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OF MIAMI

END OF SUMMER PARTY



David Otero, 22, a history major and transfer student, plays touchdown bungee during the Barry University block party that marked the end of summer. (MARLENE QUARONI | FC)

Teach 'the yes,' not 'the test'

Archbishop Wenski tells Catholic school principals to stress 'character, compassion and virtues'

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO
Florida Catholic staff

MIAMI SHORES — Catholic schools in the archdiocese began the 2010-2011 academic year

with a clear, strong message from Archbishop Thomas Wenski, relatively stable enrollment, and anniversary celebrations for two

PLEASE SEE **SCHOOL, A10**



SEMINARIANS GO BACK TO SCHOOL

St. John Vianney seminarians applaud at the start of the Mass of the Holy Spirit at St. John Vianney College Seminary Aug. 28. (See story, Page A28.) (MARLENE QUARONI | FC)

SEE ALL STORIES RELATED TO THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR, PAGES A8-A20



Young girls lead the way, and a Knights of Columbus honor guard salutes as the image of Our Lady of Charity enters the University of Miami Bank United Center on Sept. 8. Thousands gathered for the annual celebration of the feast of the patroness of Cuba. (PHOTOS BY JONATHAN MARTINEZ | FC)

Charity begins at home

Annual Mass in honor of Our Lady of Charity draws hundreds of devotees

BLANCA MORALES
Florida Catholic correspondent

MAIMI — A multitude of Catholics gathered Sept. 8 at the University of Miami's Bank United Center to celebrate the patroness of Cuba, Our Lady of Charity. The image of the Virgin of Charity represents the faith, hope and patriotism of the Cuban people, both in exile and in their homeland.

This year, 2010-2011, marks the final year of the triennial preparation for celebrating the 400th anniversary of the image's discovery.

She was found in 1612 at Nipe Bay, floating on the water over a board which read, "I am the Virgin of Charity."

Our Lady of Charity was named patroness of Cuba in 1916 by Pope Benedict XV and the image was crowned in 1936. In celebration of the image's finding and presence throughout Cuban history, the image of the Virgin of Charity is traveling from El Cobre to each of Cuba's provinces.

The bishops in Cuba, in a state-

ment on the occasion of the start of the image's pilgrimage Aug. 8, said, "Through her, we have experienced the presence of God and his merciful love for us."

As those in Cuba celebrated this feast day with great joy and fervor, those in Miami also joined in the celebration of their beloved patroness.

An image of the Virgin that is housed in the Shrine of Our Lady of Charity in Miami was brought to the University of Miami, where hundreds of devotees filled the arena in a sea of white and gold — the colors associated with the image.

Officiating at the Mass was Archbishop Thomas Wenski, his first time celebrating this feast day as archbishop. With him were Archbishop Emeritus John C. Favalora; retired Auxiliary Bishop Agustin Roman, rector emeritus of the shrine; and other bishops and priests.

Archbishop Wenski spoke of Mary's "yes" to God, of her travel to help her cousin Elizabeth, and how the title of "charity" can be lived out by all faithful.

"Today we venerate our mutual mother under this beautiful and eloquent title: Virgin of Charity. And charity is precisely the path to fulfill God's plan. Putting oneself on this path means a commitment of love toward our brothers, a disinterested offering," he said.

In celebrating this "very Cuban feast," the archbishop joined every Cuban in praying for peace in Cuba.

"By the Virgin's intercession, may we put aside the fear that paralyzes us, the pride that divides us, the hate that destroys us." ■



Sandra Amaya, a parishioner of St. Bernadette Parish in Hollywood, prays the rosary before the image of Our Lady of Charity arrives for Mass.



Father Quesnel Alphonse, pastor of St. Louis King of France Parish in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, shows a new Haitian earthquake monument to remember the deceased clergy, seminarians and parishioners at the parish. Many lost their lives when the church collapsed in the Jan. 12 quake. (TOM TRACY | FC)

In Haiti, a monument to earthquake victims

Brick wall at Port-au-Prince parish bears names of some of the deceased, including 10 seminarians

TOM TRACY
Florida Catholic correspondent

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Parishioners arriving for Sunday Mass here Aug. 22 got a preview of what may be the first monument in Haiti commemorating the victims of the deadly Jan. 12 earthquake.

Somewhat reminiscent of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C., finishing touches were still being applied to the 800-brick monument which stands on the grounds of Saint-Louis Roi de France (King of France) Parish in the Haitian capital.

The bricks of the monument

were taken from the collapsed chapel here, and take the shape of two converging walls with a colorful cross in the middle. Months of planning and local donations of more than \$13,000 helped launch the project which is still being tweaked. The wall features a visible crack running from the ground up to signify the earthquake damages.

Many of the bricks bear the names of the local deceased, including one of the Montfort missionary priest on staff here and 10 seminarians who were killed while sitting in a van, crushed by a collapsed carport.

PLEASE SEE WALL, A5

Miami youths have meeting with Haitian president

Delegation delivers school supplies, smiles to displaced students and street children

TOM TRACY

Florida Catholic correspondent

MIAMI — Between distributions of school supplies and toys to Haitian street children and low-income students, members of a young adult delegation from Notre Dame d'Haiti Parish in Miami were invited to meet with the Haitian president and first lady during Labor Day weekend.

Eighteen young adults from Notre Dame traveled to Port-au-Prince and the surrounding areas Sept. 3-6 as part of an ongoing medical and pastoral outreach to Haiti organized by the south Florida Haitian-Catholic communities following the devastating Jan. 12 earthquake.

Haitian President René Préval — nearing the end of his extended term as president of Haiti as elections approach this November and facing strong criticism that the government has been unable to deal effectively with the earthquake's aftermath — invited the Miami delegation and Father Reginald Jean-Mary, the pastor of Notre Dame d'Haiti, to meet at his temporary residence in Port-au-Prince.

"The question I personally had for the president was what is it that we Haitians living abroad can do in this situation, and the president focused on education," said Emmanuel Pean, 31, a member of the young adult group. "He asked Haitians living abroad to come back and live the reality in our mother land and help with education, which is key."

Pean said Préval discussed the difficulties of the newly dislocated and homeless populations in Haiti, and touched upon his decision not to seize private lands for mass relocations of people out of the refugee tent cities.

The president expressed concern for new makeshift dwellings being erected around the city — perilously on steep hillsides in a manner that contributed to the loss of life Jan. 12.

"He also said that Haiti is grateful for the charities and nongovernment organizations that provide temporary relief, but that we have to work together in sync with each other," Pean said.

Outside of the capital, the Miami youths stopped at the Centre d'Accueil de Carrefour, a shelter for hundreds of street boys, established by the Brothers of Incarnation. They also met with some 1,600 kids at a school in Carrefour sponsored by the Sisters of Theresa.

The delegation had made ar-



Father Fritzner Bellonce of Pompano Beach gives Communion to parishioners living on the grounds of St. Louis King of France Parish during a recent trip to Port-au-Prince. (PHOTOS BY TOM TRACY | FC)

rangements in advance to ship down bags of schools supplies and toys for the children, but the items never cleared customs in time. So members purchased goods locally in order to complete their mission.

"To see the condition in which those children are sitting down to start school and to witness so many of the kids crying was very moving," said Father Jean-Mary. "The situation for the Church and clergy there is getting even worse now with the challenge of school under way: They are looking for funding to be able to

pay teachers and feed the children."

On several occasions, the group witnessed firsthand the impact of a heavy downpour on some of the tent dwellings. But the overall impression for the youth delegation was that the Haitians are enduring the earthquake situation with "courage, faith and dignity," Father Jean-Mary said. "Our youths have taken a decision to continue to support the children with some kind of assistance."

The delegation members were also impressed with the grateful attitude of the youths they encoun-

tered in Haiti.

Pean, who said he left Haiti when he was 14, has been back on several occasions but this was his first trip back since the earthquake. "The

people still have a smile on their faces, they still have joy, they are still humble. When I was getting off the plane, I feared how the people would be. They were not rebellious; they were saying 'thank you.' I am still processing this experience and thinking about everything that I take for granted."

Attending Sunday Mass outdoors at St. Louis King of France Parish in Port-au-Prince, the Miami youths noticed how well-dressed and patient the Haitians were with the extreme heat and discomfort. It made them think of their air-conditioned church back in Miami and how they sometimes wish the church could be cooler.

Seeing dwellings soaked with rain and mud put things into perspective.

"In one of the tent cities we went, it was so muddy as a result of the rain, the little temporary housing, and we spoke to several people who said they have to sleep standing up, otherwise it will be sleeping in the mud," Pean said.

PLEASE SEE HAITI, A23



A volunteer doctor with Miami Medical Team examines a man at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Cayes-Jacmel during a recent mission trip. At left is Father Fritzner Bellonce of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish in Pompano Beach.

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Same-sex marriage, objective truth and the common good

Recently, a federal judge set aside California's marriage amendment arguing that it violated the U.S. Constitution. The matter will likely be ultimately decided by the U.S. Supreme Court.

And so, a new salvo in our nation's culture wars was fired — and those of us who support the traditional understanding of marriage fear that the U.S. Supreme Court might indeed impose a redefinition of marriage on us in much the same way as it imposed legalized abortion with *Roe v. Wade*.

The stakes are high. Those who see "same-sex marriage" as progress toward a more "tolerant" society will — with characteristic intolerance — label their opponents as "intolerant," "bigoted," "homophobic" and so on. However, to defend marriage as a monogamous union between one man and one woman is not bigotry. Nor are the efforts of those who seek to enshrine in state or federal constitutions the "traditional" understanding of marriage intolerant.

Of course, in America, we value our privacy and that of others — and so today most agree that one's sexual orientation shouldn't necessarily be anyone else's business. And even those Americans who hold homosexual activity to be immoral and sinful are increasingly tolerant of homosexuality as a "private" phenomenon. They might invite the person who experiences same-sex attractions to conversion and, in place of behavior viewed as sinful, propose chastity — but they do not invoke the coercive power of the state to force such a conversion.

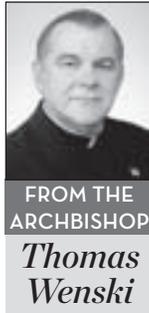
On the other hand, however, in redefining the legal definition of marriage to include same-sex unions, the proponents of "gay marriage" are in effect imposing their views and lifestyle on the larger populace. Once legal, the state's coercive power will

punish those who refuse to embrace gay marriages. For example, public officials — regardless of their views on the rightness or wrongness of homosexual acts — will be obliged to officiate at same-sex "weddings," and public schools will be required to teach their acceptability to children whether parents concur or not. Even First Amendment freedoms will not be protected from assault.

Marriage has been primarily about the raising of children (who seem to be hardwired to be best raised by a father and a mother who are married to each other). The state has had a legitimate interest in favoring such traditional marriages as a way of investing in the future of society by providing for the human flourishing of upcoming generations. Of course, in recent years, in the face of increasing relativism and individualism in the culture, the state has often retreated from vigorously promoting these interests: Sometimes this occurred through legislation (e.g. no-fault divorce laws); sometimes through judicial fiat (e.g. *Roe v. Wade*).

In the culture wars, the two sides are fighting about the understanding of man and his relationship to truth and reality. One side — and today "gay marriage" is its poster child — holds that anyone can essentially create his or her own reality. This side holds for a radical autonomy by which truth is determined not by the nature of things, but by one's own individual will. The other side holds men and women are not self-creators but creatures. Truth is not constructed, but received and thus must reflect the reality of things. Or, as the Book of Genesis says: "Male and female, He (God) created them" (Gn 1:27).

The former's position, like that of the secular utopias of the 20th



FROM THE
ARCHBISHOP
Thomas
Wenski

APPOINTMENTS

Archbishop Thomas Wenski has made the following appointments:

Auxiliary Bishops Felipe Estévez and John Noonan — re-appointed as vicars general.

Effective Aug. 2:

Father Luis A. Pérez — administrator of St. Richard Parish, while retaining his responsibilities as pastor of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish, Cutler Bay.

Effective Aug. 16:

Father David Smith — in residence at San Lázaro Parish, Hialeah.

Effective Sept. 1:

Father Chanel Jeanty, J.C.L. — chancellor for canonical affairs for a term of three years, while retaining his assignment as parochial vicar at St. Rose of Lima Parish, Miami Shores

Father Richard Vigoa — priest secretary to Archbishop Wenski for a term of three years.

Father David Zirilli — vocations director, with residence at St. Mary Cathedral.

Father Liam Quinn — pastor, All Saints Parish, Sunrise.

Msgr. Michael Souckar — temporary administrator, St. Sebastian Parish, Fort Lauderdale, for a period of one month.

Father Giovanni Peña — parochial vicar, St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Miami.

Father Armando Tolosa — parochial vicar, St. Louis King of France Parish, Pincrest.

Deacon Manuel Canovaca — spiritual director, Renovación Católica Carismática Hispana.

Deacon Charles Edel — permanent deacon, St. Ambrose Parish, Deerfield Beach.

Deacon Mario López — permanent deacon, Mary Help of Christians Parish, Parkland.

