



# FLORIDA *Catholic*

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April 2011

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On Easter Sunday, we recommit ourselves to the power of that love in our own lives through the renewal of our baptismal promises. We make our own once again the great 'yes' of Jesus which brings us out of the darkness of death into the new life of Easter dawn.

*Archbishop Thomas Wenski  
Easter 2011*

Gracias a la pasión, la muerte y la resurrección de Jesús, vemos que el



# 'Bless me, Father, for I have sinned'

Hundreds go to confession throughout archdiocese, taking advantage of extended hours on first-ever Reconciliation Weekend

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO

Florida Catholic staff

**MIAMI** — Ivone had not been to confession in a long time.

"Even though I'm a Catholic and attend Mass every Sunday, I hadn't attended confession since I got married 29 years ago and I was feeling like I was drowning. I needed to go to confession," said the parishioner of Blessed John XXIII in Miramar. "I needed to cleanse my soul in order to continue Communion on Sundays. Today was a special moment, coming here during Lent."

Ivone (to protect the privacy of those quoted, only their first names are being published) was one of more than 200 people who went to St. Mark Parish in Southwest Ranches the weekend of April 15-16 to take advantage of eight solid hours of confession.

The scene was being repeated at 39 other South Florida parishes during this first-ever archdiocesan Reconciliation Weekend, called for by Archbishop Thomas Wenski.

At times, the lines were long as there were not enough priests to minister to those who came. Parishers had to scramble for both priests and space in which to accommodate their usual Lenten activities, such as Stations of the Cross, and unplanned-for events, such as funeral Masses.

Overall, however, hundreds of Catholics took advantage of the weekend, among them many who had been away from confession for a long time — and some who were making their first confession.

"I was a little nervous," said Yannis of Our Lady of the Lakes Parish in Miami Lakes, a candidate in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults who will be making her first Communion at the Easter Vigil.

She had been unable to go to confession with her fellow RCIA candidates, so she took advantage of the moment Friday night. Afterward, she said, "I feel better. It's nice to talk to someone."

St. Mark's pastor, Father Edmund Whyte, said about 60 people came for the two-hour session Friday night, and 160 more lined up between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Saturday.

"It's great," Father Whyte said. "People have been very appreciative of the fact that we've had this Reconciliation Weekend and been here for so many hours administering the sacrament of penance."

At Our Lady of the Lakes, Father Alfred Cioffi, priest in residence, said he "lost count" of how many confessions he had heard. He and

five other priests had heard confessions from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, using whatever space was available: the two confessionals, opposite ends of the sacristy, even the cry room in the church, which itself was being used for Stations of the Cross.

Father Cioffi and another priest heard confessions again on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and from 3:30 to 5 p.m., when Father Cioffi had to leave the confessional to celebrate the Palm Sunday Vigil Mass.

"It was constant," he said of the line for confession, which consistently numbered between 10 and 20 people throughout the weekend.

At Good Shepherd Parish in Kendall, a continuous stream of people also kept coming for confession, said Father Alejandro Flores, priest in residence. At 4 p.m. Saturday, having been there all day, he said he and the other priests "haven't had lunch yet... but it is worth it."

"People have no excuses if they don't go, seeing how many hours the priests have been here and in how many churches. They are making it more convenient for us to go," said Tony, a parishioner at St. Boniface in Pembroke Pines for the past 41 years. He went to St. Mark after hearing about Reconciliation Weekend from the news and from receiving information in the mail.

Indeed, the convenience factor was the tipping point for many of those who spoke to the *Florida Catholic*.

"I saw them here and I haven't confessed in the last two or three years so I figured, I'm here, I might as well do it," said Perry, a parishioner at Our Lady of the Lakes who went to the church Friday night to take part in the Lenten "fish fry."

"I am aware that it is Reconcili-



A penitent prays after confession at Good Shepherd Parish April 16. (BLANCA MORALES | FC)

Spanish  
Confessions  
only



A penitent is visible through the glass door of a confessional at Our Lady of the Lakes Parish in Miami Lakes. (ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO | FC)

ation Weekend and I wanted to be ready for Holy Week," said a parishioner of Blessed Trinity in Miami Springs who preferred not to give his name. "Having the weekend designated for reconciliation was very convenient and peaceful because there weren't any long lines."

"We work during the week and we are grateful this time was given to us to experience the goodness of God," said Maria, a parishioner at St. John Neumann who went to confession at Our Lady of Lourdes in Kendall.

"We love the whole idea of this Reconciliation Weekend, the extended hours and the interaction with the priests. I wish that was something they would do on a weekly basis," said a father of three from St. Mark Parish who came with his wife and children. He preferred that their name not be used.

"For us it is very important to show our kids by our example the importance of coming to confession," said his wife.

"This gives people a chance to get to know their parishes, and to get to know the Church better, especially during this time of Lent," said Father Cesar Pena, parochial vicar at St. Mark.

"It is a moment of grace where many are turning back to the Lord," said Father Luis Largaespada, parochial vicar at Our Lady of Lourdes.

"It's a good thing that people are going to confession; they really need the grace of the sacrament," said Msgr. William Hennessey, founding pastor of St. Mark and former vicar general of the archdiocese. Although he is retired, he went to

PLEASE SEE CONFESSION, A13



Father Alejandro Flores listens to a confession at Good Shepherd Parish April 16, the second day of the archdiocesewide Reconciliation Weekend. (BLANCA MORALES | FC)



Father Alfred Cioffi hears a confession at Our Lady of the Lakes Parish in Miami Lakes April 15, the first night of the archdiocesewide Reconciliation Weekend. (ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO | FC)



# Experts: Persecution of Christians continues today

Violence, lack of religious freedom, exodus mark reality of Christians today in the Middle East

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO  
Florida Catholic staff

**MIAMI GARDENS** — It is dangerous to be a Christian in the Middle East. Archbishop Francis Chulikatt knows that firsthand.

Currently serving as apostolic nuncio and permanent observer to the United Nations, the veteran Vatican diplomat served in Iraq and Jordan from 2006 to 2010. That is when he met the two young priests killed in the October 2010 hostage-taking at the Syrian Catholic Cathedral in Baghdad.

"They would do anything for their people," he said during a visit to Miami March 30. "They told the terrorists 'Shoot me and not the people.' One of them was shot in front of his mother in the church."

The terrorists took the priests and more than 100 of their congregation hostage to demand the release of al-Qaida prisoners in Egypt. A total of 58 people died in the siege, including the priests and 39 of the hostages.

Archbishop Chulikatt was in the process of arranging a scholarship for one of the priests to study in



Archbishop Francis Chulikatt



Marie Dennis



Francis Dubois



Msgr. Gabriel Ghanoum

Rome when they were killed.

"I felt the real bitterness of the pain that they were feeling: to be massacred like that for no reason," he told journalists and representatives of St. Thomas University during a break in the conference on "The Protection of Christian Minorities in the Middle East" where he was the keynote speaker.

The conference was hosted by St. Thomas' School of Law and the Pax Romano Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs. The event included a panel discussion with three other people who

are knowledgeable about the issue: Marie Dennis, executive director of Maryknoll's Office for Global Concerns; United Nations Ambassador Francis Dubois; and Msgr. Gabriel Ghanoum, a native of Egypt who is

pastor of St. Jude Melkite Catholic Church in Miami and served as a rapporteur during last fall's Synod of Bishops for the Middle East. All agreed that the situation of Christians in that part of the world — the Middle East and majority-Muslim nations in Africa and Asia — is becoming untenable.

"Just because they are Christians, they are being targeted," Archbishop Chulikatt told archdiocesan priests during a lunch break in their Lenten reflection, which was taking place simultaneously on the university's campus. "Even in the 21st century, we have Christians who are persecuted for their faith."

"That explains why the Christians see the need to emigrate," Archbishop Chulikatt added. "That is the reason behind the silent exodus of Christians in Iraq and other countries of the Middle East."

Msgr. Ghanoum and Ambassador Dubois traced the worsening situation of Christians to the Iranian revolution and the rise of Islamic fundamentalism. They made clear, however, that not all Muslims are fundamentalists.

"I don't think that many Muslims identify themselves with these fundamentalist groups," Archbishop Chulikatt said. "It is not the religion itself that prompts members of Iraqi society to engage in conflict."

In fact, just recently, a group of Muslims in Egypt formed a human shield so that their Christian coun-

terparts could worship in peace.

"Yes, we have in Islam moderates, and with them we have no issue," said Msgr. Ghanoum. The so-called "hardliners" are "a threat to Christianity as well as to the moderate Muslims."

"There are many, many Muslims who are extremely

concerned about the vulnerability of Christians and other minority groups," said Dennis, who has served on peace delegations in Afghanistan, Israel, Palestine, Sudan and Iraq.

She said in 2003 an estimated 1.5 million Christians lived in Iraq. About 50 percent of them have now fled. Today, there are only 51,000 Christians left in the Palestinian territories, and they "share the difficulties faced by other Palestinians," such as the travel restrictions between the West Bank and Jerusa-

lem.

In Pakistan, Christians "live under constant threat of the blasphemous law," Dennis said. They also pay the price for what Christians in the West do — as demonstrated recently by the deadly attacks on a U.N. mission in Afghanistan because of the burning of the Quran by the pastor of a small church in central Florida.

Still, Christian institutions, such as hospitals and schools, remain among the largest service providers in the area, Dennis said. Christians believe that education is the path to peace. And despite the fact that only bombings and violence make headlines in the West, "at the heart of the matter, all the time, there are amazing, courageous people who keep on living day by day."

The fundamental problem, according to Archbishop Chulikatt, is that "if you are not Muslim, you are

PLEASE SEE MIDDLE EAST, A4



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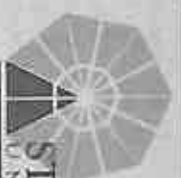
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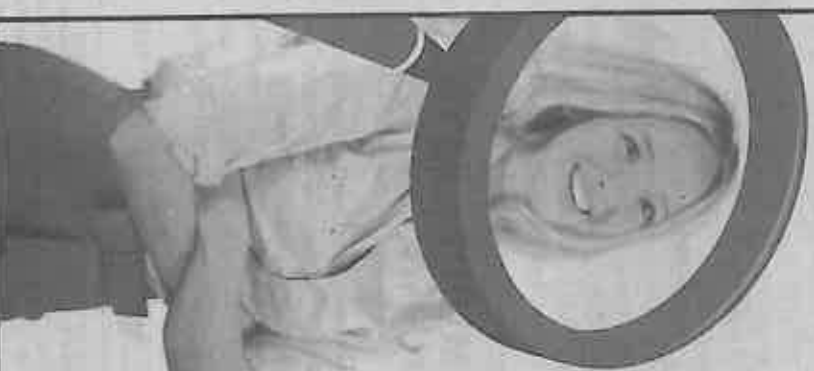
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The "no" which is the inheritance of original sin, the "nos" that are the sum total of our personal sins, had to be substituted by the "yes" of Jesus. He is the only Son of God who became our brother — a man like us in all things but sin. He became our brother so that in him through the gift of his Holy Spirit we might become children of his Eternal Father.

us. At the Last Supper, Jesus gives us the Eucharist — which anticipated his sacrifice on the cross. The sacrament of his Body and Blood is the fruit of this obedience which gives us back paradise. As he tells the good thief crucified with him:

*"Today, you will be with me in paradise."*

Jesus does the will of his Father — and in doing so, he also teaches us to do

Jesus does the will of his Father — and in doing so, he also teaches us to do likewise. In Gethsemane, he prayed: "Father, not my will but your will be done," and he taught us to pray by saying: "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Father: that we love one another. Jesus loved to the end. And, from the altar that was his cross, he teaches us what love is.

Adam and Eve said "no" to God when they ate of the fruit of the tree in paradise. Jesus' "yes" brings him to be nailed to a tree. They ate the fruit of disobedience — and thus lost paradise for themselves and for

For Christ, love is not a mere sentiment. It is not some fleeting emotion. It is a decision, a commitment. It is saying "yes" and at the same time "going up the mountain," accepting the difficulties and the struggles that obedience to God's

El "no" que es la herencia del pecado original, los "noes" que son la suma total de nuestros pecados personales, tenían que ser sustituidos por el "sí" de Jesús. Él es el Hijo único de Dios, que se hizo hermano nuestro; un hombre como nosotros en todas las cosas, excepto en el pecado. Se hizo nuestro hermano para que en Él, mediante el regalo de su Espíritu Santo, pudiéramos hacer a los hijos de su Padre Eterno.

