722.

St. Thomas the Apostle open house, Thursday, Dec. 9, 9 a.m., 7303 S.W. 64 St., Miami. Now registering Pre-K3 through eighth grade. St. Thomas is an International Baccalaureate Candidate World School, accredited by the Florida Catholic Conference. 305-661-8591.

SPIRITUAL

Eucharistic procession, Sunday, Nov. 21, after bilingual Mass at 1:30 p.m., St. Andrew, 9990 N.W. 29 St., Coral Springs. Archbishop Thomas Wenski will preside. Hymns in English and Spanish. jvogel23@earthlink.net.

All-night eucharist adoration, Friday, Dec. 3, 9 p.m., Blessed John XXIII Parish, 16800 Miramar Parkway, Miramar. 965-646-5708.

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

"Experiencing the Extravagant Love of God," Sunday, Dec. 12, 1-5 p.m., Martha Mary House, 124 N.E. 111 St., Miami Shores. A spirituality day for women; Advent sharing with Franciscan Sisters of Allegany. R.S.V.P.: 305-751-3093.

Hora santa por el respeto a la vida y la paz mundial, últimos domingos del mes, 2:30 p.m., capilla de la iglesia de St. John Bosco, 1349 W. Flagler Street, Miami. 305-649-5464.

VOCATIONS

Vocations discernment group for men 18 or older considering a vocation to the priesthood. Call for information about meetings in the archdiocesan Pastoral Center: 305-762-1137 or vocations@theadom.org.

Getting to know you...

St. Brendan High School students host fun day every year to introduce St. James kids to their school

MARLENE QUARONI
Florida Catholic correspondent

MIAMI — Emmanuelle Luxamar, 17, was introduced to St. Brendan High School several years ago when she traveled with other St. James elementary school students to their sister school for an annual St. James Day.

"I was very impressed," said Emmanuelle, who would like to be a doctor someday. "I never knew about this school before, but after St. James Day I was determined to come here. I wake up at five o'clock every weekday morning in order to get to school on time. It's well worth the trip."

Emmanuelle and four other students from the North Miami area carpool to the Westchester school, a 40-mile roundtrip. She was on the track team her freshman year and plans on going out for track this year.

Emmanuelle is one of about 12 St. James School graduates currently attending St. Brendan High School. On Nov. 10, they helped entertain 198 St. James students who had arrived at the school on four of St. Brendan's school buses. The St. James students joined about 300 St. Brendan freshmen who served as

their "guardian angels," chaperoning the kids for the day.

The elementary school children played in bounce houses, danced to hip-hop music, got their faces painted, played games in the St. Brendan gym, enjoyed cotton candy and snowballs, and ate lunch together.

The annual event was started 13 years ago by St. Brendan High School's principal, Marist Brother Felix Elardo.

"We came up with the idea in order to bring inner-city Catholic school children to a different environment," said Brother Elardo.

"Every year one St. James student is given a scholarship. Other former St. James students receive financial aid."

In February of next year, members of St. Brendan's drama club, choir and art students will go to St. James School to teach the middle school students artistic skills.

Like Emmanuelle, St. James student Myrha-Lissa Chery, 9, said she was very impressed with St. Brendan High School.

"I will try to convince my mother to let me go to this school," she said.



St. James student Erns St. Gilles, 9 celebrates knocking down empty bottles with a ball as Malik Michel, 8, cheers in the background. (PHOTOS BY MARLENE QUARONI | C)



Alissa Roca, 14, a St. Brendan High School freshman, carries Robnide Dumerlus, 6, a St. James School first grader, on her back during St. James Day at the Westchester high school.

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An 'earthquake catechesis'

Haitian priest develops post-earthquake spiritual reflections for his people

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO

Florida Catholic staff

MIAMI — With most still living in tents and the threat of cholera hovering over them, Haiti's earthquake survivors are certainly living a crucifixion.

Where, in the midst of their suffering, is God?

"We don't hear him but he is with us," says Father Alphonse Quesnel, a Montfortian priest who serves as pastor of St. Louis Roi de France Parish in Port-au-Prince.