Deacon Jesús Tosco — permanent deacon, St. Boniface Parish, Pembroke Pines.

Effective Sept. 17:

Msgr. Tomás Marín — to the

board of trustees of St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary, Boynton Beach.

Effective Sept. 29:

Father James Fetscher — pastor, St. Sebastian Parish, Fort Lauderdale.

Effective Oct. 1:

Sister Elizabeth Worley, Sisters of St. Joseph — named chief operating officer and chancellor for administration.

Msgr. Michael Souckar — graduate studies at the Pontifical Gregorian University with residence at Casa Santa Maria, for a period of one year.

Father Michael Hourigan — pastor, St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Lighthouse Point.

Father Carlos Vega — pastor, St. Bernard Parish, Sunrise.

Father Joaquín Rodríguez — pastor, St. Martin de Porres Parish, Leisure City.

Father Paul Vuturo — pastor, St. Louis King of France Parish, Pincrest.

Effective Oct. 15:

Msgr. Oscar Castañeda — pastor, St. John the Apostle Parish, Hialeah.

Father J. Rumín Domínguez, Order of Friars Minor — rector, National Shrine of Our Lady of Charity, Miami.

Father Michael Greer — pastor, Assumption Parish, Lauderdale-by-the-Sea.

Father Jesús Arias — pastor, Good Shepherd Parish, Miami.

Father Enrique Estrada — parochial vicar, St. John Neumann Parish, Miami.

Effective Nov. 1:

Father Kenneth Whittaker — pastor, Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Deerfield Beach.

Permissions granted:

Msgr. William Hennessey — retirement, effective Sept. 15.

Msgr. Frederick Brice — retirement, effective Oct. 1.

Msgr. James Parappally — retirement, effective Nov. 1.

Father Anibal Morales — sabbatical.

century, is a recipe for tyranny; the latter's position promises a freedom that is only achievable through adherence to objective truth which we do not, and could never, invent.

Same-sex "marriage" — if allowed to prevail in law — will result in the devaluation of all marriages

with terrible consequences to society. That marriage is a lifelong union between a man and a woman is certainly part of Catholic teaching — in fact, in our teaching, this union is seen as a covenant and is a sacra-

PLEASE SEE **MARRIAGE, A12**

El matrimonio, la verdad y el bien común

Recientemente, un juez federal anuló la enmienda matrimonial en California, argumentando que violaba la Constitución de los Estados Unidos. Con toda probabilidad, este asunto será decidido por la Corte Suprema de los Estados Unidos.

Así se dispara una nueva salva en la guerra de culturas en nuestra nación, y quienes apoyamos la interpretación tradicional del matrimonio, tememos que la Corte Suprema de los Estados Unidos pueda imponernos una redefinición del matrimonio, de la misma manera

que impuso el aborto legal con *Roe v. Wade*.

Hay mucho en juego. Quienes ven el "matrimonio" entre personas del mismo sexo como el progreso hacia una sociedad más "tolerante", con característica intolerancia llamarán a sus oponentes "intolerantes", "prejuiciados", "homofóbicos" y así por el estilo. Sin embargo, defender el matrimonio como una unión monógama entre un hombre y una mujer, no es intolerancia, como tampoco lo son los esfuerzos de quienes buscan consagrar en las constituciones es-

tatales y federales la interpretación "tradicional" del matrimonio.

En América, por supuesto, valoramos nuestra privacidad y la de los demás, y por eso la mayoría está de acuerdo en que la orientación sexual de una persona no es asunto de otros. Aún los americanos que consideran inmoral y pecaminosa la actividad homosexual, son cada vez más tolerantes de la homosexualidad como un fenómeno "privado". Hasta pueden invitar a la conversión a la persona que experimenta atracción hacia personas del mismo sexo

y proponer la castidad, en lugar de un comportamiento visto como pecaminoso. Pero no invocan el poder del estado para presionar y lograr dicha conversión.

Sin embargo, al redefinir el significado legal del matrimonio para que incluya a las uniones entre personas del mismo sexo, los partidarios del "matrimonio homosexual" imponen su punto de vista y su estilo de vida en la población; una vez se legalice, el estado podrá utilizar

PLEASE SEE **ARCHBISHOP, A21**

Teens trained for peer leadership

MorningStar Renewal Center holds first-ever retreat for teen leaders

BLANCA MORALES
Florida Catholic correspondent

PINECREST — The last week of July, MorningStar Renewal Center was filled with the laughter and youthful energy of 10 high school students who were being trained to be leaders in the Archdiocese of Miami.

This was MorningStar's first retreat designed for teen leaders. The weeklong peer ministry training program equipped the students to lead archdiocesan youth retreats.

"It was a dream come true," said Sue DeFerrari, who had wanted to train older teens for ministry since she became director of the retreat center — formerly the Dominican Retreat House — in 2004.

"Young people always want to serve, whether they are Christian or not," she said. "As Catholics, our service only goes a certain length unless it's connected to spirituality — sacraments, community, prayer — otherwise it won't flourish."

She teamed up with Alex Jesurun and his wife, Mary, who volunteer at MorningStar. The Jesuruns, who are Saint Leo University alumni, learned the ropes of peer ministry at the Benedictines' retreat center at St. Leo.

MorningStar's training program combines their experience at Saint Leo's campus ministry, along with DeFerrari's and her husband, Michael's, experience working with National Evangelization Teams (NET) Ministries,



Peer ministers trained at MorningStar Renewal Center include, from left, back row: Peter Kaldahl, Rasheed Ali, Bianca Manos, John Mark Kaldahl, Andrea Morales, Stephen Fischer, Alice Kraus and Christa Cawley; and front: Monica Dyches, Justin Yglesias. (COURTESY PHOTO)

which trains young adults to put on youth retreats around the country.

Using practical and spiritual exercises, the peer ministry training program at MorningStar trained its attendees to be better leaders, both in the Church and in the world. The peer ministers learned team building, public speaking, faith sharing, small-group dynamics and drama ministry.

The retreat was comprehensive, touching upon all different aspects of faith and ministry. Retreat participants even completed the Virtus

course, which is required of anyone 18 and over involved in ministry in the archdiocese.

The retreat used the Benedictine values of work and prayer, "and fun," as Alex Jesurun added, to help the youths become better and more prayerful leaders.

"Each exercise and activity we did had a lesson in it. Each had a challenge and kept us thinking. It kept my brain on its toes," said 17-year-old Andrea Morales, a senior at Felix Varela High School, who attends Our Lady of Lourdes

Parish in southwestern Miami-Dade County.

The teens also attended daily Mass and participated in daily personal and group prayer, which included the Divine Mercy chaplet.

"One of the best spiritual moments of the retreat for me was Wednesday afternoon," said Christa Cawley, 16, a junior at Miami Sunset High School who attends St. Louis Parish in Pinecrest. "We sat in the chapel for probably two hours, just meditating and praying."

As she waited in the chapel to receive the sacrament of reconciliation, Christa said she felt a deep sense of renewal. "God had just healed me physically about half an hour before going into the chapel, and then it was time to heal my insides. It was beautiful how God pieced the healings together like that."

During their times of prayer and personal meditation, the peer ministers had an opportunity to examine themselves, their faith, and to get to know Christ on a deep, personal level.

"We often live so rushed we don't take the time to take things in," said Andrea. "That week, that's what we did. We slowed down and took in each moment. We would think deeper and reflect on things, like who we are as individuals, about the people in our lives, our relationship with God, the gifts he has given us."

The Jesuruns, along with the retreat's other leaders, agreed that the teens had grown much during the week they were there. "They be-

came a team, a family," Alex Jesurun said.

"Within a day or two, the peer ministers dove deeper into conversation and seeking God," said Mary Jesurun. "Their thought process blew me away. It was amazing seeing how open they were to the voice of God."

"The retreat was an experience unlike any other," said Justin Yglesias, 15, a member of St. Louis Parish. "Not only did I learn how to be a peer minister, but even more importantly I found who my brothers and sisters in Christ are, the people I can always go to with anything that's on my heart."

"All other retreats I've been on or helped at lasted one to three days," said Christa. "I was worried about being homesick at first, but by the second day I didn't want to leave. I loved how the setting at MorningStar became 'home' overnight. Having that week to just take everything one step at a time and not be rushed with anything made the experience even more enjoyable."

The peer ministers took on their first service assignment at the end of August: They helped facilitate a retreat put on by Catholic Hospice for children and teens who recently lost a loved one.

MorningStar will continue to hold the peer ministry training program for anyone who is interested, as well as offering more advanced classes for those who have already gone through the program. ■

For information, visit www.morningstarrenewal.org or call 305-238-

WALL

FROM A2

A collapsed parish chapel killed 10 parishioners who had gathered for a prayer service, according to Father Quesnel Alphonse, a Montfort missionary who is pastor of the church. He was in the rectory and on his way to the prayer service, but survived the quake.

"I could easily have been one of those killed, but by God's grace I lived, and this was an idea I had to pay homage to those who died," he said through a translator.

Designed by local architect and engineer Indra Lafontan, some of the bricks will remain blank, to signify the estimated hundreds of thousands of victims overall as well as those whose remains were never found or identified, according to the priest.

With a section of the wall out-

fitted to hold candles, the monument attempts to convey the Judeo-Christian idea that out of darkness emerges light. Another major theme was taken from John 12:24, concerning the dying seed giving new life.

"We still want to do some work to the lighting in the coming days so that the themes are clear and so people can find some solace from the monument," Father Alphonse said.

"I know of no other (earthquake) monuments in Haiti yet, but the government is putting together a commission to study the idea of a memorial — it would not be built before some time in 2011. As far as I know, this is the first memorial."

St. Louis Parish serves an estimated 2,000 local Catholic families and is the provincial headquarters of the Montfortan order of priests. Foundations from the chapel site are still in place, and evidence suggests that the chapel was built as a reinforced concrete structure. But the amount of reinforcing and

quality of construction was inadequate to resist the quake, according to a Haiti Site Assessment Report compiled by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

There are six remaining structures on the compound, all damaged. Only three were assessed as repairable and those will require minor repairs, the report noted. The Montfortans were hopeful that their major house could be repaired, but the assessment team was in agreement that the structure was too badly damaged.

The parish grounds now support a tent city for the parish staff and hundreds of members of the local community, as well as a school and health clinic. Church services are being held under a transitional structure constructed on the site adjacent to the location of the destroyed chapel.

During a visit at the end of August, many parishioners could be seen walking silently past the monument, pointing at various

names or weeping. Also visiting at the time was a delegation of Florida-based clergy and medical volunteers who attended Sunday morning Mass and took a tour of the monument. The area also incorporated an earthquake-related photo exhibit which may eventually be given a permanent space in the monument.

"It is such a simple, in the Haitian tradition, yet meaningful and beautiful little structure; I think it was well presented and the cleanest spot I have seen in all of Port-au-Prince," said Eugenio Silva, a board certified prosthetist-orthotist from Miami, who was making his first-ever visit to Haiti.

"I hope that monument is a catalyst for the rest of the city, an ignition point for the reconstruction of Haiti, with that attention to detail and that artistry," Silva said, adding he is concerned about the overall instability of Haiti following the quake. "I wish they could continue that wall right down the hill and into the

slums all the way until they are done fixing up that city."

The people are living in squalor and can't go on forever like that, he added.

"I am really concerned if we don't act soon, somebody else will, and it could be a radical organization. It is a very dangerous situation politically and ripe for radicalization. Basically, they will look at the West and say you people didn't do enough."

Father Alphonse, however, noted that every act of charity or outreach from abroad has given the Haitian people a great sense of support and solidarity. He hopes the relief and reconstruction work continues.

"We Haitians have a great faith and sense of hope, but that is not enough. We need the systems and structures in place to support the people. The physical needs are still lacking; faith needs to be accompanied by additional structures and resources," the priest said. ■

The Roman Missal: the Church's common treasure

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

U.S. CONFERENCE OF
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Office of Media Relations

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

the first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 27, 2011.

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

None of these questions has a short, simple answer. Following is

the first in a series of articles produced by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops that seeks to answer those questions.

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

LYNN S. WILLIAMS

The new English translation of the Roman Missal, the official manual for the Roman Catholic Mass, has been approved, and soon familiar prayers and responses said in churches around the English-speaking world will change.

Priests will follow newly translated instructions. Prayers used throughout the Mass and some responses of the congregation will change. Sacred chants and music used in worship will also be updated.

The full texts of the English translation received *recognitio*, or approval, from the Vatican in June and July of 2010. The new translation will be implemented in U.S. dioceses in Advent 2011. It will be the most significant change to the Mass in more than 40 years.

An occasion like this raises the question: Why is the Roman Missal so important?

"The Roman Missal is a common treasure," said Msgr. Antho-

ny Sherman, executive director at the U.S. bishops' conference Secretariat of Divine Worship. "It is the book that provides us with prayer text. It serves as a point of unity that keeps us all together, presenting the prayers that are used around the world, in many languages, during universal feasts or holy days."

Latin is the core text of the Roman Missal, evolving from oral tradition to written words. During the 15th century, in the era of the first printing press, the earliest book called *Missale Romanum* appeared. After the Council of Trent in 1570, Pope Pius V issued the edition that set the premier standard of uniformity used by celebrants of the Catholic faith.