Jesus dice "si" a la voluntad

Padre. Por esta razón, vino a la tierra y habito entre nosotros. Él acepta hacer la voluntad del Padre —y acepta hacerla hasta el final— hasta el punto de dar su vida en rescate por las nuestras. Él obedece a su Padre y sube la montaña —el Calvario— donde se ofrece a sí mismo en sacrificio por nuestra salvación.

Adán y Eva le dijeron "no" a Dios cuando comieron de la fruta del árbol en el paraíso. El "sí" de Jesús lo

lleva a ser clavado a un árbol. Ellos comieron la fruta de la desobediencia, y de esta manera perdieron el paraíso, para sí mismos y para nosotros. En la Última Cena, Jesús nos da la Eucaristía, que es la anticipación de su sacrificio en la cruz. El sacramento de su Cuerpo y de su Sangre es el fruto de su obediencia, que nos devuelve el paraíso. Tal como Él le dice al buen ladrón crucificado junto a Él: "Hoy estarás conmigo en el paraíso".

Jesús hace la voluntad de su Padre, y al hacerla nos enseña a hacer lo mismo. En Getsemaní, oro pidiendo: "Padre, que no se haga mi voluntad, sino la tuya", y nos enseñó a orar diciendo: "Hágase tu voluntad, así en la tierra como en el cielo". Y esta voluntad de nuestro Padre es que nos amemos los unos a los otros.

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Y esta voluntad de nuestro Padre es que nos amemos los unos a los otros. Jesús amó hasta el final. Y desde el altar que es la cruz, nos enseña lo que es el amor.

Archbishop Thomas Wenski has made the following appointments:

Effective March 1

**Father Rolando Garcia —**

chaplain, Knights of Columbus Bishop Enrique San Pedro, SJ, Council 15224.

**Father John R. Valega**—parish priest, St. Mary Star of the Sea Parish, Key West.

Effective March 15  
**Deacon Jorge Prieto** — perma-

ment dealer, Princeton, N.J.

**Father Ferry Brutus** — parochial vicar, St. Kevin Parish, Miami.

by the power of love.

On Easter Sunday, we recommend ourselves to the power of that love in our own lives through the renewing of our baptismal promises. We make our own once again the great "you" of Jesus which brings us out of the darkness of death into the new life of Easter dawn. ■

El "no" que es la herencia del pecado original, los "me" que son la suma total de nuestros pecados personales, tenían que ser sustituidos por el "sí" de Jesús. Él es el Hijo único de Dios, que se hizo hermano nuestro; un hombre como nosotros, en todas las cosas, excepto en el pecado que lleva a ser clavado a un árbol. Ellos comieron la fruta de la desobediencia, y de esta manera perdieron el paraíso, para sí mismos y para nosotros. En la Última Cena, Jesús nos da la Eucaristía, que es la anticipación de su sacrificio en la cruz. El sacramento de su Cuerpo y de su Sangre lleva a ser clavado a un árbol.

Para Cristo, el amor no es sólo un sentimiento. No es una emoción fugaz. Es una decisión, un compromiso. Es decir "sí" y al mismo tiempo, "subir la montaña" aceptando las dificultades y las luchas que la obediencia a la voluntad de Dios ocasiona algunas veces.

poner nuestra voluntad sobre otras. Este apetito de poder, este ejercicio de nuestra voluntad por sobre la voluntad de Dios, nació de la desobediencia de Adán y Eva, y ha causado mucha miseria y mucho dolor en nuestro mundo.

Pero, gracias a la pasión, la mu-

poner nuestra voluntad sobre otras. Este apetito de poder, este ejercicio nuestra voluntad por sobre la voluntad de Dios, nació de la desobediencia de Adán y Eva, y ha causado mucha miseria y mucho dolor nuestro mundo.

Pero, gracias a la pasión, la muerte y la resurrección de Jesús, vemos que el amor es más fuerte que el odio, que el bien sí derrota al mal. Esta es la historia de nuestra salvación; Cristo nos salva, no por merecimiento, sino mediante el poder del amor.

En el Domingo de Resurrección renovamos nuestro compromiso con el poder de ese amor en nuestras propias vidas, mediante la renovación de nuestras promesas bautismales: volvemos a hacer nuestro gran "sí" de Jesús, que nos saca las tinieblas de la muerte hacia una nueva vida de la Pascua de Resurrección. ■

— can show their support by visiting Christians in those countries getting in touch with them on the Internet.

"That will give them moral support to continue to remain in the country," he said. "It would be a great loss if we were to lose the Christian presence in Iraq and other countries in the Middle East."

As for what Christians on this side of the world can do, he suggested that they pray for their fellow Christians "and for those who persecute them."

He also told archdiocesan priests that they — and the U.S. bishops —

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# New missal will take some getting used to

Expert says new English translation of Mass will require 'serious preparation' by priests, laity

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO  
Florida Catholic staff

**MIAMI SHORES** — It is coming, and it is going to take some getting used to, but Church leaders can take that challenge and turn it into an opportunity for renewal.

That was Sister Catherine Vincie's take on the new English translation of the Roman Missal, which will begin to be used in parishes throughout the United States this Advent.

"It's going to take us years to get used to the sound of it, to understand it until it becomes our language and we can rattle it off like we do the current translation," she said. On the other hand, this new translation provides an excellent opportunity "to revitalize our people in their faith and in their prayer."

Sister Vincie, a Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary who teaches liturgical theology at the Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, spoke April 4 at Barry University to a group that included priests, parish music ministers and high school theology teachers.

Here was the second of two lectures sponsored by Barry's departments of theology and campus ministry and aimed at preparing local Catholics for the changes that are coming — not in the Mass itself, but in the prayers recited by both the priest and the congregation during Mass. (See previous article in March 2011 *Florida Catholic*.)



Sister Catherine Vincie, Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, and a professor of liturgical theology at the Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, speaks about the pastoral implications of the new English translation of the Roman Missal, which will come into use this Advent. (ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO | FC)

Sister Vincie's topic was the "pastoral implications" of the changes, but she began by highlighting the history of liturgical reform which resulted in this new, third English translation of the Roman Missal.

Essentially, the Missal in the original Latin — the official language of the Church — has been updated three times since the Second Vatican Council: in 1969, 1975 and 2000. It also has been translated into English three times: in 1973, 1985 and 1997.

The translation being used now in parishes throughout the English-speaking world is the 1985 one. The 1997 one never received approval from Rome because when the third Latin edition of the Missal was published in 2000, new norms for translation also were promulgated by the Vatican.

Whereas the initial norms for translation called for "dynamic equivalency" — that is, to render the Latin into the best possible form of the vernacular or target language — the new norms, outlined in *Liturgiam Authenticam*, call for rendering the Latin to the vernacular "in the most exact manner."

So the response "And also with you" becomes "And with your spirit," and the phrase "constituted with the Father" becomes part of the Creed.

"We're going to have to get used to long sentences," Sister Vincie said, highlighting one of the main differences between Latin and English. The English in the new translation is "more complex and more difficult for our ears to follow."

That is particularly true of the prayers that are to be recited by the priest. "Some of the prayers are very complex," she said, which puts upon the priest "a serious responsibility to prepare."

Sister Vincie acknowledged that some of the initial English translations of the Mass were "too colloquial." She said the goal of any translation should be to strike a balance that conveys both the "transcendence" of God and his "immanence" — his being at once "beyond" us yet "visible" in our human experience.

"Our liturgies have to be both of these," she said.

In her view, some of the negative aspects of the new translation are the danger that such strict adherence to Latin phrasing and syntax will hurt the inculturation of the Christian message in different parts of the world; the impossibility of using inclusive language (such as "people" rather than "men"); and the lost opportunity to develop an "authentic style" of English prayer, which the 1997 translation came very close to doing.

In addition, Sister Vincie said, with only 30 percent of Catholics regularly in attendance at Mass, "we risk alienating more of our people" who may grow tired of the changes.

On the other hand, the positive aspects of the new translation are that it offers doctrinal clarity, for example by using the word "consortship" to convey the relationship between the Father and the Son; it makes the Biblical allusions more obvious, such as by having the people say before Communion "I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof"; and it makes the English text an *editio typica* or source for translations in countries that do not have Latin scholars.

Perhaps more importantly, she said, the new translation provides an opportunity to catechize Catholics again regarding the Mass — something that did not happen when the changes of Vatican II came along and a mistake that the U.S. bishops "are adamant ... will not be repeated again."

"In a few ways, the new translation is a gift to the Church," Sister Vincie said, although it does "present us with a few problems that we need to work out."

"We need to concentrate on the positive," said Father Juan Sosa, pastor of St. Joseph Parish on Miami Beach and a liturgical expert in his own right. In addition to serving as director of the Office of Worship and Spiritual Life for the archdiocese in the 1980s, he also serves as a consultant to the U.S. bishops' Committee on the Liturgy and as president of the National Hispanic Institute on Liturgy.

In his response to Sister Vincie's presentation, Father Sosa stressed the hope that the new translation will lead to a "renewal of the hearts of the people. It can be done if we take it seriously, use it as a moment of catechesis and opportunity."

Of course, it will be hard for priests themselves to prepare when the new liturgical books will not be out in print until October 2011 — just one month before the new translation is to be used.

But most of the newly translated prayers and the ordinary of the Mass — as well as a large number of educational materials — can be downloaded from the U.S. bishops' website, [www.usccb.org/roman-missal](http://www.usccb.org/roman-missal).

Father Sosa suggested pastors take every opportunity between now and November to "take our people and sit them down and show them the texts and help them pray the texts." ■

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# When is a church not truly Catholic?

Unofficial 'catholic' clergy and churches confuse South Floridians

**TOM TRACY**  
Florida Catholic correspondent

**MIAMI** — Even before he was ordained a priest, Father Jesus Alberto Bohorquez was aware of several churches in the Fort Lauderdale area that are not part of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Miami — and either knowingly or otherwise misled local Catholics about their status.

"I became aware of that situation when I was a deacon at St. Clem-

ent Parish, which is surrounded by two or three of those pseudo-catholic communities and many people were not aware that they are not in communion with the Church," said Father Bohorquez, parochial vicar at St. Patrick Parish on Miami Beach, who recently talked about the problem on Radio Paz 830 AM, the archdiocesan station.

Sometimes called "fake" or "unofficial" catholic churches, these places of worship usually insert the name "Catholic" somewhere in their

title, seeming to imply that they are suitable places of worship and sacraments for Roman Catholics. Yet their ministers may or may not have any background training or seminary education with the Catholic Church. In some cases they may be former Roman Catholic priests or seminarians who do not have faculties (permission from the archbishop) to function as clergy.

Others prey on immigrant or special populations that naively assume that a church with the term "Catholic" in its name is in communion with the Vatican and part of the Roman Catholic Church. The deception can lead to a variety of canonical problems for individuals who worship and take sacraments at churches not recognized by the Miami Archdiocese.

Father Bohorquez told the Radio Paz audience that the Miami Archdiocese has counted some 25 churches in Monroe, Miami-Dade and Broward counties who call

## PROBLEM OF INVALID WEDDINGS

Priest Compassion is best way to address this trend

Many couples in South Florida get married in ceremonies staged outside of churches, usually by pseudo-catholic clergy who don't have Roman Catholic faculties.

Only when they later join a parish do they learn that their wedding cannot be recognized as authentic by the Church. That means they must take corrective steps, such as having a covalidation in front of a priest with proper faculties and two witnesses in a church.

In any event, clergy and Church officials should aim for an understanding and welcoming response when encountering couples facing such situations, according to Father John McLaughlin, a retired archdiocesan priest who works part time as a chaplain to the cruise ship industry.

There are a large number of churches in our area that call themselves catholic and that do the weddings, the people find out later they aren't valid weddings," Father McLaughlin said. "They usually are disappointed and they go to the parish priests, do the paperwork and straighten it out in their parish."