Father Quesnel is certainly sharing that crucifixion with his people. His church and his rectory were destroyed. A fellow priest, 10 parishioners and 10 seminarians were killed on the grounds. Father Quesnel survived. About 300 people are still living amid the rubble of the parish buildings — rubble Father Quesnel has used to build a brick wall inscribed with the names of those who perished.

Now the timid, soft-spoken priest wants to turn that suffering into spiritual lessons — both for himself and for his people.

Father Quesnel visited Miami re-

cently to show Archbishop Thomas Wenski the catechesis he has put together: a CD with several recorded reflections, a songbook, and a catechetical book with more reflections and prayers.

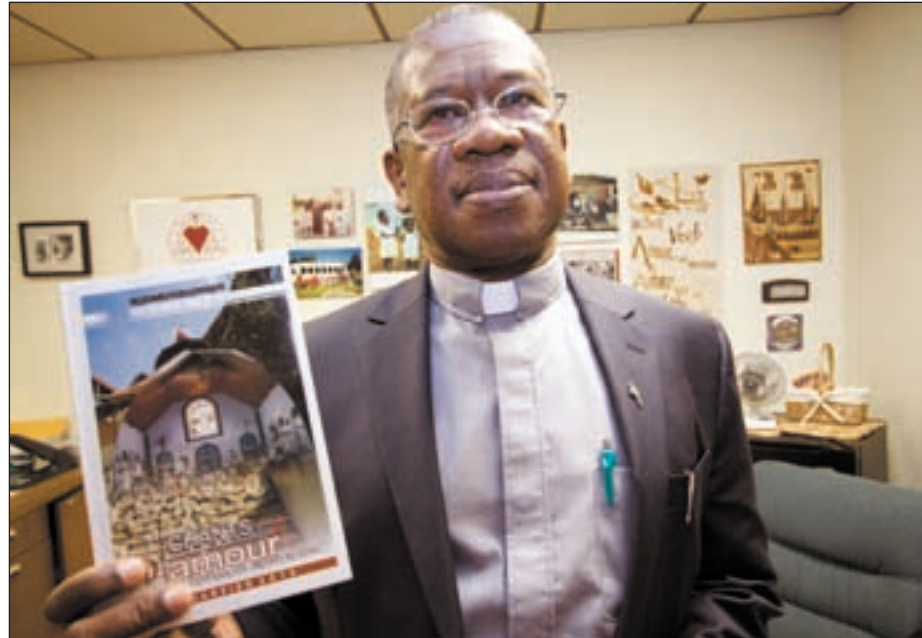
Father Quesnel calls it an "earthquake catechesis," to give people "something spiritual so that they can go beyond what happened."

The songbook, a collection of hymns already known to the people, is themed around survival. Its title is "Songs of Love to Get Through Times of Trial" (*"Chants d'Amour Pour Traverser les Preuves de la Vie"*).

The message of the catechesis is this, Father Quesnel said: "During the hard moments of life, do not think that God is absent. In his silence, he holds us in his gaze."

Father Quesnel harks back to Jesus' crucifixion, when Jesus cried out for God, and there was only silence. But three days later, Jesus was raised from the dead. In fact, the catechesis will include the testimony of several people who were buried in the rubble, and rescued after three days.

"We can give meaning to suf-



Father Alphonse Quesnel, pastor of St. Louis Roi de France Parish in Port-au-Prince, holds up the hymnal he has compiled to help people recover spiritually from the earthquake. He also has collected a series of homilies on CD and is working on a post-earthquake catechetical program. (ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO | FC)

fering," Father Quesnel said.

And the lessons are not just for survivors of literal earthquakes.

"There is an earthquake in our lives also every day — not only Jan. 12," he said. "Through that 'fault' in our lives, the light enters."

Father Quesnel said he de-

veloped the catechesis not just for his people, but for himself as well.

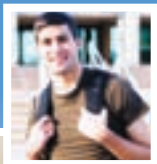
"It's for me, above all, a response of thanksgiving to God for having survived," he said. "It is my contribution to the rebuilding of the country, but at the level of the

spiritual and the human." ■

Correction: Father Quesnel's name was incorrectly written in the previous story about him which was published in the Florida Catholic's September edition.

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