Eight former popes issued new editions between 1604 and 2002, and each maintained a consistent style of worship for prayer in the Roman rite. Over time, additional Masses, prayers and revised rubrics (instructions) used to celebrate the Mass were added.

The need for vernacular translations of the Roman Missal arose after the Second Vatican Council, and the present English translation of the Mass, which dates back to the 1970s, follows the Vatican's guidelines of that time, which favored translations that were easy to understand in the vernacular.

When Pope John Paul II issued the Third Edition of the Roman

Missal in 2002, a new English translation was required. Since the new English translation is guided by the 2001 Vatican document *Liturgiam Authenticam*, it presents a more literal translation of Latin wording and sentence structure than is used in the current translation.

"The current translations are centered more on the community than the divine," said Father Paul Turner, a parish pastor in the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Mo., and author of "Let Us Pray: A Guide to the Rubrics of Sunday Mass."

"They were somewhat inattentive to inclusive language, and lacked some theological depth and musicality. The first translations condensed some of the content of the prayers. The new translation improves that," he said.

"This is not a new Mass," said Michael McMahon, president of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, adding that with a new translation, "one of the opportunities we have is to look at the parts of the Mass that should be sung" in the dialogue between the priest and the people and integrate them.

One of the challenges of introducing a newly translated missal is retraining priests to lead Mass. Downloadable recordings for priests who don't read music are being produced and distributed free, online. Major publishers will release material on compact discs.

The Roman Missal itself is the primary source of training and instruction for the new translation. It displays rubrics, sentences printed in red that instruct a priest on what to say and do, how and when to gesture, and when to sing the common prayers in the order of Mass. It provides instructions that guide the celebrant in leading the liturgy and the people assembled in ritual response for each occasion of Mass.

It also dictates the words used by a priest during the Mass, which with the new translation will reflect a more formal style than past translations.

"It will sound much more like Latin," said Father Turner.

"The Roman Missal puts us into a tradition of prayer and creates a historical awareness in the roots of where we are now," said Msgr. Sherman. "When you study the background of these prayers, you become united" with the perpetual mission of the Church. ■



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Pilgrimage in reverse

Youth participation is key to big events being planned when relics of St. John Bosco visit Miami

BLANCA MORALES AND ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO
of the Florida Catholic

MIAMI — Organizers are calling it a pilgrimage in reverse because instead of traveling to Turin, Italy, to visit the saint's grave, south Floridians will have the opportunity to venerate the relics of St. John Bosco right here at home.

The worldwide "Don Bosco Among Us" pilgrimage will bring relics of the saint to Immaculata-La Salle High School in Miami and St. John Bosco Parish in Little Havana, beginning the evening of Saturday, Sept. 25, and concluding the morning of Monday, Sept. 27.

Each location has a full schedule of activities planned, with all-night outdoor events at Immaculata-La Salle geared to middle and high school students, as well as members of youth groups and young adults.

The festivities will begin Sept. 25 at 8 p.m., with fireworks and a procession around the school's track, continue with performances by a Christian music band and a Christian stand-up comedian, and conclude with an outdoor Mass celebrated by Archbishop Thomas Wenski at 8 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 26.

Events at St. John Bosco Parish will include a mariachi-led musical welcome at 11:30 a.m. Sept. 26, followed by Spanish-language Masses at 12:30 and 7 p.m., fol-

lowed on Monday, Sept. 27, by a 5 a.m. rosary and Masses at 6 and 8 a.m.

Thousands of people, young and old, are expected to congregate at both locations. The public will be able to venerate the relics from around 9 p.m. Saturday to 4 a.m. Sunday at Immaculata-La Salle High School; and from 2 to 6:45 p.m. and 9 p.m. to midnight Sunday at St. John Bosco.

What South Floridians will see is basically a full-size replica of what is on display at the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians in Turin, where Don Bosco, as he was known, lived and died.

"This is going to be beautiful, really beautiful," said Sister Teresa Gutierrez, a member of the Salesians, the educational order founded by Don Bosco, who work at Immaculata-La Salle High School.

According to the official website, www.donboscoamongus.org, "the relics of Don Bosco have been recomposed from the urn that contained his remains since 1929 when the body was exhumed for his beatification and canonization. The bones and tissues of the right hand and arm have been taken and placed within a wax replica of St. John Bosco's body, which in turn is enclosed in a large (glass) urn."

The relics are touring 130 countries around the world in preparation for the 200th anniversary of the saint's birth in 2015.

"It's gone to every major country in all of South America," Sister Gutierrez said. "It went to Cuba and they showed the arrival of St. John Bosco on national television."

Father Joe Boenzi, a professor at the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology in Berkeley, Calif., and the Salesian Pontifical University in Rome, explained the importance of the relics' arrival in this country during a meeting for youth ministers at Immaculata-La Salle High School last month.

He said the United States is the first non-Hispanic, non-majority Catholic country that the relics will visit. Father Boenzi will be at the Mexico-California border to welcome the saint into America.

The relics — carried in a special truck driven and secured by members of the Italian armed forces bearing Vatican passports — entered the United States from Mexico on Sept. 11 and will travel to San Francisco, Los Angeles, New Orleans, St. Petersburg, and Belle Glade, Fla., before arriving in Miami.

From here, they will go to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., and St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York.

The Archdiocese of Miami plans to greet St. John Bosco "as he would have liked," said Tanya Acosta, campus minister at Immaculata La Salle, who along with fellow faculty member Milagros Beltran, is coordinating the youth-oriented portion of the events.

"This is not a funeral, it's a celebration," said Acosta, and it has been given the acronym DAWN — Don Bosco Among Worship NFun, which is also an allusion to the all-night nature of the festivities.

"Don Bosco, the patron saint of youths, dedicated his life to bringing the youths to Christ. It is our dream, as it was his, to do the same," she wrote in the local website, www.donboscoinmiami.com. "For this reason, we

are planning an entire evening of events geared toward celebrating our youths, our faith, and our Lord."

"The visit of Don Bosco, patron saint of the young, to Miami offers a wonderful opportunity to unite our youths in celebration, prayer and worship, an opportunity for our clergy to reflect on their great vocation to be true shepherds to God's people," said Father Juan Carlos Paguaga, pastor of St. John Bosco Parish. "It is an opportunity for religious to renew their dedication to their charisms and the service of others, and an op-

portunity for the laity to implore God's blessings through the intercession of this great saint."

Youth ministers wishing to register their youth group must do so by Sept. 17 at the Don Bosco in Miami website: www.donboscoinmiami.com. DAWN also has a page on Facebook, which can be reached through <http://tinyurl.com/boscoonfacebook>. ■

For more information, call Immaculata-La Salle at 305-804-3315 or St. John Bosco Parish at 305-649-5464. For the complete schedule of events, see the box this page.

DON BOSCO SCHEDULE

Saturday, Sept. 25:

- 8 p.m., relics arrive at Immaculata-La Salle High School, 3601 S. Miami Ave., Miami; procession led by middle school students from around the archdiocese; relics then moved to school's cafeteria for public veneration until 4 a.m.
- 9 p.m., Father Thomas Dunne, provincial of the Salesians' Eastern Province, speaks to young people gathered at Immaculata-La Salle's football field.
- 11 p.m., Christian music concert featuring Bill Brown and the Covenant Band.
- 12:30 a.m., performance by Christian comedian Judy McDonald.
- 3:30 a.m., diocesan pep rally.
- 6 a.m., young people process into cafeteria to venerate the relics.
- 8 a.m., outdoor Mass celebrated by Archbishop Thomas Wenski.

Sunday, Sept. 26:

- 10:30 a.m., relics are taken by caravan to St. John Bosco Parish, 1349

W. Flagler St., Little Havana.

- 11:30 a.m., Mariachi Mora Arriaga greet the relics with music outside the church, followed by a brief welcome blessing and more music.
- 12:30 p.m., with the relics inside the church, retired Miami Auxiliary Bishop Agustín Román celebrates Mass; homilist is Bishop Mario Fiandri, a Salesian who serves as apostolic vicar of El Petén, Guatemala.
- 2-6:45 p.m., veneration of the relics.
- 7 p.m., Mass for young people, celebrated in Spanish by Auxiliary Bishop Felipe Estevez.
- 9 p.m., veneration of relics, until midnight.

Monday, Sept. 27:

- 5 a.m., church re-opens, Bishop Román leads morning rosary.
- 6 a.m., Mass with Bishop Fiandri as main celebrant and homilist.
- 7 a.m., farewell Mass, celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop John Noonan, with Bishop Fiandri as homilist.

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From 'nothing' to excellence

Cardinal Gibbons High School, founded in 1961, looks back on its first 50 years

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO

Florida Catholic staff

FORT LAUDERDALE — Paul Ott remembers going to Cardinal Gibbons High School back in 1962: The girls were in one building, the boys were in another. One student came to school by boat, another on horseback.

"There was nothing," he said.

No traffic, no streetlights, no homes on the other side of Bayview Drive and no seawall separating the street from the water. The school had neither a cafeteria nor a locker room, so the boys could not shower after exerting themselves on the sports field.



Framed by banners depicting Cardinal Gibbons High School's crest and motto, Archbishop Thomas Wenski celebrates Mass in the school gym.

JOIN THE PARTY

Cardinal Gibbons High School will continue to mark its golden anniversary throughout this school year, beginning with a "once-in-a-lifetime celebration" set for Saturday, Oct. 2, 7-10 p.m., on campus, 2900 N.E. 47 St., Fort Lauderdale. The celebration will include historical highlights, music and campus tours. Cost is \$40 per person. R.S.V.P. by Sept. 20 to 954-491-2900, ext. 215 or 50anniversary@cghsfl.org.

"Some of the students would just jump into the canal. In those days the water was crystal clear," said Ott, who also remembers spending a lot of time pulling weeds and laying sod on the school grounds.

Ott did not leave Gibbons for long. He graduated in 1966, went to the University of Notre Dame and returned to teach at Gibbons in 1970. He is now the school's principal.

His memories are shared by others who attended the school in those early years. Many met their husbands and wives in Gibbons' hallways. Many continue to be a part of the school because their children and grandchildren attend. Many also have returned, like Ott, to teach at their alma mater, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

"I'm actually quite happy that I didn't have to do the rocks," said Mary Mullen, a 1972 graduate whose three children, now ages



Sophomores Patricia Solenski, left, and Brittany Crouse, right, sing along with their classmates during the opening-of-school Mass marking Cardinal Gibbons High School's 50th anniversary. (PHOTOS BY ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO | FC)

30, 26 and 20, also are Gibbons alumni. She was referring to the fact that physical education, in the earliest days, meant removing rocks from a campus that seemed to be under perpetual construction.

Now, Gibbons' 26-acre campus has a gym that seats 1,200, 48 fully air-conditioned classrooms, eight science labs, a computer lab, a chapel that seats 300 and a total of

10 buildings, not to mention football and baseball fields, and six tennis courts.

The campus is surrounded by nice homes with well-manicured lawns, and Bay View Drive Park is next door, as is St. John the Baptist Parish, whose pastor is the school's supervising principal, Msgr. Vincent T. Kelly.

The school is no longer co-institutional, as it was until 1972, with boys and girls studying separately and coming together only for typing and science. In the beginning, the Piarist Fathers staffed the boys' side and the Franciscan Sisters of Mary Immaculate staffed the girls' side.

Today, Piarist priests and Franciscan sisters remain on staff, although the administration and faculty are overwhelmingly lay. The school has gone from an initial enrollment of 176 freshmen and sophomores to a current total of more than 1,200 in grades nine through 12; from losing its first football game 66-0 to winning state championships in volleyball, tennis, baseball, wrestling and cheerleading.

In 1987, Gibbons also received the Blue Ribbon for Excellence in Education from the U.S. Department of Education.

One thing that has not changed over the past 50 years, according to Mullen: "It was a family then and there's evidence that it still is today."

She expressed nothing but admiration for the people who

taught her at Gibbons, including her former teacher, Franciscan Sister Janet Rieden, who has been there since 1963.

"They were the ones who instilled in so many of us a sense of service, a sense of giving back. We were very lucky to have been in this environment, and I think it shapes you," said Mullen. "I already can see the same thing happening with (my children). This was their foundation."

Jack Seiler, Fort Lauderdale's mayor, is a 1981 graduate of Gibbons. He and all his siblings went there, one of his own children already graduated, two more are currently enrolled and a fourth will be there in a couple of years.

"It's very rare to find a school that can combine the academics, the spiritual, the social and the athletics," Seiler said. "It all comes together so nicely here."

Circuit Judge Martin Bidwill, a 1983 graduate, praised "the values that all of these teachers instilled in us and the work ethic."

Carlos Perez-Cubas, activities director and a 1979 Gibbons grad who also began teaching there right after college, remembers being student government president when the school broke ground for what is now known as Building M.