Many such couples are seeking sacraments for their children. After a review of their wedding records — if there are any — they are told that their wedding ceremony was not validly performed.

As a chaplain to the cruise industry based at Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale, Father McLaughlin celebrates Mass on the ships, but he is not permitted to officiate at weddings since the Archdiocese of Miami restricts weddings to church premises.

But other ministers do conduct weddings in ports of call during a cruise. And of course many couples are getting married on the beach, in parks, in historic buildings, country clubs and resorts throughout South Florida.

Many of those venues provide lists of recommended clergy but no Catholic clergy in good standing with the Archdiocese of Miami are permitted to officiate so-called "destination weddings."

"The right response is to welcome (these couples) back to church, they don't need to be lit over their heads but to meet a priest who can help them work out. It doesn't help being negative," Father McLaughlin said.

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# Fostering a broader perspective

## Catholic, Protestant graduate students interact at St. Thomas University's new Ecumenical Institute

**TOM TRACY**  
Florida Catholic correspondent

**MIAMI GARDENS** — Interfaith understanding is the order of the day at St. Thomas University's new Ecumenical Institute, where graduate students of differing Christian denominations study side by side for the betterment of the South Florida community.

The institute is a new partnership that began last summer when St. Thomas University's School of Theology and Ministry (formerly the Institute for Pastoral Ministries) took in the students and programming of the Florida Center for Theological Studies. Both institutions were founded by Father Patrick O'Neill, a priest of the Miami Archdiocese and former president of St. Thomas.

The Rev. Diane Shoaf, a Presbyterian minister and former associate dean at the Florida Center for Theological Studies, now leads the Ecumenical Institute at St. Thomas. The program currently has 45 students seeking a Master of Divinity degree and is in a three-year transition period with St. Thomas.

"We will continue the ethos of an ecumenical graduate theological education that prepares students for ministerial leadership in the Church," Rev. Shoaf said.

For students from a Roman Catholic background, the degree is designed to prepare laypeople for positions such as parish directors of religious education, hospital, hospice, military and prison chaplaincy, or other positions in faith-based nonprofits or pastoral leadership.

For students from a Protestant background, the degree may lead to ordination in a particular denomination. The institute will not, however, serve as a place of study for Catholic seminarians seeking ordination to the priesthood.

"We are developing leaders who will lead from a faith-based perspective. Our hope is that as Protestants and Catholics prepare together we will do so in a way that reflects the context and diversity we have in South Florida," Rev. Shoaf said. "We plan to engage the South Florida community in ecumenical and interfaith dialogue and study through a lecture series and special events. We understand the role of an archdiocesan university of serving the community in which we live with opportunities for inter-religious dialogue and study."

Mercedes Iannone, interim dean of St. Thomas' School of Theology and Ministry, said the merger has already been a wonderful "coming together" for a variety of reasons. "Students are now in a broader conversation about mission and



St. Thomas students Ray Madison, left, and Yaxley Jamison take part in a class at the new Ecumenical Institute. (TOM TRACY | FC)

ministry. Those same Master of Divinity students are cross-pollinating with the Master of Arts in pastoral ministries," Iannone said.

In other words, the Catholic and Protestant graduate students are learning from each other and preparing for the wider world of Christianity.

"This was a major thrust of the Second Vatican Council: ecumenism," Iannone said. "And so we need to be in dialogue. This provides a real hands-on kind of situation for the students. It helps us to better clarify what each person believes and what our different traditions bring. The purpose is not to proselytize, but to understand."

One other Catholic institution of higher learning, the Jesuit-affiliated

ed Seattle University in Washington, similarly offers an ecumenical, three-year graduate program that provides students with the credentials for ordination or some kind of pastoral employment.

"Many ministries in the Church require a Master of Divinity whether you are ordained or not — for example, chaplaincy work in hospitals or prison ministry," Iannone said.

Anthony Vinciguerra, coordinator of the Center for Justice and Peace, which also comes under the umbrella of St. Thomas School of Theology and Ministry, said it made sense to pool resources since St. Thomas has a long history of interfaith dialogue in Miami.

"We are always looking to connect learning with justice, so we

### 'MORE TOOLS IN MY TOOLBOX'

**Ecumenical Institute student wants to work with veterans as chaplain**

Michael Thomas wants to spend the rest of his working life assisting retired veterans as a hospital or nursing home chaplain.

A member of St. Bartholomew Parish in Miami and himself a military veteran, Thomas is currently working toward his Master of Divinity degree from St. Thomas University. He is also benefiting from the newly expanded graduate student and pastoral ministries programs offered through St. Thomas' Ecumenical Institute.

"I attended one clinical pastoral education course and I am contemplating doing another one in the spring. Those are the ways you become a chaplain. It is accredited by an association," Thomas said, adding that his studies included field work with Vitas Hospice, which offers palliative care for terminally ill children and adults.

Thomas said he wants to continue working with military veterans, especially those who are still adjusting after military service in Afghanistan or Iraq and "trying to fit back into the community after what they saw

or what happened there — trying to bring them back into the world," he said.

"I do know there are a lot of veterans from Desert Storm and (Operation) Enduring Freedom who are suffering. There is a lot of pain and anger from veterans for a lot of reasons. Learning about God certainly helps and I learn about myself," Thomas said.

A native of Miami, he said while working in nursing homes he mostly talks with veterans from World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam War who are still suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Thomas spent 27 years in the U.S. Army supporting other military staff during the various Middle East conflicts and deployments. Working in the military put him in contact with many religions and denominations.

"I think it's great that St. Thomas has a chance to host other denominations here, and it gives me exposure and a chance to dialogue with other denominations — and it gives them a chance as well," Thomas said. "For ministry at a veterans' nursing home in South Florida, it does put more tools in my toolbox."

are engaging interfaith groups with peace and justice work and community organizing — ways for the students to get hands-on experience with churches, synagogues and mosques working together for justice," he said.



James Conley, interim dean of the Biscayne College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at St. Thomas University, conducts a prayer service for students and visitors in the university's chapel. St. Thomas opened a new Ecumenical Institute last summer that it hopes will enhance ecumenical and interfaith relations in South Florida. (TOM TRACY | FC)

A recent example is the university's involvement in a Miami-based interfaith-style community group focusing on crime, employment and drug issues affecting the region.

"Volunteers are trying to get Dade County to reinstate drug education and rehabilitation programs inside the jails. We are working with churches to put pressure on the county for that because it has been shown that people in jail who don't get treatment come out and commit crime again," Vinciguerra said, adding that the students also are engaged in efforts to encourage area businesses to hire locally in order to improve the alarming unemployment situation.

According to St. Thomas' president, Msgr. Franklyn M. Casale, the new partnership meant adding a faculty position at St. Thomas to teach Scripture.

"We have created a strong ecumenical and interfaith atmosphere here at St. Thomas," he said. The mission of the Ecumenical Institute reflects "the uniting and purposing of a number of efforts and assets for the ongoing provision of contextual theological education and spiritual formation." ■

*For additional information on St. Thomas University's Ecumenical Institute, call 305-474-6002 or email [dschoaf@stu.edu](mailto:dschoaf@stu.edu).*









# Myths about the Internet and children

What's true and what's not true about Internet sex crimes against children and young people

**MONICA APPLEWHITE**  
Consultant, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — Much of the attention to Internet safety over the past 15 years has been focused on discouraging young children from posting online identifying information such as their names, addresses or schools. Young children are taught not to use their real names or to disclose "clues" that could allow a potential predator to stalk and find them at their home, neighborhood or sports team.

However, in 2008, a team of researchers looked into the reality of sexual offenses that occur in the context of Internet contact and found that actual crimes do not fit the stereotypes at all. The National Juvenile Online Victimization Study and the second Youth Internet Safety Survey were funded by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the U.S. Department of Justice.

**Below are some myths and facts** about Internet sex crimes discovered through this important research:

**Myth: Most Internet sex crimes involve young children who post identifying information about themselves.**

**Fact: 99 percent of victims of Internet-initiated sex crimes in the study were 13 to 17 years old; none was younger than 12.**

**Myth: Most Internet-initiated sexual offenders pretend to be children in order to trick children into interacting with them.**

**Fact: In the great majority of cases, victims are aware they are conversing online with adults. In the study, only 5 percent of offenders pretended to be teens when they met potential victims online.**

**Myth: Most Internet-initiated sexual offenders deceive children about their interest in sexual activities.**

**Fact: Internet-initiated sexual offenders rarely deceive victims about their sexual interests. Sex is usually broached online, and most victims who meet offenders face to face go to such meetings expecting to engage**

**in sexual activity.**

The deception in these cases lies not with the fact that the offender is interested in sexual contact, but with the promises of love and relationship that offenders use in their online seductions. Many victims profess love or close feelings for offenders and the crimes involve statutory rape, defined as nonviolent sexual activity with victims who are too young to legally consent to sexual intercourse with adults.

These findings have serious implications for online sexual crime prevention efforts. Experts in the field have offered the following recommendations:

- In educational materials, avoid descriptions of the problem that characterize victims as young children or emphasize violence and deception.
- In educational materials, be clear about why sex with underage adolescents is illegal, wrong and can cause harm, even when it is not violent.
- Focus prevention efforts more on adolescents and less on parents.
- In programs for parents, provide factual descriptions of at-risk youth and their behavior online.
- In programs for adolescents, focus openly on concerns relevant to adolescents, including issues of autonomy, privacy, romance and sex.
- Focus prevention more on the interactive aspects of Internet use and Internet-based relationship development, and less on posting personal information.
- Educate adolescents about criminal sexual behavior and child pornography.
- Develop targeted prevention approaches for the most at-risk youth populations. ■

*Applewhite, Ph.D., is an expert in standards of care and the dynamics of abuse in organizations that serve children, youth and vulnerable adults. The original report, "Online Predators and Their Victims," was published in the February-March 2008 issue of American Psychologist.*

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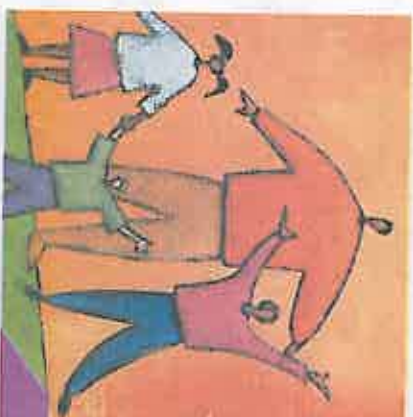
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## Tips for protecting children

10 things to remember about protecting children from sexual abuse

**TERESA M. KETTEKAMP**

**1. Sexual molestation is about the victim.** Many people are affected when a priest abuses a minor, but the individual most impacted is the victim who has suffered a violation of trust that can affect his or her entire life. The abuser, the family of the abused, and the parish community are all affected by this sin and crime, but the primary person of concern must be the victim.

**2. No one has the right to have access to children.** If people wish to volunteer for the Church, for exam-

ple, in a parish or school, they must follow diocesan guidelines on background checks, Safe Environment training, policies and procedures, and codes of conduct. No one, no matter who they are, has an automatic right to be around children or young people who are in the care of the Church without proper screening and without following the rules.

**3. Common sense is not all that common.** It is naive to presume that people automatically know boundaries, so organizations and families have to spell them out. For example, no youth minister, cleric or other adult leader should be in a child's bedroom, alone with the child.

**4. Child sexual abuse can be prevented.** Awareness that child sexual abuse exists and can exist anywhere is a start. It is then critical to build safety barriers around children and young people to keep them from

harm. These barriers come in form of protective guardians, of conduct, background evaluation policies and procedures, and training programs.

**5. The residual effects of being abused can last a lifetime.** Those who have been abused "just get over it." The ser violation goes deep into a person's psyche and feelings of anger, shame and betrayal can build for the abuse has taken place. I have even described the feeling it has "scarred their soul."

**6. Feeling heard leads to healing.** Relief from hurt and often comes when one feels heard when one's pain and concern taken seriously, and a victim/survivor's appropriate sense of rage indignation are acknowledged

PLEASE SEE PROTECT,

## Fingerprinting policy and locations

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

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

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

All those who need to be fingerprinted MUST first register online

by accessing [www.adom.sofn.net](http://www.adom.sofn.net). Select a service center online and obtain (print) a bar code receipt, which is automatically generated at the end of the registration process. If you already have made a fingerprint appointment at your pertinent entity, then choose the Archdiocese of Miami as your service center.

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

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

Here is a list of all service centers throughout Miami-Dade and Broward. You must register online at [www.adom.sofn.net](http://www.adom.sofn.net) prior to going to any of these centers. Individuals who do not have access to a computer or require assistance in registering should contact their pertinent parish, school, archdiocesan entity or the Archdiocese of Miami directly for their designated fingerprint coordinator.

**Miami-Dade County Archdiocese of Miami**  
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By appointment only; must call ahead.

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Father Luis Casabon, a retired archdiocesan priest, has his fingerprint taken by Myriam Leinweber, background-check coordinator for the archdiocese. Seated at right is fingerprint assistant Tomas Rodriguez (ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO | FC)

**Dania Beach, FL 33004**  
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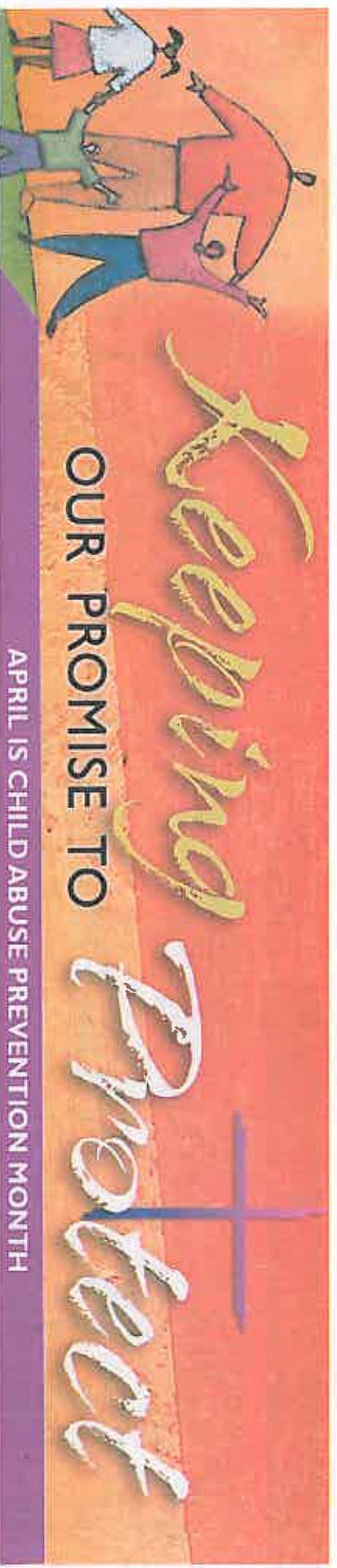
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# Frequently Asked Questions about Virtus

**Q: What is Virtus?**

**A:** Virtus is a brand name identifying an awareness and preventative program. The Archdiocese of Miami utilizes this program for protecting children from child sexual abuse. The word “*Virtus*” is Latin and means “valor, moral strength, excellence and worth.” In ancient times, *virtus* denoted a way of life and manner of behavior that always aspired to the highest, most positive attributes of people and aspects of human interaction.

**Q: If I do not work or volunteer with children, do I need to take the Virtus training session?**

**A:** Yes. All adults are protectors of children. The Archdiocese of Miami believes wholeheartedly in the power of Catholics working together. That is why the Archdiocese has included in the Safe Environment Policy the requirement for all employees and volunteers, whether they work with children or not, to complete the Virtus training. It is your role in a faith community to keep your eyes and ears open, and to report any suspicious activity to

the proper authorities. The Virtus training session illustrates how to do so effectively.

**Q: Can the Virtus training session be taken online instead of a live class?**

**A:** The Virtus program begins with a three-hour live training session. After considerable research, Virtus was chosen because of the live session. There are more than 39 million adult survivors of child sexual abuse. The subject matter is so emotionally charged that the archdiocese did not want anyone, especially a survivor, dealing with this issue alone. It was a priority that there be human interaction to see to the cares and concerns of this topic. All continuing training, after the live session, is done online with monthly bulletins and yearly recertifications.

**Q: If I took the live Virtus session years ago, but did not register online, does my attendance count or do I need to take it again?**

**A:** You may post-register for the session you attended at any time. If your attendance can be verified,

## SIGN-UP FOR VIRTUS TRAINING

Required session helps volunteers, employees recognize sexual abusers. Virtus is a training program that helps parents, teachers and anyone who works with children recognize signs of sexual abuse and spot abusers.

The training is required for anyone, be they clergy, religious, or lay, employee or volunteer, working or serving in any capacity in a parish, school or entity of the Archdiocese of Miami. Virtus training is free.

Following is the schedule of training sessions for the rest of the year, although more are being added all the time. An updated schedule can be found on the archdiocesan website, [www.miamimarch.org](http://www.miamimarch.org), under “Offices and Ministries/Protecting God’s Children.” For more information, call 305-762-

- 1250 or email [jrayburn@theadom.org](mailto:jrayburn@theadom.org).
- Saturday, May 14, 9 a.m., St. Louis Parish, Pinecrest.
- Wednesday, June 1, 6 p.m., Blessed Trinity Parish, Miami Springs.
- Saturday, July 30, 9 a.m., St. Jerome School, Fort Lauderdale.
- Saturday, Aug. 27, 9 a.m., St. Jerome School, Fort Lauderdale.
- Wednesday, Sept. 14, 6 p.m., Blessed Trinity Parish, Miami Springs.
- Saturday, Sept. 17, 9 a.m., St. Jerome School, Fort Lauderdale.
- Saturday, Sept. 24, 9 a.m., St. Jerome School, Fort Lauderdale.
- Saturday, Oct. 15, 9 a.m., St. Jerome School, Fort Lauderdale.
- Saturday, Oct. 22, 9 a.m., St. Jerome School, Fort Lauderdale.

you do not need to take the session again. To know for sure, call the Safe Environment Office at 305-762-1250. The staff will do a search of the files to find the sign-in sheet from the session you attended. If your signature can be found and you have registered for the session, your account can be activated.

**Q: What is the continuing training?**

**A:** Once you have been activated for your attendance at the live Virtus training session, your Virtus account will be sent monthly online bulletins. The bulletins are filled with useful information and are a way to keep the program current. For example, when Virtus was first formulated, no one was talking about cellphone cameras, text messaging or even Internet safety. These topics and more, such as vulnerable adults, are covered in the monthly bulletins.

**Q: I work with vulnerable adults, not children. Does this apply to me?**

**A:** Yes. While the live training focuses on minors, we are all God’s children and in need of protection from predators. The bishops’ Charter deleted the term “vulnerable adults” from their policy, but the Archdiocese of Miami felt obligated to keep it in our policy. The same practices we use for protect-

ing children also apply to protecting vulnerable adults. Additionally, Virtus bulletins address this segment from time to time.

**Q: If I have been fingerprinted by another agency, employer or even police department, do I need to do it again with the archdiocese?**

**A:** Yes. Due to right-to-privacy laws, this information may not be shared between agencies. The archdiocese needs to have its own record on file. Secondly, not all background checks are a Level 2, which we administer.

**Q: Do I have to register to be fingerprinted?**

**A:** Yes. You may register at [www.theadom.sofn.net](http://www.theadom.sofn.net). You then need to set up an appointment with the location you selected online.

**Q: If the only volunteering I do is with my parish carnival, do I need to attend the Virtus session and be fingerprinted?**

**A:** Yes. All volunteers are to be trained and background checked. No matter the frequency or the capacity, as an employee or volunteer in this archdiocese you are considered a person of trust. You are a part of the solution to the problem of child sexual abuse in our homes, parishes and communities. You help ensure a safe environment for children, be it at a carnival, school

## BY THE NUMBERS

**55,611** — Total number of employees (including clergy and religious), volunteers, contractors and vendors fingerprinted in the Archdiocese of Miami from the time the program began in 1998 through March 2011.

**24,661** — Number of employees (including clergy and religious), volunteers, contractors and vendors fingerprinted in the Archdiocese of Miami between January 2009 and March 2011.

**87,000** — Number of employees (including clergy and religious) and volunteers who received training in Virtus since the program began in 2004. 37,000 are currently users of Virtus online.

**30,382** — Number of adults (employees, clergy, religious and volunteers) who received training in Virtus between January 2009 and March 2011. That is the number with active Virtus accounts; approximately 6,000 more have been trained but have not registered online. 23,309 of those trained and registered were volunteers.

**135,518** — Approximate number

of children in archdiocesan schools and religious education programs who received Teaching Touching Safety classes between January 2009 and March 2011. (Children in every grade receive the lessons each year.)

**280** — Number of Virtus training sessions held in the Archdiocese of Miami in 2010 — the most ever held in a single year.

**20th** — Archdiocesan rank nationwide for number of Virtus sessions held (out of 110 Catholic dioceses that use Virtus).

**13th** — Archdiocesan rank nationwide for number of adults trained in Virtus.

**6th** — Archdiocesan rank nationwide for number of facilitators trained to teach Virtus.

**1-800-96-ABUSE** — Number to call to report any type of child abuse to the Florida Department of Children and Families.

**1-866-80-ABUSE** — Number to call to report incidents of sexual misconduct by Church personnel (calls go to archdiocesan victim assistance coordinator).

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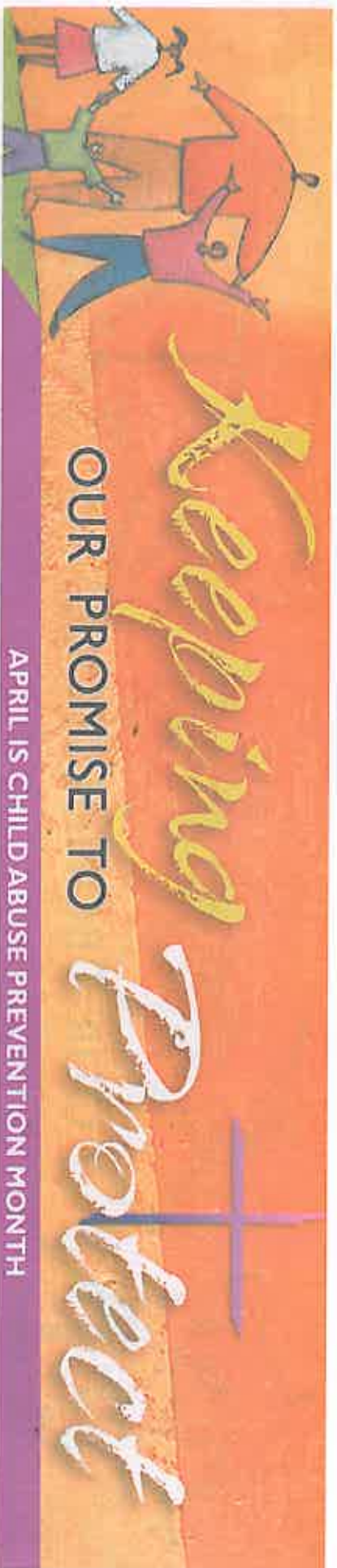
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# Report: Only seven credible abuse accusations in 2010

U.S. dioceses spent \$20 million-plus for safe environment programs

**COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE**  
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

**WASHINGTON** — Reports of current instances of sexual abuse of minors continue to decrease, with seven credible allegations against seven priests reported in 2010, according to the 2010 Survey of Allegations and Costs done by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, CARA.

At the same time, diocesan audits are uncovering weaknesses in audit compliance and finding reports of boundary violations short of abuse, such as inappropriate hugging.

A credible allegation is one which has a semblance of truth to it following an initial examination of the facts and circumstances surrounding the allegation.

The survey by Georgetown University-based CARA, collects numbers from the dioceses and coincides with the annual audit of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, conducted by the U.S. bishops' Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection. The audit reviews compliance with the charter, and is conducted by a team of independent auditors. The Gavin Group Inc. Both the survey and audit report are available on the Web at [www.usccb.org/ocyp/annual-report-2010.pdf](http://www.usccb.org/ocyp/annual-report-2010.pdf).