"I was a person with the shovel representing the students. Now I'm teaching in that building, so talk about fate," he said. "I laid the

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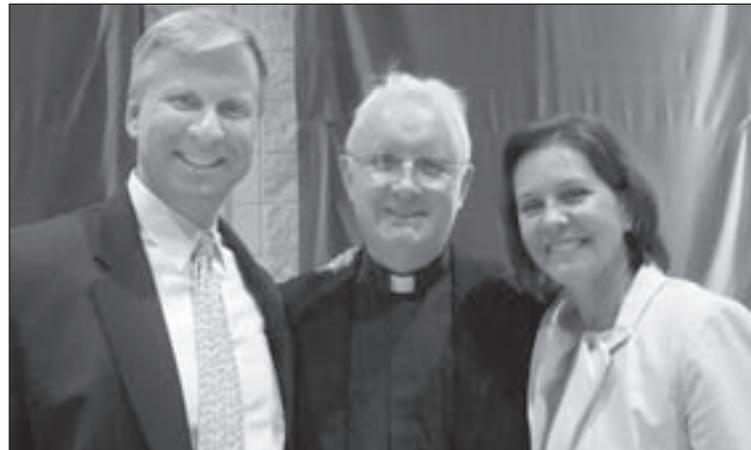
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PLEASE SEE **GIBBONS, A11**



Top, Archbishop Thomas Wenski processes toward the altar Aug. 26 at the beginning of Mass in the capacity-filled St. Thomas Aquinas gym. Below, Msgr. Vincent Kelly, supervising principal of St. Thomas Aquinas High School, poses with former students Jim and Maria Camp after the 75th anniversary celebration. (PHOTOS BY GAIL BULFIN | FC)



St. Thomas Aquinas: Success by every measure

Archdiocese's oldest high school marks 75 years of turning out Catholic leaders in every field

GAIL BULFIN
Florida Catholic correspondent

FORT LAUDERDALE — In today's world, a high school can measure its success by graduation rates, testing scores and college scholarships. While these criteria are very important at St. Thomas Aquinas High School, leaders here look beyond those measurements in their definition for success.

"Are the students happy?" asks Tina Jones, principal for 11 years at this Fort Lauderdale school, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary year. "Is the student learning? If I can put those two things together then I know that we, as a school and a faculty, are successful."

Stroll down the open-air hallways of St. Thomas and it is clear this is a school that acts like a family. Teachers greet students by name. Legions of parents volunteer daily in the cafeteria, foundation and athletic offices. Laughter and conversations void of profanity are exchanged among students between classes. It is an atmosphere of respect and self-discipline. And it did not hap-

PLEASE SEE **AQUINAS, A20**

FAST FACTS: ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

1936 — St. Anthony High School, founded by the Adrian Dominican Sisters, opens with 12 students.

1952 — High school program is migrated to new facility in western Fort Lauderdale; named Central Catholic High School; opens with 218 students.

1961 — School is renamed St. Thomas Aquinas High School; enrollment is 718.

1966 — Dominican Sister John Norton is assigned to St. Thomas.

1970 — Father Vincent T. Kelly arrives.

1975 — Brian Piccolo Stadium opens.

1976 — One student is named a National Merit Finalist.

1984 — U.S. Dept. of Education names St. Thomas a Blue Ribbon School.

1986 — Five National Merit Finalists, One National Hispanic Scholar

1996 — 12 National Merit Finalists; again named Blue Ribbon School by U.S. Dept. of Education.

2001 — Three-story student parking garage opens.

2003 — 32 National Merit Scholars (13th in the U.S.), 13 National Hispanic Scholars.

2006 — 14 National Merit Scholars, 21 National Hispanic Scholars.

2008 — George F. Smith Athletic Complex opens.

2009 — Michael and Diane Bienes Center for the Arts opens.

2010 — 23 National Merit Semifinalists, 21 National Hispanic Scholars.

Current school snapshot:

- Student population: 19.5 percent Hispanic, 7 percent African-American, 2.5 percent Asian, 3 percent multiracial, 68 percent Caucasian
- 44 college prep classes
- 96 honors courses
- 23 Advanced Placement courses
- Nearly 74 percent Advanced Placement passing rate
- 44 clubs
- 10 national honors associations
- 86,000 hours in community service performed (annual average)
- 72 athletic teams
- 27 sports
- 82 state championships

— Compiled by Gail Bulfin

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SCHOOL

FROM A1

Broward high schools.

Archbishop Wenski presided Aug. 26 at the 75th anniversary Mass for St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Fort Lauderdale, which began life as St. Anthony High School and then Central Catholic High School 75 years ago. (See stories, A9)

On Aug. 30, he presided at the 50th anniversary Mass for Cardinal Gibbons High School in Fort Lauderdale, which was founded 50 years ago. (See stories, A8)

Then, during a Mass for all the Catholic school principals in the archdiocese, he reminded the educators that their job is to teach “the yes” not “the test.” That means teaching the Christian understanding of freedom, which is “the ability

not to do as we please, but to do as we ought,” the archbishop told the principals gathered Sept. 1 at St. Martha Church.

The “yes” Archbishop Wenski referred to was the “yes” of Jesus’ mother, Mary, and of Jesus himself, to doing the will of God.

He described today’s society as “narcissistically self-absorbed.”

“We want choices,” he said, which is why all types of permanent commitments — from marriage to priesthood and religious life — are on the decline.

“Any ‘yes’ is necessarily (viewed as) a limitation on my freedom,” Archbishop Wenski said. “Our idea of freedom is corrupted. Freedom comes to mean ‘doing as I please,’ that ‘I can decide for myself what is good and evil’; that ‘I am my own arbiter of truth’; that ‘if I am to be truly free, I must defy God, I must refuse to submit to his rules.’”

But Catholic schools must teach a contrary message: that to be “truly free” means to follow the rules of Christian living, “to commit oneself to the pursuit of the good; it’s the

‘Our idea of freedom is corrupted. Freedom comes to mean “doing as I please,” that “I can decide for myself what is good and evil”; that “I am my own arbiter of truth”; that “if I am to be truly free, I must defy God, I must refuse to submit to his rules.”’

Archbishop Thomas Wenski

ENROLLMENT REMAINS STEADY

MIAMI — Enrollment at archdiocesan schools totaled 34,260 this fall, compared to 34,418 at this time last year, according to Christian Brother Richard DeMaria, executive director of Christian Formation and archdiocesan superintendent of schools.

“We have 158 fewer students this year than last,” Brother DeMaria said. “However, if we reduce last year’s total enrollment by the 291 students from the two closed schools (St. Joseph in Miami Beach and St. Elizabeth-St. Joseph in Pompano Beach, which closed at the end of the 2009-2010 school year), there is a net increase of 133 students in the enrollments of the schools that

have remained open. So, I think that the report on enrollments is good news.”

Brother DeMaria also said that, so far, archdiocesan schools have experienced no negative consequences from the leasing of former Catholic school buildings to publicly funded charter schools.

He said a study conducted last year found that a total of “166 students left Catholic schools to attend charter schools. Only 17 students left a Catholic school to attend a charter school on parish grounds; 294 students who attended Catholic schools that closed transferred to other Catholic schools.”

— Ana Rodriguez-Soto

freedom to say yes to God, it’s the freedom to become holy, to become a saint.”

“The stakes are high,” the archbishop told the principals, and that’s why the Church invests in Catholic schools.

To do their job well, Catholic schools must be “about character, compassion and virtues — because

these are the qualities that will make us free to say yes, to say yes to excellence as in the sense of St. Irenaeus’ maxim: ‘The glory of God is man fully alive,’” Archbishop Wenski said.

“Isn’t it wonderful to be involved in Catholic education?” the archbishop concluded. “So many other schools only can teach ‘the test’; you can teach ‘the yes.’”

Archbishop Wenski also told the educators that he hoped to visit all the archdiocesan high schools “in the coming year, and also some of our parochial schools.”

In keeping with that promise, on Sept. 7 he celebrated the opening-of-school-year Mass at Archbishop Curley Notre Dame High School in Miami. ■

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From left, students Anneka McCombs, Sarah Bogdan, William Costa and Michael Hanke take part in Cardinal Gibbons High School's 50th anniversary Mass. (ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO | FC)

GIBBONS

FROM A8

sod in the priests' house. We always were working around the school."

"It is a family," said Ryan Saunders, class of 2002, who now works as director of liturgy for the archdiocesan Office of Worship. "Even as an alum coming back, you still feel part of a family."

And the undisputed matriarch of that family throughout the past 50 years has been Franciscan Sister Marie Schramko, 93, founding principal of the girls' division and assistant principal of the coeducational school since 1972. (See story, Page A14)

"I think the story is that she's still here and she's still our principal, and how blessed we are," said Mullen. "She's amazing."

Perez-Cubas described Sister Schramko as the "quiet power" behind the school.

"She's the rudder," he said. "She's very quiet. But she is one of the major steerers of the school."

"She has set an unbelievable example of leadership by service," said Ott. "She worked incredibly hard; took absolutely no credit for anything. But if you want to know who the backbone of the school is, it's Sister Marie."

Ott sat next to a beaming Sister Schramko at the Aug. 30 Mass to mark the opening of the school year. The Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Thomas Wenski, who reminded the faculty, staff, alumni and students that "Cardinal Gibbons High School exists not only to produce champions. It exists to produce saints."

By that measure, Ott is sure that Gibbons will continue to live up to its motto, "Excelsior" (higher).

"All you have to do is take a look at the student body," he said. "They're the best evidence of whatever we've succeeded at here." ■

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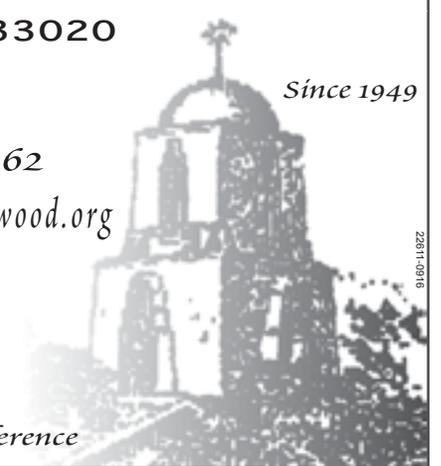
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Manager hopes to ease burden of accreditation

JEAN GONZALEZ
of the Florida Catholic staff

ORLANDO — Mary Camp's friends and colleagues in Ohio thought she was crazy to move to Florida in July. But the educator, who is the newest staff member of the Florida Catholic Conference (FCC), said bring on Florida's heat. She is where she wants to be.

"I've been here short of six weeks and my office (at the FCC) is a small part of a lot of great work that goes on here," said Camp, who arrived from the Midwest to serve as the conference's manager for its schools accreditation program. "All of the people here have been welcoming and they live their Catholic faith."

Camp comes to the position with 23 years of experience in Catholic education in the Diocese of Toledo,

Ohio. A teacher of math for middle and high school-age youths and of seventh-grade religion, Camp also served as principal of an Ohio elementary school and was actively involved in the Ohio Catholic Schools Accrediting Association.

For four decades, Florida's Catholic elementary schools have been under the FCC's accreditation program. The program is operated by the accreditation committee with the approval of the bishops of Florida. The committee is comprised of 14 members, including a representative from Florida's seven diocesan offices of schools and the Diocese of Savannah, Ga. While Catholic elementary schools fall under the conference's accreditation program, Catholic high schools are accredited through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Camp explained that the accreditation process is not something that occurs once; rather it is a seven-year cycle that involves annual self-studies and reviews of studies by both the diocesan superintendents and the FCC, and conferences and visitations by assessment teams. Elementary and special-needs school principals of 184 schools (which includes 15 schools in the Savannah Diocese) are required to fill out a self-study by October that covers about 90 standards.

Some of those standards cover general areas, such as schools evaluating their beliefs and mission statements; community; curriculum; personnel certifications and expectations; registration considerations, such as budgets and class size; school policies; media services; student services; guidance; and health

and safety standards.

It is an arduous process and as a former principal, Camp understands the challenges facing principals. Day-to-day operations of dealing with students, staff and parents make it difficult for principals to put in time during work to do a self-study, and Camp speculated that many principals might have to take the time after hours to complete a study.

But as a person with experience in evaluating accreditation, Camp also understands that the self-study and the entire process offer so much information to get the school on the right track, and see where needs should be filled and how to fill them efficiently. "It is not an easy process," Camp said, adding her job is to work with diocesan superintendents, but she is also only a phone call or e-mail

away from principals of individual schools. "My role offers the schools one person who is devoted to them and somebody who can help them through the process and send them in the right direction."

An exciting prospect about her position is seeing the launch of a new website that can help principals with the self-study task. The accreditation program now offers www.EAS-ed.org — an online resource that works to centralize and streamline communications, reporting and visitations associated with the program. EAS-ed, which stands for Electronic Accreditation System for Education, has Elizabeth Ann Seton as its patron saint.

On the site, principals can fill out the self-study, and once completed, the appropriate school superintendent can view it online. A login and password entry ensures that the self-study can only be viewed by the individual school, its diocesan superintendent and, when signed off by each diocese, Camp at the FCC. With the entire process being electronic, principals can fill out the study when the time is convenient, and it is saved and housed on the site. Camp has already gotten comments from principals on how the site is attractive, and more importantly, that it is easy to navigate.