All dioceses responded to the CARA survey except the Diocese of Lincoln, Neb., which has refused to participate in the compliance audit process since 2004. The U.S. bishops enacted the charter in 2002 and have conducted national compliance audits annually since 2003.

In addition to the seven cases of abuse of minors in 2010, CARA also found hundreds of accounts of sexual abuse from decades ago that were reported to dioceses only last year. The "number of alleged offenders increased by a fifth, from 286 alleged offenders reported in 2009 to 345 alleged offenders reported in 2010," CARA reported.

Almost 60 percent of these offenders had been identified in earlier allegations and three-quarters of the offenders are now dead or laicized.

CARA also noted that two thirds of these allegations (66 percent) are old and occurred or began between 1960 and 1984. The most common time period when these allegations reportedly occurred was 1970-



Myriam Leinweber, background-check coordinator for the archdiocese, takes a fingerprint. Background checks are done every five years for everyone — priest, deacon, religious or lay — who is involved in any type of ministry or volunteer work in any parish, school or archdiocesan entity. (ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO | FC)

1974.

Costs to dioceses and eparchies (Eastern rite dioceses) related to clergy sexual abuse increased between 2009 and 2010 by more than \$19 million. "More than half of the payments by dioceses and eparchies in 2010 (57 percent) were for settlements to victims."

Costs for settlements paid out by dioceses and eparchies in 2010 were \$70,375,228. This was an increase of 28 percent over the previous year's payments for settlements. Legal fees increased by 18 percent.

CARA also noted that "in addition to allegations-related expenditures, at least \$20,954,405 was spent by dioceses and eparchies for child protection efforts such as safe environment coordinators, training programs, and background checks."

The audits of charter compliance, as reported by the Gavin Group, found that "all dioceses/eparchies that participated in the 2010 audit process were found to be compli-

ant with the charter."

At the same time, 55 dioceses received management letters expressing concerns about procedures, which could result in noncompliance. This number exceeded the number in the 2009 audit, which was 23.

Management letters are sent to a diocese/eparchy by the Gavin Group when issues are identified that the auditor believes need to be documented and brought to the bishop's attention to handle as he deems appropriate. These are issues that, though not at a level to categorize the diocese/eparchy as noncompliant in a particular area, were identified as possibly doing so if not sufficiently addressed. The purpose of the management letters is to strengthen the implementation of the charter within a particular diocese/eparchy.

The chief concern, which resulted in the majority of these management letters, centered on safe environment programs.

"Reasons for the management letters include parishes or schools failing to offer classes for children, new pastors or directors of religious education failing to understand diocesan requirements to train students, accepting parent training as parish training, or simply counting absent students as opt-outs. Several dioceses reported receiving verification from pastors that training had taken place, only to have auditors discover it was not offered," the report noted.

In evaluation of compliance with safe environment criteria, the audits found that "over 98 percent of clerics were trained" as were "98 percent of employees and volunteers."

"In addition, over 5 million children received safe environment training. Background evaluations were conducted for over 99 percent of clerics; 99.8 percent of educators; 98.5 percent of employees; and 99.2 percent of volunteers."

Dioceses that refused to participate in audits included the Diocese of Lincoln; Diocese of Baker, Ore.; the Eparchy of St. Peter the Apostle for Chaldeans; Eparchy of Newton for Melkites; Eparchy of Our Lady of Nareg in New York for Armenian Catholics; Eparchy of St. Joseph of Parma for Ukrainians; and the Eparchy of Our Lady of Deliverance of Newark for Syrians. Based on their refusal, all were declared noncompliant. ■

## PROTECT FROM A10

being acknowledged contributes to a victim's sense of being invisible, unimportant and unworthy; they are in some way "re-victimized."

**7. You cannot always predict who will be an abuser.** Experience shows that most abuse is at the hands of someone who has gained the trust of a victim/survivor and his/her family. Most abuse also occurs in the family setting. Sometimes the "nicest person in the world" is an abuser, and this "niceness" enables a false sense of trust to be created between abuser and abused.

**8. There are behavioral warning signs of child abusers.** Training and education help adults recognize grooming techniques that are precursors to abuse. Some abusers isolate a potential victim by giving him or her undue attention or lavish gifts. Another common grooming technique is to allow young people to participate in activities which their parents or guardians would not approve, such as watching pornography, drinking alcohol, using drugs, and excessive touching, which includes wrestling and tickling. It is also critical to be wary of age-inappropriate relationships, seen, for example, in the adult who is more comfortable with children than fellow adults. Parishes can set up rules to guide interaction between adults and children.

**9. People can be taught to identify grooming behavior** — which are the actions abusers take to project the image that they are kind, generous, caring people, while their intent is to lure a minor into an inappropriate relationship. An abuser may develop a relationship with the family to increase his credibility. Abusers might show attention to the child by talking to him/her, being friendly, sharing alcohol with a minor and giving the child "status" by insinuating that the child is their favorite or "special person." Offenders can be patient and may "groom" their victim, his or her family, or community for years.

**10. Background checks work.** Background checks in churches, schools and other organizations keep predators away from children both because they scare off some predators and because they uncover past actions, which should ban an adult from working or volunteering with children. If an adult has had difficulty with some boundaries that society sets, such as not driving while intoxicated or not disturbing the public peace, he or she may have difficulties with other boundaries, such as not hurting a child. Never forget that offenders lie. ■

*Kettelkamp is executive director of the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.*



# Priests honored at Chrism Mass

As all renew their vows, some are recognized for marking 25th, 50th and higher anniversaries of ordination

Florida Catholic staff

**MIAMI** — As is the custom every year at the Chrism Mass, archdiocesan priests renewed their vows, and those marking 25th, 50th and higher anniversaries of ordination received special recognition.

The Chrism Mass was celebrated the Tuesday of Holy Week, April 19, with nearly 200 priests in attendance, as well as more than 500 students representing 12 archdiocesan schools.

The number of schools was lower than in the past because many were closed during Holy Week, which came quite late this year. Fifteen students from St. Agatha School in Miami, however, opted to attend the Chrism Mass during their time off.

During the Mass, Archbishop Thomas Wenski blessed the holy oils that will be used throughout the year at all archdiocesan parishes: the oil of catechumens, used in baptisms; the oil of chrism, used in confirmations; and the oil used for the anointing of the sick.

Archbishop Wenski's homily, and photos from the Chrism Mass can be found at the archdiocesan website, [www.miamiaich.org](http://www.miamiaich.org). Following is a list of the priests who are

marking anniversaries of ordination this year:

## DIAMOND JUBILARIANS — MORE THAN 60 YEARS

• **Father Edward Konopka**, retired, faculties at Our Lady Queen of Heaven, North Lauderdale (66 years).

• **Mesgr. Emiliano Ordaz**, retired, former pastor of St. Cecilia in Hialeah (63 years).

• **Father José Blain**, Franciscan, retired but still working as associate judge in the Tribunal (63 years).

• **Father Ignacio Morra**, retired, former pastor of St. Kevin in Miami (62 years).

## GOLDEN JUBILARIANS — 50 YEARS

• **Archbishop John C. Favalora**, retired archbishop of Miami.

• **Mesgr. William J. Hennessy**, retired, former vicar general of the archdiocese.

• **Father Ronald Pusak**, retired, former pastor of St. Richard in Palmetto Bay.

• **Father Luis Casabon**, retired, helping out at parishes in Hialeah.

• **Father Robert M. Monti**, Diocese of La Crosse, Wis., working at Holy Cross Hospital in Fort Lauderdale.

• **Father Patrick O'Shea**, Archdiocese of Los Angeles, working at

Little Flower Parish, Hollywood.

## SILVER JUBILARIANS — 25 YEARS

• **Father Rolando G. Garcia**, pastor, St. Agatha Parish, Miami.

• **Father Mark E. Wedig**, Dominican, Barry University, Miami Shores.

• **Father Miguel Gil-Diaz**, Discalced Carmelites, Miami Gardens.

• **Father Ligor Bernard Anthony-Raf**, Diocese of Chingjeput, India, working as chaplain at South Miami Hospital. ■

good with God. I try to keep a clean sheet."

Carlos of St. Agatha had gone to confession the week before, but received the sacrament again at Good Shepherd during Reconciliation Weekend. He said his youth group, *Jovenes Voceros de Cristo*, encourages all those in the intercession ministry to attend confession once a month. For Lent, Carlos decided to go once a week.

"It is my hope that this weekend of reconciliation re-establishes a sense of God's love and God's mercy within a sacrament that has for too long gone unappreciated and unnoticed by much of the Catholic population," said Father Craig Malzacher, parochial vicar at St. John Neumann in Kendall.

"Quite honestly, I am ashamed that I have let so much time go by since my last confession," said Jané, a parishioner at Our Lady of Lourdes.

"This is a sacrament that is readily available to us, that strengthens our walk with the Lord. I have to remember that I am kneeling down by the cross of Mary's son, and because of his sacrifice for us, the blood he shed flows down over us and washes us free from our sins." ■

*Anne DiBernardo, Blanca Morales, said Roberto, a parishioner at Our Lady of Lourdes in Kendall. "It is very important to keep yourself*

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## CHURCH

FROM A6

minister has had," Father Bohorquez said.

The Archdiocese of Miami has dealt with this issue by stating that these churches are not affiliated, part of, or in any way joined with the Roman Catholic Church. They do not adhere to the authority of the Church in Rome or recognize Pope

Benedict XVI as their shepherd. The archdiocese also attempts to instruct those who do attend Mass at these churches that their Sunday obligation is not being met.

"Some use the terms 'old catholic' or 'traditional catholic' or 'catholic mission,' and years ago I inquired if there could be any legal action to stop the deception," Father Bohorquez said. "But they use another adjective along with the word 'catholic' to protect themselves legally."

In some cases, these churches are associated with organized schismatic churches that have been around for decades or even centuries as a result of disagreements within the Roman Catholic Church. Some of these include the Society of St. Pius X and the Polish National Catholic Church.

Confusing the situation even further is the valid presence of a number of ethnic, Oriental or Eastern Catholic Churches that are in com-

munion with the Roman Catholic Church. They typically serve Catholic communities with roots in specific Middle Eastern or European countries, such as Maronite Catholics, Melkite Catholics, and Ruthenian and Ukrainian Catholics.

Many Catholics who worship in archdiocesan parishes year-round are aware of the churches that are not associated with the archdiocese and, therefore, not associated with the Vatican. But there are thousands and thousands of visitors or new immigrants to South Florida who may not know the difference, including engaged couples from other states who are seeking a Catholic church or priest to marry them.

Father George Puthusseril, judicial vicar for the archdiocesan Tribunal, said he has personally seen the damage caused by the unofficial Catholic churches. The greatest concern is over the validity of the sacrament of marriage, which must be performed by a priest with faculties, or proper delegation from the Archbishop of Miami or his representatives. Usually, people married in such circumstances find out later, when they come to a Catholic church seeking baptism or other sacraments for their children.

"I have two instances where people were misled to believe that their marriage was valid," Father Puthusseril said. "They were invalidly

married because they were married in one of these so-called catholic churches. They were not priests of the Catholic Church and people are misled because they imitate the sacraments but are not in communion with Rome."

Couples in these situations can consult a parish priest to have their marriage validated if it meets all the canonical requirements. Each sacrament would need to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine validity.

"Once we become aware of their situation we advise them of a need to prepare to validate their marriage. In some occasions there may be a need for six months of marriage preparation. Others can arrange to have their marriage blessed in a Catholic church (more quickly)," Father Puthusseril said.

He said the Catholic Church needs to continue educating people about these kinds of unofficial churches. "That is all we can do, stay within your family," he said. ■

*The full list of Catholic churches that are recognized by the Miami Archdiocese can be found at the archdiocesan website, [www.miamianarch.org](http://www.miamianarch.org), under the tab "Search for Parishes, Schools, Priests." For further clarification, call the archdiocesan Communications Office at 305-762-1045. Julie Green contributed to this report.*

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## NEWSbriefs

### Vigil, Masses, blog mark pope's beatification

The Archdiocese of Miami will host several events in celebration of the beatification of Pope John Paul II, and a local religious will share her experiences daily from Rome on the archdiocesan blog, "Let's Talk."