"Besides my background, I am a math teacher and I love problem-solving," said Camp, who believes the site helps the accreditation process become the useful tool it should be for schools. "This new website is just incredible because it can ease the burden of the accreditation. And since it saves studies, principals can access from years past to see what was accomplished and whether concerns have been met, so in that way, the website can continue to be a great tool in assessment."

James Herzog, associate director for education and Camp's immediate supervisor, said the conference is delighted to have Camp on board as the new accreditation program manager. ■

For information on the accreditation process, visit www.EAS-ed.org

MARRIAGE

FROM A4

ment. However, marriage as a union between a man and a woman for the sake of family is not a product of religious sectarianism. Nor is marriage a creation of the state. It is founded in nature itself.

Marriage as an institution precedes Church and state — if not a creation of Church or state, neither has any authority to change the nature of marriage. The common good demands that the understanding of marriage as a union between one man and one woman not be lost. ■

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Photograph: Cross on steeple of the Danteo Navarro Religious Education Center.

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It's all in her journals

Sister Marie Schramko, 93, has been part of Cardinal Gibbons' history since it was founded

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO
Florida Catholic staff

FORT LAUDERDALE — The history of Cardinal Gibbons High School is written in the impeccable longhand of Sister Marie Schramko, bound in a series of journals she has kept since she arrived in Fort Lauderdale Aug. 8, 1961.

"I knew that if I ever tried to tell anybody they wouldn't believe me," said the stalwart 93-year-old, who has been at Gibbons since the cam-

pus was nothing but barren sand and skeletons of brick and mortar.

"The reason I wrote this is I wanted people to know. We weren't handed a beautiful building. We had no building. But we did whatever we had to do," she said while sitting in her immaculately ordered office just before the start of her 50th year at the school — and her 75th as a religious.

She had been a member of the Franciscans of Mary Immaculate for 27 years, a veteran teacher and

administrator of schools in Chicago, Joliet, Ill., and Toledo, Ohio, when her mother superior told her, "Sister, I'm going to send you to Miami."

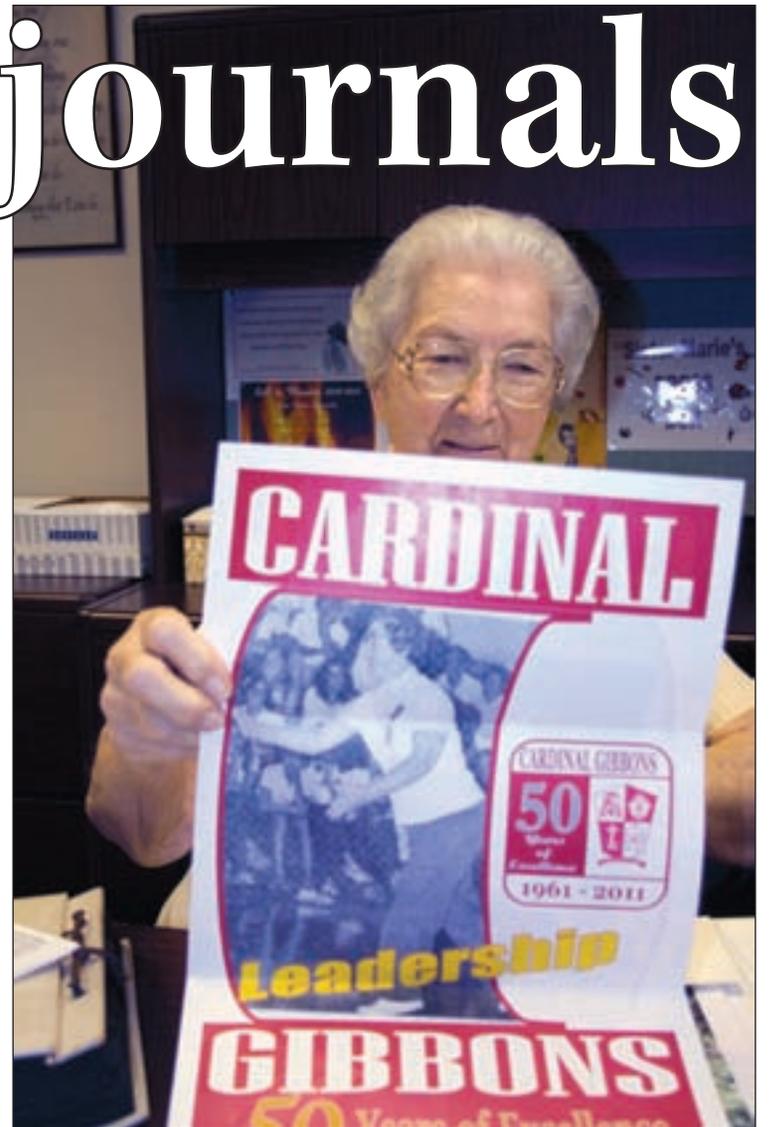
The date was July 20, 1961. She was actually going to Fort Lauderdale. Classes were set to start Sept. 5 — and they did, even though the buildings were not finished.

"This was all sand. No lights. No telephone," Sister Schramko recalled. "We had no water. We had no lavatories. ... If we wanted to go to the lavatory we drove over to Holy Cross Hospital," which is located several blocks west on Commercial Boulevard. The boys and girls went in "port-a-potties."

Sister Schramko became the founding principal of the girls' division of the co-institutional school. The boys' division was led by a Piarist priest, Father Henry Mirowski, and the supervising principal for both was a diocesan priest, Father Thomas Dennehy.

The campus was supposed to consist of two buildings — one for the girls and one for the boys. But neither was complete when Sister Schramko arrived, "just posts sticking out of the ground," she recalled.

So the boys and girls shared one floor of the girls' building — two rooms divided by a rudimentary partition. Thankfully, the contractor was a man they dubbed "50-day Collins" because "within 50 days he completed the boys' building," Sister Schramko said.



The 50th anniversary poster for Cardinal Gibbons High School features a picture of Sister Marie Schramko playing volleyball with the students during an assembly. "I had a pair of jeans on me and of course the kids were just astounded," she recalled. (PHOTOS BY ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO | FC)

Then there was the matter of getting the girls some privacy when they changed for physical education. Sister Schramko asked for some drapes to cover the windows. She was given damaged hand-me-

downs from a hotel.

"We sewed them together," she said, adding that one girl "was so thrilled. She had never done any-

PLEASE SEE **SCHRAMKO, A19**

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Sister Marie Schramko shows the neatly handwritten pages of the journal she has kept every year since 1961, when she arrived to staff the girls' side of Cardinal Gibbons High School. "Someday they'll want to know how we started," she thought.

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Is there more to ATHLETES than just SPORTS?

'To give any less than your best is to sacrifice a gift.'

Those were the words of Steve Prefontaine, a famous American middle- and long-distance runner of the 1970s, who died at age of 24 in a car accident.

A young man who definitely tried to reach for the stars on the track, Prefontaine understood his ability to light the field was something to be respected and treated as a gift from God.

Athletics are a gift. Think about how you benefit from being physically fit. It's kind of cool to think if you want to run to the corner store, you have the physical ability to do that.

Then there are the many lessons you learn from being on a team. Everyone wants to be respected for their abilities, whether it is being the person who best serves the volleyball or the fastest butterfly stroke swimmer. But do you respect the talents of your fellow players? Even those players on the opposing team? And do you respect the people who offer emotional support, and offer it to others as well? Saying thanks to those who cheer for you, and cheering on your colleagues when you are on the bench is important.

But how do you view your athletics as a gift? Our faith recognizes

the importance of sports and athletes since there is a patron saint for sports — St. Sebastian, a third-century archer and soldier.

There is also St. John Bosco — patron of teens and children. He inspired young people to be active, have fun and serve one another.

And there is Blessed Pier Giorgio. Read about this 20th-century young man and how his love of athletics was overshadowed by his love to serve people in his community.

As athletes, you can remember God at all times through prayer.

Praying before and after practice and games, even when you are dribbling the ball before making a free throw. It doesn't guarantee that the shot will go in, but it does mean you realize God is always your teammate — on and off the field.



WORD SEARCH

Find the following words below in the grid.

T	R	E	U	X	M	U	P	S	W	V	P	F	P	U
C	F	C	T	M	S	R	R	P	N	I	S	I	T	I
E	D	I	T	T	I	C	O	O	E	D	Z	E	O	T
P	V	F	G	D	I	S	I	R	K	O	L	L	A	M
S	V	I	E	G	L	S	G	T	C	R	D	D	Y	F
E	D	R	K	C	S	I	E	S	E	B	O	O	X	O
R	P	C	Q	I	O	A	O	M	P	L	G	W	C	R
B	U	A	M	R	M	B	G	A	U	I	H	T	L	T
L	A	S	G	W	N	Y	O	N	D	A	R	T	T	I
R	I	I	O	H	B	L	E	S	S	E	D	I	A	T
F	O	R	O	T	T	O	M	H	F	Q	Z	W	T	U
L	K	J	S	E	D	U	T	I	T	A	E	B	N	D
E	C	I	V	R	E	S	P	P	E	I	N	U	K	E
S	E	B	A	S	T	I	A	N	Z	K	F	A	Z	G
Z	I	C	C	A	T	M	Z	M	I	A	U	Y	L	H

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|---------------|
| ATHLETICS | GOD | SACRIFICE |
| BEATITUDES | JOHNBOSCO | SEBASTIAN |
| BLESSED | MISSION | SERVICE |
| FIELD | MOTTO | SPIRIT |
| FORTITUDE | PIERGIORGIO | SPORTSMANSHIP |
| FUN | PRIDE | TEAMWORK |
| GIFT | RESPECT | |

See puzzle answers, page A22

The 'Man of the Beatitudes'

He could have been a movie star or a star athlete who would have made millions of endorsement dollars. And maybe he would have had he lived past his 24th birthday. But while he loved sports, having sometimes reckless fun with friends, he was in no means a "meek and mild" young man. Pier Giorgio Frassati's passion was works of mercy.

He came from a wealthy family, but Pier Giorgio enjoyed helping the poor of his community — Turin, Italy, the site of the 2006 Winter Olympics. He kept a journal of all the little things he did for those in need. He did what Mother Teresa spoke of — doing small things with much love.

While he never received an Olympic medal, perhaps draping his image with a gold medal from the Turin (Torino) Olympics is a good gesture.

Did his works of mercy mean anything? You decide with this piece of history. On the day of his funeral, thousands of strangers — almost all of them from the slums of Turin — showed up for the Mass to say a final word of thanks to a young man who embodied the Beatitudes.

Would that be a way you would want to be remembered?

BLESSED ALL-STAR

BLESSED PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

BLESSED STATS

Born: 1901 in Turin, Italy **Death:** 1925, just shy of his 24th birthday
Beatified (a step before sainthood): 1990 by Pope John Paul II
Feast day: July 4

Nickname: "Man of the Beatitudes"

Champion on and off the field: Pier Giorgio was a young man with movie-star good looks. And he loved sports and physical activity, such as mountain climbing expeditions and racing up and down the slopes of the Italian Alps on skis. But what people didn't know about the young man is that his passion for athletics was overshadowed by his passion to help others and his faith. Sometimes instead of talking with others on his hikes, he prayed the rosary. He started each day with daily Mass. The son of a wealthy senator, he spent part of each day helping the poor and desperate of his hometown of Turin, Italy.

Accomplishments: Although his father was wealthy, the elder Frassati doled out a meager allowance to his children so they wouldn't be spoiled. Because he didn't have money to give as charity, Pier Giorgio took a hands-on approach and kept a journal of the impoverished, listing their needs and how to help them. When an elderly woman was to be evicted from a house, he found her a new home. He helped others find work when they were unable.

His time of death: A few weeks before his 24th birthday, he became ill and soon lost his life to polio. His family was unaware of his works of mercy until, on his deathbed, he gave his sister Luciana his journal and begged her to continue his work.

'... I just try to play the hardest I can and the fullest I can. And whatever happens, happens. Football or not, I know I'm going to be fine in life. I know I'd have another calling in life.'

— Rocky Boiman, National Football League linebacker for Pittsburgh Steelers, who earned a Super Bowl ring with the Indianapolis Colts

Success story

Archdiocese's first Haitian principal is alumnus of two of Miami's inner-city schools

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO
Florida Catholic staff

SOUTHWEST RANCHES — On Day 17 as principal of Archbishop Edward McCarthy High School, Richard Jean huddled with the singers and instrumentalists who had played at the opening-of-school Mass.

He had noticed that, unlike the football or volleyball players, these kids were not wearing special shirts announcing their involvement in the choir. We're going to get you special shirts, he told them.

"They're singing and praising God and they don't have a shirt representing that. They should be recognized. They're just as important as any athletic sport," Jean explained later, noting "not everybody can play sports, but everybody can be involved in something."

An interesting viewpoint from someone who went to college on a basketball scholarship and at one point entertained the idea of playing in the NBA.

"I love sports but I respect education more," said Jean, whose life story is quintessentially Miamian, and whose current status as the archdiocese's only Haitian-born principal is a validation of everything Catholic schools strive to do — and succeed at.