Youths in the Archdiocese of Miami will have an opportunity to connect with their counterparts around the world by taking part in a vigil beginning at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 30, and concluding at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 1. The vigil will take place at St. John Vianney College Seminary, 2900 S.W. 87 Ave., Miami. For information on the vigil, email [olg8989@aol.com](mailto:olg8989@aol.com).

On May 1 at 10 a.m., priests and faithful are invited to give thanks for the beatification by taking part in a Mass to be celebrated by Archbishop Thomas Wenski at St. Mary Cathedral, 7525 N.W. Second Ave., Miami. Memorabilia from Pope John Paul II's 1987 visit to Miami will be on display at the cathedral before and after the Mass.

At 3 p.m. that afternoon, Archbishop Wenski will celebrate another Mass — this one in Spanish — at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Charity, 3601 S. Miami Ave., Miami. This Mass will be followed

by the unveiling of a new mosaic on the outside of the shrine, which depicts the image of Pope John Paul II on a background that recalls the landscape and colors of Cuba.

Finally, all of those who cannot be in Rome for the event can follow along with the blog of Mother Adela Galindo, founder of the Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary. She will be in Rome, blogging from April 30 to May 5, on "Let's Talk." The blog can be found on the archdiocesan website at [www.miamianarch.org/blog](http://www.miamianarch.org/blog).

### School of Ministry leads in online classes

The Archdiocese of Miami's School of Ministry has a unique distinction: with 17 online classes offered in 2010, it had the greatest number of "closed section" courses offered through the Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation.

The Virtual Learning Community is sponsored by the Institute for Pastoral Initiatives at the University of Dayton and is where students of the archdiocese's School of Ministry (two-year lay ministry formation program) take all their online courses.

A closed section course is only

open to 10-16 students from the Archdiocese of Miami, as opposed to an open section course where anyone in the world can register and participate. The archdiocese is one of 46 dioceses around the world that offers courses through the Virtual Learning Community.

"The classes were great and because of the fact that we have young children at home, the schedule allows for us to work whenever we can," said Rosa Hernandez, a parishioner at Our Lady of Lourdes in Miami who will be among 29 graduates of the online School of Ministry this spring. "The work is very intense and different from attending the in-person classes, but the more you learn, the more you realize you need to continue to learn and evangelize."

There are currently 15 lay ministers enrolled in the online courses who are slated to graduate in 2012; another 15 students enrolled in the first-ever online Spanish language School of Ministry also are expected to graduate next year.

The School of Ministry continues to offer its traditional classroom format, which meets once a week for two years in English, Spanish or Creole; interest in the online format, which offers eight online courses with eight in-person meetings over a two-year period of time, is increasing.

"Right now my hope is to continue to offer both options. I think each program addresses different people's learning styles and different lifestyles," said Cheryl Whapham, director of the Office of Lay Ministry and Adult Faith Formation. "We are able to accommodate more people by offering both options and therefore are forming more lay ministers for service in the archdiocese, which is the mission of our office."

Second to the Archdiocese of Miami's 17 closed section courses was the Archdiocese of Port of Spain in Trinidad and Tobago with five. And the prize?

"Our prize was a certificate of appreciation," said Whapham. "But the real prize is a well-formed laity. There is no greater gift than that."

### Three high schools make 'honor roll'

Three schools in the Archdiocese of Miami have been included once again in the Catholic High School Honor Roll of top educational institutions in the U.S. Among the honorees are Archbishop Edward McCarthy High School in Southwest Ranches, St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Fort Lauderdale and Belen Jesuit Preparatory School in Miami.

Christopher Columbus High School in Miami was awarded

honorable mention in academics and Cardinal Gibbons High School in Fort Lauderdale was awarded honorable mention in civic education.

"The Archdiocese of Miami is so very proud that three of our high schools have been recognized in the Top 50 Catholic High Schools in the United States," said Marist Brother Angelo Palmieri, archdiocesan superintendent of secondary schools. "All of our Catholic schools work very hard to provide a nurturing environment where students can learn to become good Christians and good citizens. We congratulate the administration, faculty, and students of Archbishop McCarthy, Belen Jesuit, and St. Thomas Aquinas for their exceptional achievement."

The Honor Roll, which is published every two years, has seen more than 50 percent of America's nearly 1,300 Catholic high schools participate at least once. The purpose of the Honor Roll is to recognize and encourage excellence in Catholic secondary education. It distinguishes those schools that excel in three categories: academic excellence, Catholic identity and civic education.

To see a list of the Top 50 schools, as well as lists of the 10 honorable mention schools in each category, visit [www.ctshonor.org](http://www.ctshonor.org).



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## JOIN THE PARTY

*Encuentros Familiares* will be hosting a series of activities in celebration of its 40th anniversary. Unless otherwise stated, these activities will take place at Casa Manresa/Ignatian Spirituality Center, 12190 S.W. 56 St., Miami. For information call 305-596-0001 or go to the website: [www.encuentros-familiares.org](http://www.encuentros-familiares.org).

- **Family Fest**, Sunday, May 22, 2 p.m. Great lunch, music, games and entertainment. Cost: \$5.
- **Single Parent Encounter**, Saturday, May 28, 8 a.m.-7 p.m. A one-day retreat specifically for single parents and their children ages 12-21.
- **40th anniversary Mass**, Sunday, May 29, 3 p.m., St. Mary Cathedral, 7525 N.W. Second Ave., Miami. Concelebrated by Archbishop Thomas Wenski, Auxiliary Bishop Felipe Estevez and retired Auxiliary Bishop Agustín Roman.
- **Encuentro de Encuentros**, Saturday, June 4, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., for all "Encuentristas."
- **40th anniversary concert**, Sunday, June 12, 3 p.m., Belen Jesuit School Rock Theatre, 500 S.W. 127 Ave., Miami. Features Andrés and Darleen Inajillo "Ayllu." Tickets: \$25.

# Forming better families

## Encuentros Familiares marks 40 years of ministry to more than 10,000 couples and 20,000 children

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO  
Florida Catholic Staff

**MIAMI** — Forty years ago was a frightening time for many parents: The "hippies" were in full swing; the term "generation gap" had been coined; the drug culture and "free love" were all the rage.

Add that to the culture shock experienced by newly arriving Cuban immigrants, many of them committed Catholics, and you have the makings of a new movement: *Encuentros Familiares*, currently marking its 40th anniversary in the Archdiocese of Miami.

Under the guidance of Father Florentino Aycoitia, a legendary Jesuit priest who died last year, the new movement came to life in 1971, when it held its first retreat.

*Encuentros Familiares* is aimed at parents and their children, ages 12 to 21. It consists of two days of peer-guided talks and reflections on subjects such as communication, family relations, child-rearing, personal spirituality and the sacramentality of marriage.

The talks generally are done in Spanish, although many of those

addressed to the teenagers are in English, or even the Miami dialect, "Spanglish." But plans are being made to translate the manuals into English, and hold the first English-language retreat next year.

Father "Tino," as he was lovingly known, "was the author. He came up with the manuals, created everything," said Jesuit Father Marcelino Garcia, who served 25 years as president and principal of Belen Jesuit Prep in Miami before taking over as spiritual director of *Encuentros Familiares* in August 2010.

At first, the movement was an itinerant one, holding the retreats wherever they were offered space: at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, at a private farm, at the since-closed Assumption Academy for girls on Brickell Avenue, at St. John Vianney College Seminary, at Immaculata-La Salle High School and at Belen Jesuit Prep.

Finally, in 1984, the movement purchased five acres of land in Kendall's "horse country," on the corner of Miller Drive and 122nd Avenue. They built a retreat house, Casa Manresa, which serves



Jesuit Father Marcelino Garcia poses on the grounds of Casa Manresa, the home for *Encuentros Familiares* and the Ignatian Spirituality Center. Behind him is a statue of St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits and creator of the spiritual exercises named after him. (PHOTOS BY ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO | FC)



*Encuentros Familiares*, a retreat movement for parents with children ages 12 to 21, is marking its 40th anniversary this year.

not just the movement but other groups as well, from Eumhaus and Catholic high school students to Buddhists and Protestants.

Casa Manresa shares office space with the Ignatian Spirituality Center, the site of retreats based on St. Ignatius of Loyola's spiritual exercises, and home base for their

offspring, the Christian Life Communities.

"The house is in use year-round, sometimes two retreats a week," said Father Garcia, who is aided by another Jesuit priest, Father Pedro Gonzalez Lorente.

*Encuentros* are held five or six times a year, all completely run

by veteran "Encuentristas," volunteers who lead the talks, cook the food, set up and clean up. The retreats are just the beginning, as participants are urged to continue attending follow-up meetings on Wednesday evenings.

The goal is to "improve and stabilize the marriage and the formation of the children," said Father Garcia, noting that whatever problems a family might be having, they do not disappear after a single weekend.

"That follow-up goes to forming the character of the person, of the whole family," said Sergio Calzadillo, who attended an *Encuentro* with his wife and 15-year-old son in 1978, shortly after moving to Miami from New Jersey.

There, he said, the parish was pretty much the center of their lives. *Encuentros* enabled them to quickly attach themselves to the Catholic community here. The movement also provided an ever-firmer faith foundation for both them and their son.

"Our son was involved (in *En-*

PLEASE SEE **FAMILY**, A17



# NEW/briefs

## Read archbishop's homilies

Were you at a Mass where Archbishop Thomas Wenski presided? Did you hear him deliver a homily? If so, odds are that the homily you heard is posted on the archdiocesan website, [www.miamiarcb.org](http://www.miamiarcb.org).

Any homily written out by the archbishop is posted within 24 hours, if not sooner, after it is delivered. Simply go to the archdiocesan website and on the top right click in the green box labeled, "From the Archbishop." Also available online are the archbishop's *Florida Catholic* columns and his opinion pieces for secular newspapers.

## Radio Paz ratings rise

Radio Paz 830 AM in Miami, which expanded EWTN radio programming from three hours to 12 hours in January 2011 as part of a restructuring that began in November 2010, saw a 50 percent increase in ratings in January over November 2010. The information comes from a report in Radio World, an industry trade publication.

"We are very happy with the increase in ratings," said Father Roberto Gid, director of the archdiocesan radio station. "It is a vote of confidence in our efforts to turn around Radio Paz and begin to address the serious financial problems that we face."

He added that "we have received many messages from listeners who are very happy. They are congratulating us."

For a complete local programming schedule, go to the Radio Paz website at [www.radiopaz.org](http://www.radiopaz.org).

## Prayer requests online

The Archdiocese of Miami has launched a new component on its website, "Submit a Prayer Request," which went live March 21, is a new feature that allows people to post their prayer intentions online. The Miami-based Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary, and Carmelite Fathers and Brothers will pray daily for the intentions listed on the site. Users are limited to submitting one request every three days; each request is limited to 150 characters. To post your prayer request, go to [www.miamiarcb.org/prayers](http://www.miamiarcb.org/prayers).

## FAMILY

FROM A16

*cuentros*) during all his years in high school and even his first year in college," said Calzado, who expects his two grandchildren to do the same once they turn 12.

"The thousands of families that have passed through *Encuentros* have benefited not only in their spiritual lives, but also in their social lives," Calzado said. "They have a relationship with the Church based on the great experience they had at *Encuentros*."

Of course, that is not why they come initially, he noted.

"Many people come in order to 'fix' their children. What they don't realize is that most of the time the problem is not our children but ourselves," Calzado said.

"The problems of the children — academic, disciplinary, developmental — create problems in the family," said Father Garcia. "To get into the marriage, we enter through the problems of the children. And there we discover the problems of the parents."

He pointed out that *Encuentros* also counts on help from seven professional psychologists, because most of the time the problems are not spiritual but psychological in nature.

Some years ago, *Encuentros Familiares* branched out to single parents and their children with a Sunday retreat called *Encuentros Uniparentales*.

Father "Tino" noticed that "30 percent to 40 percent of the families that were coming were broken, they had problems," explained Father Garcia. "This is a great need. A broken marriage



A photo of the late Father Florentino Azcoitia, the Jesuit priest who helped found and served as spiritual director of *Encuentros Familiares* for most of its existence, hangs in the office of Casa Manresa. (ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO | FC)

"Many people come in order to 'fix' their children. What they don't realize is that most of the time the problem is not our children but ourselves."

**Sergio Calzado, Encuentrista**

leaves an emotional scar that has to be healed."

The 297th *Encuentro Familiar* took place at the beginning of April. Over the past 40 years,

the movement has ministered to more than 10,000 couples and more than 20,000 young people.

The initial, largely Cuban participants gave way in the 1980s and '90s to Catholics from Nicaragua, but participants today represent the whole gamut of the Spanish-speaking world, according to Calzado.

"Our Hispanic people have a religiosity, even in Cuba," he said. "God is within us regardless. (In *Encuentros*) they receive the message. The young people find peer groups whose members are not afraid to say they believe in God. It is a style of life that is offered, and offered to everyone." ■



The Communications department is here to help you promote your parish and school activities that are open to the public.

### NEW FEATURE!

#### SUBMIT A PRAYER REQUEST

Help us pray for your specific situation by filling out the online request form, [www.miamiarcb.org/prayers](http://www.miamiarcb.org/prayers). Every request sent to us receives loving, compassionate attention.

#### JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

The archdiocesan blog, "Let's Talk" features a different blogger and topic each week and welcomes comments from you, our reader!

So, what are you waiting for... Let's Talk!  
Log on to: [www.miamiarcb.org/blog](http://www.miamiarcb.org/blog)



#### LOOKING FOR A CHURCH? USE OUR PARISH LOCATOR

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#### CATHOLIC CONVERSATIONS

Can now be located either on the archdiocesan home page, [www.miamiarcb.org](http://www.miamiarcb.org) beneath the TV Mass icon (see picture) or by going to its new page, [www.miamiarcb.org/CConversations](http://www.miamiarcb.org/CConversations).

The Catholic Conversations are scriptural reflections on the Sunday Gospel. They can be used by individuals, families, or parish groups for prayer and preparation to hear the Word proclaimed during the Sunday Mass.

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Promote your parish and school activities that are open to the public to thousands of people who visit the archdiocesan website monthly, [www.miamiarcb.org](http://www.miamiarcb.org).

All event information submitted online is also sent to the Florida Catholic and the Communications department!



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## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Cursillo family picnic.** Saturday, April 30, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Coral Estates Park, 1405 S.W. 97 Ave., Miami. Food, fun, games, fellowship; family and friends welcome. 305-710-0121.

**"Nostalgia Night 2."** Saturday, April 30, 8 p.m., Good Shepherd, 14187 S.W. 72 St., Miami. Have fun all night with music from the 1970s and '80s; dress accordingly. Hosted by *Cursillos de Cristiandad*. \$10; food and drinks additional. 305-778-7962.

**Modern-day slavery exhibit.** Sunday, May 1, noon, St. Maurice, 2851 Stirling Road, Dania Beach. Organized by the Coalition of Immokalee Workers to create community awareness of human-slavery and human trafficking. 954-961-7777.

**"The Resurrection of the Christ and Road to Redemption."** May 6-7, Belen's Roca Theater, 500 S.W. 127 Ave., Miami. A celebration of salvation manifested in Christ's post-crucifixion appearances as witnessed by his disciples. Proceeds benefit FAITH (Feed And Inspire The Homeless). 786-477-7608.

**St. Andrew yard sale.** Saturday, May 7, 7 a.m.-2 p.m., 9950 N.W. 29 St., Coral Springs. Something for everyone, from furniture to video games, antiques, jewelry, and clothes. 954-501-4965.

**"Ladies Day at the Derby."** Saturday, May 7, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., St. Bernadette, 7450 Stirling Road, Hollywood. Annual tea hosted by St. Bernadette Council of Catholic Women. \$20; reservations only. 954-437-6805.

**Magnificat luncheon.** May 14, 11:30 a.m., Our Lady of Lourdes, 11291 S.W. 142 Ave., Miami. A day of healing and renewal with Dr. Carol Razza, who will share her testimony of Christ's transforming love. \$20 per person; lunch included. 305-205-5599.

**Festival de Primavera.** sábado, 14 de mayo, 3-11 p.m., Iglesia de Our Lady of Divine Providence, 10205 W. Flagler St., Miami. Con actividades para jóvenes y jóvenes adultos, música religiosa en vivo, comida y diversión. 305-551-8113, ext. 2012.

## CONCERTS

**Hermana Glenda: "El Señor Es Mi Pastor"**, una noche de oración y alabanza al Señor.

• Sábado, 30 de abril, 8 p.m., St. Boniface, 8330 Johnson St., Pembroke Pines. Se venderá comida. 954-432-2750.

• Viernes, 6 de mayo, 6:30 p.m., Blessed John XXIII, 16800 Miramar Parkway, Miramar, a beneficio de la fundación *Consuelo a Mi Pueblo*, A.C. 954-392-5062.

**Carl Maria von Weber: Mass and clarinet concerto.** Monday, May 23, 7:30 p.m., Epiphany, 8235 S.W. 57 Ave., Miami. Features soloist Ilan Iliev, and a rare performance of Weber's beautiful "Mass in E-Flat," with soprano Iori

Kotake. Free. 305-667-4911

**Concierto Entregando Amor.** sábado, 28 de mayo, 6 p.m., Coral Springs Center for the Arts, 2855 Coral Springs Drive, Coral Springs. Una noche de música y alabanza para Aquel que todos nos entrega. Invitado especial: Mons. Felipe de Jesús Estévez. Donación \$20. 954-344-5990.

## FAITH-EDUCATION

**SEPI (Southeast Pastoral Institute).** 7700 S.W. 56 St., Miami. Clases en español a través del año. 305-279-2333, sepimiami@aol.com.

• Immersion in Spanish language and culture. May 22-June 10, especially designed for priests, religious, lay and anyone interested in Hispanic people and Hispanic ministry. Immersion in environment and daily life situations, classes, cultural experiences and presentations allow students to reach a good level of communication and better understanding of the culture.

• *Maestría en Ministerio Pastoral Hispano*, acreditada por Barry University. Cursos presentan una reflexión teológica sobre realidades y contextos culturales hispanos, exploran la herencia cultural y teológica hispana, promocionan la formación para el ministerio laico, y ofrecen oportunidades de crecimiento personal y espiritual.

• *Principios de Pastoral Hispana*, 9-28 de mayo, con el Padre Mario Vizcaino, Escorial. Estudio los puntos esenciales de Cristología contemporánea y su relación con la pastoral; ministerio pastoral y sus diferentes formas; la Pastoral Hispana Nacional.

• Las Cartas de San Pablo II, 17 de mayo-16 de junio, martes de 10 a.m. a 1 p.m. o jueves de 7:30 a 10:30 p.m., con el Padre Pablo Laguna. Estudie el contexto de la época de San Pablo; la relación de sus cartas con los otros escritos del Nuevo Testamento; sus viajes; comunidades; y cartas.

**Post Camino del Matrimonio.** Wednesday, May 11, SEPI, 7700 S.W. 56 St., Miami. Marriage enrichment program presented by Camino del Matrimonio. Presentations relate to ways couples can improve their marriage, both spiritually and practically. Offered the second Wednesday of every month. Free. 786-306-3747.

**Sacramentality Day.** Saturday, May 14, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Nativity, 5220 Johnson St., Hollywood. Part 1 of 2 of the marriage preparation series for couples in the Archdiocese of Miami, based on Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body. Registration: 305-762-1148, joyfilledmarriage@gmail.com.

**Workshop for extraordinary ministers of holy Communion.** Saturday, May 21, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., San Isidro, 2310 Martin Luther King Blvd., Pompano Beach. Candidates will register through their parishes and must be recommended to the Office of

Worship in a letter signed by their pastor, \$10 per person. 305-756-2755.

## MASSES/PRAYER SESSIONS

**Songs and prayer in the spirit of Taizé.** Tuesday, April 26, 7:30 p.m., Barry University, Cor Jesu Chapel, 11300 N.E. Second Ave., Miami Shores. Join us for "Christian Prayer by Candlelight" and enter more deeply into the presence of God. 305-899-3650 or 305-458-9919.

**Vigil for Pope John Paul II's beatification.** Saturday, April 30, 7 p.m.-Sunday, May 1, 9:30 a.m., St. John Vianney College Seminary, 2900 S.W. 87 Ave., Miami. For archdiocesan youths to connect with their counterparts around the world. oiga898@aol.com.

**Mass in celebration of Pope John Paul II's beatification.** Sunday, May 1, 10 a.m., St. Mary Cathedral, 7525 N.W. Second Ave., Miami. Archbishop Thomas Wenski invites priests and faithful to celebrate, in union with Rome, the pope's beatification. 305-759-4531.

**Celebración de la fiesta de María Auxiliadora.** martes, 24 de mayo, 7 p.m., Immaculate Conception, 4497 W. First Ave., Hialeah. Santa Misa, rezo del rosario y ofrecimiento de flores. 305-822-2011.

**Misa con el arzobispo de Managua.** Mons. Leopoldo Brenes, domingo, 29 de mayo, 12 p.m., Our Lady of Divine Providence, 10205 W. Flagler St., Miami. 305-551-8113.

## RETREATS/DAYS OF REFLECTION

**Encuentro Conyugal 251.** sábado, 30 de abril y domingo 1 de mayo, Casa Cana, 480 E. Eighth St., Hialeah. Un fin de semana para fortalecer su matrimonio y encontrarse con Cristo vivo. 786-399-9783, 786-417-1454.

**Experiencia de Emaús.** basada en Lc. 24:13-35, lleva a los participantes a descubrir a Jesús en sus vidas.

• Damas y caballeros: 29 de abril-1 de mayo. Our Lady of Lourdes, 11291 S.W. 142 Ave., Miami. 305-439-3143 (damas) / 786-499-9207 (caballeros).

• Damas, 29 de abril-1 de mayo, San Lázaro, 4400 W. 18 Ave., Hialeah; retiro tendrá lugar en Casa Chali. 305-987-5562.

• Damas, 13-15 de mayo, Our Lady of Lourdes, 11291 S.W. 142 Ave., Miami. 305-439-3143, befferosas@gmail.com.

**Conferencia de la Divina Misericordia.** 7 de mayo, 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Sun Life Stadium, 347 Don Shula Drive, Miami Gardens. Enseñanzas y devoción a la Divina Misericordia del Diario de Sor Faustina. Con el Arzobispo Thomas Wenski, Obispo Felipe Estevez, Padre Piotr Prusakiewicz, Padre Alfredo Rolón, Diácono Rafael de los Reyes. Donación \$10. 954-445-5465 or 786-299-7767.

**Eucharistic cenacles,** with

## 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 eight weeks before the event. To list an event both on the website and in the newspaper, go to [www.miamiarcb.org](http://www.miamiarcb.org), click on the banner request to publish your event and follow the instructions. Notices also may be sent by e-mail: [arcotob@theadom.org](mailto:arcotob@theadom.org); fax: 305-762-1132; and mail: The Florida Catholic, 9401 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, FL 33138.

the Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Mass, adoration, prayer for the sick, intercession for needs of the Church and the world. 305-444-7437 or [servas@corazon.org](mailto:servas@corazon.org).

• First Fridays, St. Brendan, 8725 S.W. 32 St., Miami.

• Second and fourth Fridays, St. Raymond, 3475 S.W. 17 St., Miami.

• Third Fridays, St. Michael the Archangel, 2987 W. Flagler St., Miami.

**Charismatic conference with Robert Cantón.** May 27-29, Blessed John XXIII, 16800 Miramar Parkway, Miramar. Come hear this evangelist, teacher, healer. Be filled with the Spirit through praise and worship; spend time in adoration; be blessed with the healing you are seeking. \$5 per person. 954-392-5062.

**Wellspring Experience.** June 3-5, The Forum, 300 S.W. Third St., Pompano Beach. A two-night, three-day retreat for people dealing with significant loss, with primary focus given to the divorce experience. Time for personal reflection, small-group sharing. Open to all faiths. Closes with Sunday Mass. \$150 per person. Registration deadline: May 12. Participants must speak with one of the coordinators before registering: 305-823-7594, 954-718-7241, 954-797-9770.