Jean, 41, stands 6 foot 2 inches, and wears a crisp suit and tie to school every day. He was born in Port-au-Prince and came to Miami in 1975, at age 5, with his mother and three siblings. She raised them alone, but insisted on a Catholic education.

He attended St. Mary Cathedral School (class of 1984) and Archbishop Curley Notre Dame High School (class of 1988), where he contributed to a state championship in basketball his sophomore year, and led Miami-Dade County in scoring as a junior and senior.

What he learned only after he graduated is that his pastor at the time, Msgr. Gerard LaCerra of St. Mary Cathedral, "had families who helped pay for us to go to school."

Jean said he had a hard time in elementary school because he spoke only French and Creole (which, ironically, he no longer speaks, although he does understand it).

"I was in a daze for years because they were talking around me. I didn't know what was going on," he recalled. "I thought I was dumb."

Once the English "clicked" around fifth or sixth grade, he wound up an honor student in high school.

"I was the king of the mountain. I was ready for school (every day)," he said, noting that the experience has added to his perspective as an educator.

"Kids don't wake up wanting (to fail)," he said. There is always a reason, and it is up to their teachers to figure out the problem.

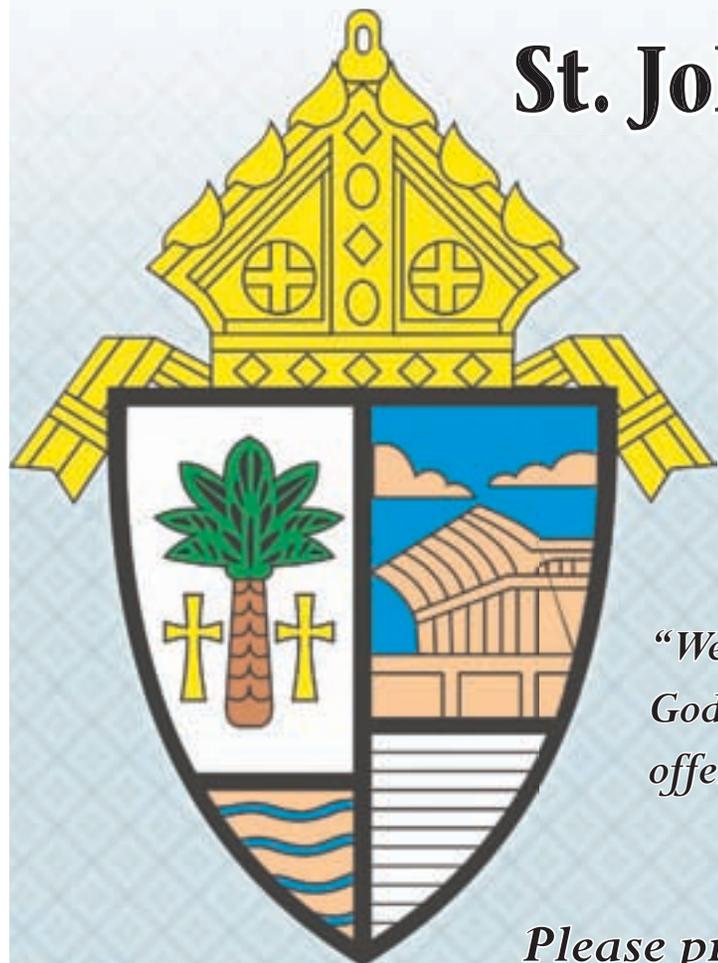
MOVE NORTH

After high school, Jean attended Duquesne University in Pittsburgh on a basketball scholarship — the

PLEASE SEE **JEAN, A18**



Richard Jean, the archdiocese's first Haitian principal and a product of the archdiocese's Catholic schools, poses in his new office at Archbishop McCarthy High School. (ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO | FC)



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St. John Vianney

Please pray for vocations to the priesthood of Jesus Christ.

More than *sticks and stones*?

Bullying is seen by some as a part of growing up, but has cyberbullying made the issue even worse?

JEAN GONZALEZ
of the Florida Catholic staff

ORLANDO — Erin Persinger is a good student at Bishop Verot High School in Fort Myers who enjoys volunteering in her community, hanging out with friends and participating in sports.

She's a good kid who sticks up for her friends. A good kid who's had her share of Facebook fights.

"As a 16-year-old girl, I'll be honest; I have gone on Facebook and defended my friends against people (who) have bullied them, and I have said unnecessary comments about other people while doing it," said Erin, who began her junior year. "Cyberbullying is real. This is 2010 and there are people who don't care what they say, because they feel they can say whatever they want because they are hiding behind a computer screen."

Erin was one of several teens volunteering for the Catholic HEART Workcamp held in Orlando in July. She took a week to meet teens from across the country to paint homes in the summer heat. During a break, she and other teens, along with adult chaperones, talked with the *Florida Catholic* about the realities of bullying and cyberbullying, and how it has affected their own lives.

DEFINITION

According to the National Crime Prevention Council, cyberbullying is similar to other types of bullying, except it takes place online and through text messages sent to cell phones. Usually victims know their cyberbully, whether they are classmates or online acquaintances. But the Internet offers an avenue

HELPFUL SITES

Web Wise Kids — webwisekids.org

NetSmartz — netsmartz.org

National Crime Prevention Council — ncpc.org

Wired Safety — wiredsafety.org

Cyberbullying Research Center — cyberbullying.us

for cyberbullies to be anonymous, as well. When the Internet, cell phones or other devices are used to send or post texts or images intended to hurt, torment, harass, embarrass or otherwise target another person, that is cyberbullying.

When experts or news reports talk about cyberbullying, many times social networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace are mentioned. Unfortunately, there have been cases in which attacks on those social network sites have escalated to real-world violence. In 2006, 47-year-old Lori Drew played a prank on her 13-year-old neighbor, Megan Meier, by posing as a teenage boy who posted attacks against the girl over a two-hour period. The attack the adult started spawned others online to post vicious rhetoric. Megan, a Missouri teen, committed suicide that night. In 2008, Lori Drew was indicted on one count of conspiracy and three counts of computer fraud under the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act for her role in what was dubbed the "MySpace suicide hoax."

On July 23, a Clearwater 20-year-old was convicted of second-degree murder of a then-18-year-old rival for a boyfriend. The two women began cyberattacking one another through

online posts. This later led to the stabbing death of Sarah Luedemann at the hands of Rachel Wade.

DAMAGING EFFECTS

The effects of cyberbullying on children and teens mimic that of other types of bullying — a drop in grades, low self-esteem, changes in interest, and depression. However, the difference between cyberbullying and that of more "conventional" bullying is that it can take place within a child's home, which is usually where they can be safe.

There is also the issue of permanency and a no-holds-barred attitude during "cyber-attacks." Erin said that she is constantly amazed at what people will text or type on instant messages or on MySpace or Facebook boards that she knows she wouldn't hear come out of that person's mouth.

"There are things said that would never be said face to face," the teen said. "And the messages are there for so many people to see. So you can't ignore it, you can't stop it, and sometimes you can't delete it. It won't just go away. Even when you delete something, it could still be there on a feed where people can search it. The only way to prevent cyberbullying (on Facebook boards) is to not have a Facebook account."

Rachael Chesnover, a sophomore from Fort Myers High School and also a parishioner of Resurrection of Our Lord Parish, added it is intimidating that with a single click of a mouse, a lewd comment or vicious rumor can be spread to an entire community of people. It's a cowardly action to attack people this way, Rachael said, but it is the reality of being online.

"Communicating with one another is different now," Rachael said. "I can control what I say and what I post, but I can't control everyone else."

A REAL SITUATION

Margie Aguilar, director of technological instruction for the Diocese of Orlando, believes cyberbullying is a very real and very important topic that needs to be in the forefront of both educators' and parents' minds.

"Cyberbullying is a problem that has become widespread as more and more children have an online presence on the social networking sites, and it needs to be treated as bullying," Aguilar said. "One of the biggest problems is the lack of supervision from the parents."

Aguilar has experience sitting in with Catholic school administrators, students and parents during conferences to discuss the cyberbullying. Many times, Aguilar said, parents react incredulously because they say they were unaware their kids had a Facebook or MySpace account, much less that they were using that account to participate in bullying.

While parents say that their children might not have had permission to create social network or e-mail accounts, it is easy for children to go behind parents' backs to create the accounts themselves because accounts can be accessed anywhere, including libraries, friends' houses, or anywhere with a wireless Internet connection and access to a laptop. Aguilar said teachers and parents have to be educated about cyberbullying and social networking because that will allow them to be proactive, not reactive after the fact.

"Social networking is a reality of today's culture," Aguilar said. "Parents need to know what their children are doing online and who they are friends with online. And they need to let the children know that they want to know where they are going online and they are going to check where they are going online."

PROACTIVE APPROACH

In her own home, Aguilar, the mother of three children, created e-mail accounts for her two oldest children (a teen and a preteen) and created a Facebook account for her oldest. In doing so, she is able to keep an eye on their accounts (including knowing their passwords) and she is able to put security measures on the social network account, such as whom children are able to chat with, be friends with, etc. Most teens won't think about putting security settings on their account, leaving them wide open to the entire Internet community. Aguilar is well aware that while conventional bullying might be more clandestine, in the corner of a schoolyard or when a victim is more isolated, cyberbullying can be there "for the world to see."

And that is why parental controls and interaction are so critical. Aguilar said while parents might be intimidated by creating an account, it is important to do that for the children, instead of letting them do it for themselves. There are help menus to assist parents, and Aguilar encourages parents to research online before creating an account.

"My kids know that

PLEASE SEE
CYBERBULLY, A24

JEAN

FROM A16

only way he could afford to go. He said he was ready to leave south Florida.

"I love the mix of cultures here," he said, but up North "you see so many more (black) doctors, lawyers, judges compared to down here."

He left Duquesne after his second year when a new coach came in, and finished his bachelor's degree at Barry University in Miami Shores, also on a basketball scholarship. (Eventually he earned his master's there as well.)

He said he never thought of education as a career. He majored in sports management with a minor in business administration and began looking toward playing in the NBA. Then the father of a friend suggested, "On your down time, come to my school and sub. You'll be a great role model."

Jean was skeptical. Me? But "that's how I got into education," he said.

Somewhere along the way, he also remembered why he had begun playing basketball in the first place: "to go to college and graduate with a degree."

After obtaining his certification, he began working as dean of students and basketball coach at Archbishop Coleman Carroll High School in southwestern Miami-Dade County. After a year there, he moved to his alma mater, Curley Notre Dame, where he taught math and physical education, and served as dean of students.

"My favorite job," he calls it. "The great thing about being dean of students is you get to interact more with the students. As a principal, you interact more with adults."

In 2003, at age 32, he was named principal of St. Francis Xavier School in Overtown. A year later, he became assistant principal at St. Timothy School in Miami, taking over as principal a year later.

That's where he was this August when he was asked to succeed McCarthy's founding principal, Richard Pehrla, and become only the second principal in the school's 12-year history. Located in southwestern Broward County, McCarthy has 1,400 students and a waiting list.

Jean, who lives in downtown Miami with his Bahamian-born wife and three children, had to make a lot of changes to his life in order to accept the job, switching his oldest son, 16, to McCarthy and his daughter, 7, to nearby St. Bernadette. He also drops off his year-old son at nursery school on the way to school each morning.

"We had to move everybody," said Jean, who seldom leaves the office before 6:30 p.m.

'BIG LEAGUES'

While he enjoyed his time at St. Timothy — where he was highly regarded by parents and faculty — Jean said he feels privileged to have been given the opportunity to be principal of a high school. "It's like going up to the big leagues."

In fact, with a 61-acre campus and a new football stadium, McCarthy High is "by far the biggest school I've ever been at," Jean said. "We have the potential to even grow more. This really is an up-and-coming school."

Jean praises the "all-star" faculty he inherited, as well as the staff and assistant principals. "The school is well-run."

Christian Brother Richard DeMaria, executive director of Christian Formation and superintendent of schools for the archdiocese, has known Jean since he worked at Cur-



Richard Jean speaks to members of the choir and instrumentalists after the opening-of-school Mass Aug. 31. (PHOTOS BY ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO | FC)

ley Notre Dame, where Brother DeMaria was principal.

"I have watched him grow over the past years into a very strong administrator who has the ability to win the confidence of students, faculty and parents," Brother DeMaria said. "I am confident that he will demonstrate those same qualities in his new position at Archbishop Edward McCarthy High School."

"He's going to be the greatest high school principal in the whole archdiocese," said an ebullient Father Brendan Dalton, supervising principal of McCarthy High. "He's very sociable and very out there with the kids. The kids like him."

'COOL'

"I think you're cool," said senior Joanna Theodorou when Jean asked her what she thought of him just before the opening-of-school Mass Aug. 31.

He spends most of his workdays walking up and down McCarthy's hallways, stopping kids to chat, or to admonish them about tucking in their shirts and trimming their hair.