**Charismatic conference.** "A Future Full of Hope," Saturday, June 4, 9 a.m.-10 p.m., St. Bernadette, 7450 Stirling Road, Hollywood. Sponsored by Catholic Charismatic Services of the archdiocese. A full day of praise and worship, anointed talks, personal prayer ministry, and an evening healing service with Benediction, led by Father John Fink and Marianist Father Dan Doyle. Adults: \$25; married couples: \$40. 954-961-1856.

## SCHOOLS

**Our Lady of the Lakes golf tournament.** Friday, April 29, Don Shula's Golf Course, 7601 Miami Lakes Drive, Miami Lakes. Sponsorship opportunities available. 305-778-0936.

**St. John the Apostle dance and fitness summer camp.** 479 E. Fourth St., Hialeah. Organized by YMCA, hosted at school. Early registration Saturday, April 30, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. 305-888-6819.

**St. Gregory the Great golf tournament.** Friday, May 6, 11:30 a.m., Lago Mar Country Club, 500 N.W. 127 Ave., Plantation. Includes lunch, dinner and beverages. Proceeds support school's scholarship fund. 954-473-8170, ext. 12.

**Chaminade-Madonna College Preparatory.** 500 E. Chaminade Drive, Hollywood.

• Spring concert, Thursday, May 12, 7 p.m., in the gym. Features student performances in choir, jazz, percussion, symphonic band, dance. Free. 954-989-5150, ext. 134.

• Golf classic, Friday, May 13, 11 a.m., Hillcrest Golf and Country Club, 4600 Hillcrest Drive, Hollywood. Includes dinner, awards ceremony. Proceeds benefit education, athletic, financial aid programs. Sponsorships available. Register at [www.cmlions.org/golffair](http://www.cmlions.org/golffair).

• Alumni sports hall of fame, Saturday, May 14, 6 p.m., in the cafeteria. Honorees: Mike Castellani, Gary Grass, Enzo Grossi, Tom Kidd, Marty McDonnell, Heidi Myers, Allison Saffran, Mike Saffran, Richard Sheridan, Dennis Tymosko and Ron Vogler. \$30. Reservations by May 6. [www.cmlionsden.org/sports](http://www.cmlionsden.org/sports) or 954-989-5150, ext. 140.

**St. John Neumann fishing tournament.** Saturday, May 21, 12:15 S.W. 107 Ave., Miami. Lots of fishing, good food, family atmosphere. Don't fish? Bring your family and join the after-party. [crodriquez@sncs.org](mailto:crodriquez@sncs.org)

**St. Theresa fishing tournament.** Saturday, May 21, Cocoplum Yacht Club. A great day for a great cause, fun for the whole family. Sponsorships available. Sign up at [TaqGroup@mindspring.com](http://TaqGroup@mindspring.com).

**Archbishop Curley Notre Dame High summer programs.** June 13-July 15, 4949 N.E. Second Ave., Miami. 305-751-8367.

• Performing arts camp; grades six-nine; learn fundamentals of drama, singing and band, plus backstage skills such as lighting, sound, set design. Students will perform in a Broadway-style production. \$500.

• Athletic camp, grades six-nine; basketball, football, tennis, soccer, baseball, and softball fundamentals. \$100/week.

• Pre-med camp, grades nine to 11; introduction to health care system with lab and field work. \$400.

## YOUTHS/YOUNG ADULTS

**CORE (Christ Our Reason Everyday),** meets Mondays, 8:30 p.m., Mother of Christ, 14141 S.W. 26 St., Miami, Room 210. Grow closer to God through fellowship, stewardship, devotion to Jesus. [coreministry@gmail.com](mailto:coreministry@gmail.com).



# Many hands help bring roses to moms

## Mother's Day project now reaches 400 women in five nursing homes

**ANNE DIBERNARDO**  
Florida Catholic correspondent

**MIAMI** — Back in 2008, Maria Meneses, a parishioner at St. Patrick Parish on Miami Beach, told the *Florida Catholic* about her vision — to deliver a rose to all female patients in nursing homes each year on Mother's Day. Through God's providence, that message touched hearts, turning Meneses' dream into a reality.

This year marks the fifth anniversary of Meneses' flower ministry, which began quite simply with her desire to pay tribute to her late mother, Eneyda Meneses, who cared for a sick aunt in a nursing home.

"This corporal act of mercy is spreading God's love in the most simple of ways — via a rose to bring a smile," said Meneses.

"It takes every hand to bring this project of love to fruition," she added. "Originally, it started out as an Emmanuel project for our church. Since then, Emmanuel groups at St. Joseph and St. Rose of Lima parishes have participated. The music ministry and the flowers came together because of the *(Florida*

*Catholic*) article."

Meneses and Maria Elena Negrin have been coordinating the event with the Emmanuel women at St. Patrick's for the last five years. This year, the distribution date has been changed from Mother's Day weekend to May 28, Memorial Day weekend.

"Msgr. John Vaughan, our pastor at St. Patrick, has been so gracious each year to allow us women of Emmanuel to use the Barry Hall to set up shop for the preparation and handling of the flowers. He is so gracious and really is on board with this program," Meneses said.

She said she hopes more parishes will join the handwagon to serve more nursing homes in the Archdiocese of Miami. Currently, the volunteers visit five nursing homes: South Point Plaza, Miami Beach; Hebrew Home of South Beach; Villa Maria Catholic Nursing Home, North Miami; Treasure Isle Nursing Home, North Bay Village; and Oceanside Nursing Home, Miami Beach. These facilities are home to more than 400 women.

Serenading the women is another component of the day. Miles Codias, a former coordinator of young adult ministry for the Archdiocese of Miami, and co-founder of GO FISH (Go Forth and Invite Someone Home) Miami, an outreach and evangelization ministry, helps Meneses coordinate music for the day. Codias, along with a team of young musicians, serenades the women in the nursing homes.

"When Maria Meneses asked

me to help, I knew it would be important, and she was having a hard time finding a musician," said Codias.

He already had the experience of visiting nursing homes and hospitals for the dying to sing Christmas carols. "Through those experiences I realized how valuable our visits are to the patients," Codias said.

St. Rose of Lima's Emmanuel women get additional help from the Girl Scouts chapter in Miami Shores. Teresa Kurack, Troop 659's leader and an Emmanuel sister, said distributing the roses is one of the community service projects the Scouts do each year.

"The girls find it very rewarding to give flowers to the women in the nursing home. It's a good experience for them and I'm glad they enjoy it. They actually look forward to it and ask me each year if they are going to the nursing home. It says a lot about the girls — they have big hearts," said Kurack, noting that she enjoys it too. "I get more out of it than the residents. It makes me feel good. I would encourage other people to help out because it is such a rewarding experience."

"As you can see, there is the hand of God in all of this — without each of the components to this story, we don't have anything to bring out," said Meneses. "But with all the parts there is love and joy that is given out that day. I believe this is very reflective of the Church as being the body of God. We are all parts of that body on this project." ■



St. Patrick parishioner Maria Meneses started delivering flowers to women in a nursing home on Mother's Day five years ago, as a tribute to her late mother and out of a desire to serve others. Now she wants others to join her in performing this little gesture of kindness once a year. (ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO | FC)



Vicki Campos, a sales manager for the Village of Key Biscayne flower import company "Spring Always," has been donating more than 400 roses each year to the "flowers for moms" project begun by St. Patrick parishioner Maria Meneses. (ANNE DIBERNARDO | FC)

## Florist finds finest flowers for mom

**ANNE DIBERNARDO**  
Florida Catholic correspondent

**MIAMI** — One of the first people to call Maria Meneses after the article on her Mother's Day project appeared in the *Florida Catholic* three years ago was Vicki Campos, a sales manager for the Village of Key Biscayne flower import company "Spring Always."

Since reading the article, Campos has been donating more than 400 roses each year to the project.

"Talk about a charitable heart," said Meneses. "Without this resource and her graciousness, this program would not be possible."

"It works out so nicely," said Campos, who said her inspiration for everything she does is the Blessed Mother.

The roses are imported from a flower farm in Colombia. Campos takes great care to make sure the farm sends the finest roses for this occasion. "It takes many phone calls to make sure the farm sends what the customer wants. This is the most difficult part of the pro-

cess."

To maintain freshness and ensure that the flowers do not dehydrate and die, flowers are shipped from Colombia in refrigerated containers and delivered to the "Spring Always" cooler in Doral.

Campos explained that depending on where the flowers are going, she must instruct the farm to cut them at certain stages in the growth process. For example, if the flowers are going to Japan they must be cut early because they prefer the head to be closed tightly. Some markets prefer them with leaves and some like them trimmed.

For the Mother's Day giveaway, Campos instructs the farm to send the most beautiful multicolor roses. "I present each rose with a ribbon and a sleeve made especially for the occasion."

Campos studied flowers in Tuscany and worked at one of the farms. She believes that flowers represent God, in that they are perfect. "They are the perfect expression of a human being," she said. ■



## GALA



Archbishop Thomas Wenski poses with local philanthropist and Epiphany parishioner Bunny Bastian during the archdiocesan gala held April 9 to raise funds for two educational centers in the archdiocese. The gala, attended by more than 300 people, raised funds for the Leadership Learning Center at St. John Bosco Parish in Little Havana and the Learning Center at Notre Dame d'Haiti Mission in Little Haiti. (COURTESY PHOTO)

## NEWsbrieFs

## See 'slavery museum'

St. Maurice Parish will host a visit by the Mobile Modern-Day Slavery Museum on Sunday, May 1, at noon in the church, 2851 Stirling Road, Dania Beach. This mobile museum — which recently visited the Mall in Washington, D.C. — was created by the Coalition of Immokalee Workers to create community awareness about human slavery and human trafficking in the 21st century. Along with information, refreshments will be served. For information, call 954-661-7777.

## New Mass in Chinese

The Chinese Catholic community has begun celebrating Mass the first Sunday of each month at St. Thomas University. The Mass is celebrated 11 a.m. in St. Anthony Chapel on campus, and it will be preceded by religious education classes at 10 a.m. and Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults classes at 9:30 a.m.

Masses in Chinese will continue to be held the second, third, fourth and fifth Sundays of every month at St. Jerome Parish in Fort Lauderdale.

Chinese-language classes for children and adults also take place on Sundays at St. Jerome. St. Thomas

University is located at 16401 N.W. 37 Ave., Miami Gardens. For information, contact heleenachan28@yahoo.com or call 305-302-7065.

## Divine Mercy meet

The Archdiocese of Miami will host a Divine Mercy Conference on Sunday, May 7, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Sun Life Stadium, home of the Miami Dolphins football team, in Miami Gardens.

Among those invited to take part are Archbishop Thomas Wenski; Auxiliary Bishop Felipe Estevez; Father Piotr Prusakiewicz of the Congregation of St. Michael the Archangel, and former chaplain of the Mother House of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Warsaw, Poland; Father Alfredo Rolon, parochial vicar at the Church of the Little Flower in Coral Gables; and Deacon Rafael de los Reyes, spiritual director of the archdiocesan Apostolate of Divine Mercy.

Participants may drive or organize their own transportation by buses. Parking is free of charge. The event will be held in a fully air-conditioned convention hall and elevators are available for those with physical challenges. Simultaneous translation from English to Spanish also will be available free of charge, but the audio equipment must be reserved in advance.

Donation at the entrance is \$10 and a reasonably priced lunch will

be served. For information, call 786-239-7767 or email rafael@pracon-struction.com.

## Divorced can heal at Wellspring

The Family Life Office of the Archdiocese of Miami is sponsoring a two-night, three-day retreat for people dealing with significant loss, with primary focus given to the divorce experience. The Wellspring Experience will take place June 3-5 at The Forum, 300 S.W. 3rd St., Pompano Beach.

The retreat provides a timeout from everyday stressors to work on oneself in a safe nurturing environment.

"The Wellspring Experience can be a catalyst to begin healing the hurt after a painful breakup," said Jean Duda, archdiocesan coordinator of the Divorce Recovery Ministry.

The weekend includes time for personal reflection, small-group sharing and is open to all faiths. Sunday Mass closes the experience. The fee is \$150 per person and the deadline to register is May 12.

Participants must speak with one of the Wellspring coordinators before registering for the weekend. Call Helen at 305-823-7594, Bob at 954-718-7241 or Jean at 954-797-9770, or email jvduda@gmail.com

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