"The kids already started saying how mean I am," Jean said with an easy laugh. "I believe in dealing with the little things. If you deal with the little things, you won't have to deal with the big things. If the kids know that I'm willing to suspend them because their hair is

too long, they'll wonder, 'What will he do if I get in a fight here?'"

His educational motto, he said, is simple: "Kids come first." It's not what the parents or teachers want, but what students need that matters.

"I'm willing to make tough decisions," he said, whether it involves school finances, student discipline or teacher competence. The same way he cannot allow a student to disrupt learning in a classroom, "I can't allow a teacher to disrupt education for children."

He is also a firm believer in Catholic education, saying that while he has the greatest respect for public school teachers and administrators, "I don't see the mission there. It's a mission we have to have and I find it in a Catholic school. It's about God."

In fact, his office is decorated not with sports memorabilia, but with paintings of St. Francis of Assisi — whose prayer he recites every morning — and the Virgin Mary.

"I've been blessed," he said of his appointment to McCarthy. "I'm first generation. For me this is incredible, now being part of the system to help other kids be able to do what I did."

"I want to be that teacher that kids remember as having changed their life," Jean added. "Because that's what I had." ■



Principal Richard Jean and supervising principal Father Brendan Dalton pose with five students at the entrance to McCarthy High School, from left, Olivia Richards, a senior whose parents are from Jamaica; Alison Nemia, a senior whose mom is Irish; Myrdjanah Mondesir, a senior from Haiti; Megan Sandora, a junior whose parents are Italian; and Kimberly Salazar, a junior whose parents are from Colombia. "I love the mix of cultures here," said Jean, the archdiocese's first Haitian-born principal.

'Big leagues,' lots of mentors

Richard Jean credits late Msgr. Gerard LaCerra, Christian Brothers for his success

SOUTHWEST RANCHES — Richard Jean did not get to the "big leagues" of Archbishop Edward McCarthy High School without a little help from his mentors — a lot of mentors.

Not only did his pastor find families to help pay his way through school, Msgr. Gerard LaCerra, now deceased, also hired him at Archbishop Coleman Carroll High School when he was supervising principal there.

Msgr. Pablo Navarro, pastor of St. John Neumann Parish in Kendall, encouraged him to apply for the job of principal while he was pastor at St. Timothy.

The middle name of Jean's younger son, Kevin, honors the basketball coach he had at Archbishop Curley Notre Dame High School, Christian Brother Kevin Griffith.

Another Christian Brother, Brother Richard DeMaria, his principal when he worked at Curley Notre Dame, also pushed Jean to stay in the classroom despite the workload he had as an administrator. "How are you going to teach teachers if you were never a teacher?" Jean said Brother DeMaria would tell him.

There is also the memory of the times he served Mass at St. Mary Cathedral, often at ceremonies involving Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy, Miami's second archbishop, for whom the high school is named. "Seven days a week I was at St. Mary," Jean said.

When Pope John Paul II visited Miami in 1987, Jean and his brothers "were the ones walking in front of the popemobile holding the cross downtown."

He recalled how Msgr. LaCerra would tell him and the other servers, "You guys are our A-team."

In fact, his first visit to Disney World was with a group of altar servers from the cathedral. It was Jean's first-ever vacation, the first time he and his brothers had traveled north of Fort Lauderdale.

"It was like discovering a whole new world," he recalled. "I know that today there's a lot of issues. Priests have done things. But I have to say I've been around a lot of priests and everything I've ever experienced has only been positive, with the Catholic Church and with priests."

Now that life has reconnected Jean to the past that shaped his future, he said he appreciates the divine symmetry.

"We did all the Masses for the archbishop. Now to be here and to part of his legacy, I think is amazing." ■

SCHRAMKO

FROM A14

thing like that before.”

Physical education, at that point, meant “we would go out and pick up rocks and clear land,” said Sister Schramko, who taught that for one semester.

She recalled planning a school dance — “I always wanted them to feel like they were in a high school” — and having some girls come up to her convinced it would be a disaster because the boys would never ask them to dance.

Sister Schramko bet that the boys would. The price of losing: “I want some grass,” she told them. The next day, three girls came in, each bearing a piece of sod. “If you were good, you were allowed to water it, but you didn’t dare to step on it.”

Speaking of landscaping, “There was one boy, I wondered how he was ever going to graduate, because whenever I saw him he was on a tractor putting in a tree,” Sister Schramko said.

Circumstances dictated that everyone had to pitch in to get the school off the ground, and those lessons were incorporated into the curriculum. “When we started out, they saw that we had nothing. Whatever we did, we did with the kids,” Sister Schramko said. “If you wanted something to succeed, you had to do everything you possibly could. We tried to embed that into the students. Maybe not verbally, but just seeing what we were doing.”

It is one of the lessons that stuck, especially with the earlier graduates.

“We really vested a lot in the school,” said activities director Carlos Perez-Cubas, a 1979 graduate who has worked at the school since 1983. “What a bonding experience for the kids, to do physical, manual labor.”

Although the school is much

wealthier in terms of facilities today, that tradition continued after Hurricane Wilma hit in 2005, Perez-Cubas said. “When you see kids coming from Boca and all over to clean and fix up, you say, ‘Wow, they really are connected.’”

He said it took him a while to get used to working with Sister Schramko as a faculty member rather than a student. “All she had to do was give that stare. She was a force to be reckoned with,” said Perez-Cubas, who learned algebra from Sister Schramko. “When I started teaching here and I got a note to come and see her ... I started trembling.”

He has since learned that “she has a tremendous sense of humor — off the charts.”

That’s evident when Sister Schramko tells the story of how the girls were initially not allowed to use the gym. “So we changed that,” she said simply.

Then there was the time “I surprised them all at an assembly. I went out and played volleyball. I had a pair of jeans on me and of course, the kids were astounded.”

The picture of her playing that day now adorns the poster announcing the school’s golden anniversary.

Sister Schramko also is known for attending every athletic event, according to Ryan Saunders, a 2002 graduate. “She sits out in the bleachers with her umbrella and is at everything.”

“I loved football and I loved baseball,” said Sister Schramko, who was raised in “a little mining town,” Johnstown, Pa., with two older brothers and two younger sisters. “We didn’t have too many opportunities (to play sports) like the girls have today.”

Over the past 50 years, she has continued to teach while serving as assistant principal, a position she assumed when the school became co-educational in 1972. Over the years, she has taught algebra, geometry, biology, chemistry and Latin.

“She has more certifications than any teacher,” said Gail Breton, also an assistant principal at Gibbons. “She told me that whenever they needed a teacher, she went back and took more classes and got the degree.”

This year, for the first time, Sister Schramko will not teach a class, but will continue to tutor students who need extra help.

She can no longer climb to the top of the stands, but she plans to be at every game, supporting Gibbons’ athletes.

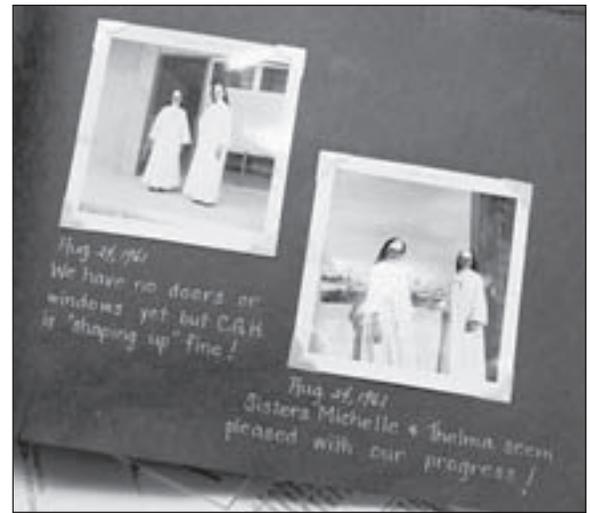
As she has done every morning for the past 45 years, she will continue to walk across the street to her office from her home — the only one in existence in that neighborhood when the school was founded, the one that still serves as a convent for her and Sister Janet Rieden, a fellow Franciscan who has taught at the school since 1963.

If anybody asks Sister Schramko a question, such as how many students were in the first graduating class, or how many have graduated in all the years the school has existed, she will walk over to her filing cabinet or her journals and put her fingers directly on the answers: 64 and 11,374, respectively.

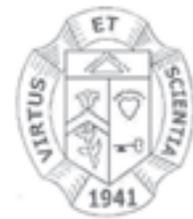
And when former students come visiting, she will be happy to welcome them back, because “I’m very interested in how our students turn out, how they’re using their lives.”

“I never knew I was going to live this long,” Sister Schramko said. “Did I have fun? Oh, yes. I enjoyed it. I played with the kids.”

Moreover, she added, “I have no desire to retire. When I wear out, I wear out.” ■



“We have no doors or windows yet, but CGH is shaping up fine!” says this scrapbook entry from August 1961. Sister Schramko, wearing a full habit, is on the left. (ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO | FC)



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A challenge for 'school of champions'

Archbishop Wenski urges St. Thomas Aquinas students to heed Jesus' call to Christian discipleship

GAIL BULFIN

Florida Catholic correspondent

FORT LAUDERDALE — Archbishop Thomas Wenski kicked off the yearlong celebration of St. Thomas Aquinas High School's 75th anniversary Aug. 26 by celebrating Mass in a gymnasium packed with students, teachers and alumni.

Under the backdrop of state championship banners in 17 sports from 1972 to present — and at the site where such students as tennis star Chris Evert and football legend Brian Piccolo sharpened their athletic skills — a beaming Msgr. Vincent T. Kelly, supervising principal of this Catholic school powerhouse, welcomed the archbishop on his first official visit saying, "May you be at home here."

He thanked the teachers, who he said are "the heart and soul of this great school," and invited guests to let "the Lord be part of every moment of the anniversary year."

Leading the opening procession of 27 priests were students carrying flags bearing the colorful seals of the school, state and papal arms. The prayer of the faithful was recited in three different languages by students Sophie-Anne Baril, Monica Rivera and Frances Rodriguez. Msgr. Michael Souckar, a 1980 graduate who until this month served as chancellor of the archdiocese and

PLEASE SEE **MASS, A23**



In 1985, Sister John Norton, then principal, and Msgr. Vincent Kelly, still supervising principal, celebrated St. Thomas Aquinas High School's 50th anniversary.



Tom and Judy Maus, St. Thomas Aquinas class of 1953, pose with their grandson, Joey Maus, class of 2014, after the Mass marking the school's 75th anniversary. (PHOTOS BY GAIL BULFIN | FC)

AQUINAS

FROM A9

pen by accident.

Msgr. Vincent T. Kelly, supervising principal whose commitment to St. Thomas began with his arrival at the school in 1970, explains that over the years, the school has developed a "respectful atmosphere in which academic discipline is insisted upon."

"Self-discipline is the basis of any achievement. For 1,000 years the Church has nurtured that with its culture of sacrifice, Lenten observances and prayer. In education, you absolutely have to be self-disciplined. You have to know when to study, when to react."

Best-selling author Michael Connelly, class of 1974, credits St. Thomas for much of his success. "I wasn't the best student, but St. Thomas required a work ethic and I developed one there that has served me all my life. My job has no hours, no real structure. It relies almost entirely on self-motivation. I think I have (St. Thomas) to thank for that."

HIGH STANDARDS

This rich tradition of respect and discipline in academics, athletics, arts and spirituality was built over many decades of focused leadership at St. Thomas.

Former principal Sister John Norton arrived in 1966 and was part of the Dominican community that helped staff the school. Unstoppable even at age 85, she is currently the coordinator of special events. She recalls that when then-Father Kelly arrived at the school, he rolled up his sleeves and got going.

"He would spend every Saturday on campus laying sod, painting," she said.

The school's high standards, vision and commitment to excel have produced visible results. St. Thomas earned the U.S. Department of Education's Blue Ribbon award for excellence — twice.

It traditionally ranks among the top schools in the state and nationally for National Merit Scholars. In 2003, St. Thomas Aquinas claimed 32 National Merit Finalists, top in the state and 13th in the United States.

In the class of 2009, 254 students were recognized by the Advanced Placement organization for their achievements in the annual AP tests. This past year's class was awarded more than \$59 million in college scholarship aid.

Results like these don't come without a first-rate staff of teachers and a proactive guidance staff. Current teachers have, on average, 21 years of teaching experience.

Msgr. Kelly said, "It is paramount that St. Thomas continue its emphasis on the teacher. It is absolutely necessary to have vibrant teachers and professionals who are informed, challenged, and conversant with society and its needs."

ATHLETIC SUCCESS

In addition to academic achievement, St. Thomas has a deep tradition of athletic excellence. Seventeen of its sports have won a total of 82 state championship trophies. The 2008 football team finished the season ranked No. 1 in the nation. *Sports Illustrated* magazine recognized it as No. 1 in its 2009 preseason rankings. The school has won the Broward County All-Sports Trophy 30 years in a row.

This year, St. Thomas was chosen as the practice facility for the NFL Pro Bowl teams. Its alumni include football greats Brian Piccolo, Stefan Humphries and Michael Irvin. Tennis legend Chris Evert is a graduate. The school sent five alumni to the 2008 Summer Olympics, including track medalist Sanya Richards.

Just as tenure with teachers has produced great academic results, so too has coaching longevity contributed to winning athletic seasons. Head football coach and athletic director George Smith has been with the school for more than 28 years; girls soccer coach, Carlos Giron, for 28 years; and Lisa Zielinski, girls volleyball coach, for 23 years. But it is their commitment to their student-athletes that has created a lifetime bond between the coaches, teachers and former students.

Every year, former football players come back at Thanksgiving to scrimmage with current players. Sister Norton attributes this loyalty to Coach Smith's commitment to his players. "He respects them, the students. He is the first to call if some-



Dominican Sister John Norton and Frank Krauser, whose two children graduated from St. Thomas Aquinas High School, celebrate in the gym following the 75th anniversary Mass.

JOIN THE CELEBRATION

Events for the 75th anniversary of St. Thomas Aquinas High School will be spread across the entire academic calendar.

- Archbishop Thomas Wenski launched the celebration with a joyous Mass in a packed-to-the-brim gymnasium (see story, this page). For the first time in its history, the school will allow students to wear jeans and sneakers on first Fridays, with a donation for the student-run fund for Haitian school children.

- Other events include the gala at the Westin Diplomat in Hollywood on Oct. 30, the annual celebrity pro-am golf tournament in April 2011, and a special alumni dinner. For information and tickets, contact the school at 954-581-0700.

- Endowment campaigns launched to help sustain the financial health of the school are under way. Gifts can be made to the Father Vincent T. Kelly Aquinas Endowment, Sister John Norton Academic Endowment, George F. Smith Athletic Endowment, and Bienes Center for the Arts Endowment funds. Contact the foundation office at 954-327-2189 for more details.

one is sick. He's really unique. He follows up with kids if they are hurt. And he does so much to get kids into college."

Tennis great Evert said she was grateful that the school understood the need for flexibility when she was competing at national and international levels. "They allowed me to be absent to pursue my sport and to make up the work when I got back. I have great memories of all of my friends there and all of the support I got."

The fine arts program is now housed in the Bienes Arts Center, which opened in the spring of 2009. It has a 300-seat theater and has played host to Broadway stars and nationally acclaimed music and dance troupes. But the appreciation for art began decades before the new building opened. In the 1960s, St. Thomas developed a forensic (speech) program that competed nationally.

ST. ANTHONY HIGH

This nationally recognized Catholic school had its start in 1936 in

eastern Broward County as St. Anthony High School. Founded by the Adrian Dominican Sisters, the first graduating class was made up of nine students.

Recognizing the need to expand the real estate footprint of the Catholic community, Archbishop Joseph P. Hurley of St. Augustine — the diocese which then encompassed nearly the whole state — purchased land upon which St. Anthony High School would relocate in 1952, at Davie Boulevard and Southwest 21st Avenue.

Taking the name Central Catholic High School to better reflect its location within the county, the school soon grew to more than 800 students. In 1961, the school again changed its name to St. Thomas Aquinas in honor of the Dominican priest who is the patron saint of education. Today, the school has an enrollment of more than 2,100 with a waiting list hundreds long.

The role of the family is apparent in most every aspect of the Aquinas community life. Msgr. Kelly believes that involving parents to be part of their students' lives is key, both now and in the future.

"We want parents involved in most everything that affirms the life of the student," he said.

Family allegiance is strong in this school, where last names can sound familiar no matter what your generation. Take the name Maus, for example. Tom Maus and his wife, Judy, 1956 grads, saw their son Joe graduate in 1970 and now enjoy watching their grandson Joey, 14, begin his Aquinas career as a freshman.

The school has graduated students who have become lawyers, judges, doctors and, yes, priests. Msgr. Michael Souckar, who until this month served as chancellor for the archdiocese and secretary to the archbishop, is a 1980 grad.

"I had an interest in the priesthood even when I was in high school. St. Thomas nurtured my vocation to the priesthood and was very supportive, as were my classmates," he said.

The values that guided the school in its early years continue to be guideposts today. Sister Norton said it is the spirit. "People can feel it as soon as they step on campus. It's a spirit of happiness." ■

ARCHBISHOP

FROM A4

su poder para castigar a quienes rehúsen acoger los matrimonios homosexuales. Por ejemplo, los oficiales públicos – independientemente de su opinión sobre lo correcto o incorrecto de los actos homosexuales – estarán obligados a officiar “matrimonios” entre personas del mismo sexo, y las escuelas públicas estarán obligadas a enseñar que tal comportamiento es aceptable, estén los padres de acuerdo o no. Ni siquiera estarán protegidas las libertades de la Primera Enmienda.

El matrimonio se ha tratado, fundamentalmente, de la crianza de los niños (que parecen estar predeterminados a ser criados mejor por un padre y una madre casado uno con el otro). El estado ha tenido el interés legítimo de favorecer dichos matrimonios tradicionales como una inversión en el futuro de la sociedad, al proveer para la prosperidad humana de las próximas generaciones. Por supuesto, en años recientes, ante el creciente relativismo y el individualismo en la cultura, con frecuencia el estado se ha retractado de promover con debida firmeza estos intereses, en ocasiones a través de la legislación (como las leyes de los divorcios liberalizadas), y a veces a través de la orden judicial (como Roe v. Wade).

En la guerra de culturas, ambas partes luchan sobre el entendimiento filosófico del hombre y su relación con la verdad y la realidad. Una parte – para la que el “matrimonio gay” es su “bandera” simbólica – sostiene que cualquiera puede, en esencia, crear su propia realidad, y aboga por una autonomía radical

por la cual la verdad se determina por la voluntad individual, no por la naturaleza de las cosas. La otra parte sostiene que los hombres y las mujeres no son creadores por sí mismos, sino criaturas. La verdad no se construye, sino que se recibe y, por lo tanto, debe reflejar la realidad de las cosas. Como lo dice el Libro del Génesis: “Hombre y mujer, Él (Dios) los creó” (Génesis 1:27).

La posición de aquéllos, al igual que la de las utopías laicistas del siglo 20, es una receta para la tiranía; la de éstos promete una libertad que sólo se puede conseguir a través de la adherencia a la verdad objetiva, la cual nosotros no podemos, ni podremos jamás, inventar.

El “matrimonio” entre las personas del mismo sexo – de permitirse que prevalezca en ley – tendrá como resultado la devaluación de todos los matrimonios con terribles consecuencias para la sociedad. El matrimonio como la unión para toda la vida entre un hombre y una mujer, es ciertamente parte de la enseñanza católica; de hecho, en nuestra enseñanza, la alianza matrimonial entre dos bautizados es un sacramento. Sin embargo, el matrimonio como la unión entre un hombre y una mujer por el bien de la familia, no es producto del sectarismo religioso. El matrimonio tampoco es creación del estado. Se fundamenta en la misma naturaleza. El matrimonio como institución precede a la iglesia y el estado; si no es una creación de la iglesia o el estado, ninguno tiene autoridad para cambiar la naturaleza del matrimonio.

El bien común exige que no se pierda el entendimiento de que el matrimonio es la unión entre un hombre y una mujer. ■



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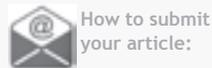
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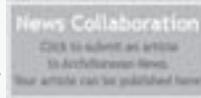


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'Talking rosary' is a devotion to Mary and an electronic prayer for freedom

Couple, interfaith team bring age-old practice of rosary recitation into the digital world

LINDA REEVES
of the Florida Catholic staff

VERO BEACH — Two Catholics — with the aid of a local Buddhist, a Muslim and a Jew — have created and are now promoting a “talking rosary,” a unique prayer apparatus inspired by the Mother of Jesus Christ.

“I was asked to help develop the project,” said the Muslim, a Boynton Beach software engineer, who wishes to remain unnamed.

The computer guru has developed the “Freedom Rosary” featuring microtechnology and voices with the help of a Buddhist, a computer hardware professional, who wishes to be known as simply A.J.

“I had no idea about the rosary,” he further explained. “I have learned along the way. I showed it to a priest in Miami (who) was very excited. It

is a good mission.”

Gary Graham, a Vero Beach pharmacist, is directing the rosary project. Graham is a parishioner, extraordinary minister of holy Communion and lector at Holy Cross in Vero Beach, and the rosary devotee came up with the idea of a rosary that talks, but takes no credit for the concept.

“This is not my idea. It was given to us,” said Graham, who received the rosary call loud and clear late one night in 2003, which was the declared “Year of the Rosary” by Pope John Paul II. Graham and his wife of 14 years, Rae DelVecchio, who is also a pharmacist, are funding the Freedom Rosary initiative and promoting it.

“We think it is the Blessed Mother who gave us the idea because she wants this out, and it is going to get there,” said DelVecchio. (Catholic



A talking rosary is displayed by creators Gary Graham and Rae DelVecchio of Holy Cross Parish in Vero Beach. (PHOTO BY LINDA REEVES | FC • EFFECT BY MICHAEL CARLOCK | FC)

tradition holds that the rosary devotion started with St. Dominic, who preached the devotion in the 13th century after being moved by a vision of the Blessed Mother.)

A Jewish Web designer, Yehuda Nayman, developed an Internet site to introduce to the cyberworld the praying device equipped with a microspeaker and lithium polymer battery.

“We want to spread the rosary to the world,” said DelVecchio, also a parish lector and extraordinary minister of holy Communion.

After seven years of twists and turns, challenges, prototypes and failures, the Freedom Rosary is now a reality in the modern world with all sorts of other hand-held devices, including iPhones, iPods and iPads.

Although it looks ordinary, the Freedom Rosary has a small “on button” located on the back of a lightweight, 2½-by-1½-inch silver crucifix concealing an array of electronic components. When activated, a voice sounds in prayer, “In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.” The pleasant voice belongs to a local radio personality, Hamp Elliott, program director for FM radio WOSN

97.1 Ocean and WGYL 93.7 the Breeze, who graciously volunteered for the prayer role. After the beautifully prayed Our Father and Hail Mary comes the Glory Be, and then a mystery (joyful, luminous, sorrowful or glorious), which is a passage in the life of Christ or Mary.

DelVecchio is the voice behind the mystery readings. “We recorded them in a studio,” she said about her recording debut. “I kept thinking I hope this comes off in a way that men and women will like it. I thought about how I would read them and present the word.”

At this time, the talking rosary developers are attempting to take the device to their own little corner of the world in the northern Diocese of Palm Beach, visiting organizations and talking to ministers of their parish. A Spanish version of the rosary is also in the works.

Most importantly, the couple hopes to grab the attention of youngsters, who are multitasking like crazy on cell phones, computers and other electronics these days.

“We are hoping the kids will catch onto it,” said DelVecchio.

The talking rosary that incorporates technology and the traditional rosary prayers and meditations was unveiled to Richard Schlitt, the Holy Cross youth minister, in July.

Schlitt took boxes of rosaries, the same size as a traditional rosary, along on a South Carolina mission trip. He and his 55 young missionaries were fascinated by the Marian-blue talking beads.

“The rosary was wonderful,” said Schlitt. “It is a beautiful tool. I will loan them out to youths to take home and bring back. One kid can take it each week and pray it at home with the family.”

DelVecchio also showed off the

Freedom Rosary on Aug. 9 at a dinner hosted by Knights of Columbus Council 12141 of Holy Cross Parish.

“Let me demonstrate this if I can,” said DelVecchio, as she stood before Knights and their wives and guests.

“It is an interesting way to marry technology and liturgy,” said Grand Knight Tom LaRocca, who is impressed with the rosary. “I think it can be very helpful for the aging population. My mother-in-law has dementia, and she forgets the mysteries.”

The mysteries are recited on certain days of the week and times of the year, and which is prayed on what day is all a mystery to many, but the talking device is actually programmed to feature the correct mystery on the correct day because it is linked to the Church’s liturgical calendar.

“A lot of people have issues with dementia,” said LaRocca about the mental deterioration that brings on the lack of ability to process thought. “The rosary could be very helpful.”

The rosary advocates are seeking no profits from the Freedom Rosary. At this point, the rosaries have a price tag of \$60, even though there is \$100 worth of electronics in each rosary.

The initial production run included 1,000 rosaries and proceeds are about 20 cents per rosary, according to DelVecchio. The couple has given rosaries away as gifts and promotions. If successful, the Holy Cross couple will produce more.

Any proceeds made are slated to aid charitable organizations dedicated to getting rid of human trafficking, the illegal trade of human beings for commercial sexual exploitation or forced labor.

Deacon Richard Blake of Holy Cross believes DelVecchio and Graham are the perfect apostles to spread the Marian message.

“Rae said that they wanted to develop the rosary to help free people,” he explained. “I suggested human trafficking. Their rosary is a wonderful little gadget. They are filled with a lot of spirit and passion.”

Now that they have come up with a way to bring age-old prayer practices and a glimpse of Christ’s life into the digital world, the Holy Cross inventors hope to reach many prayerful people with the talking rosary. And by the looks of things, they are already reaching Catholics and non-Catholics alike. ■

For project information, call 1-877-334-2762 or visit www.freedomrosary.com.

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MASS

FROM A20

secretary to the archbishop, smiled often as he assisted on the altar.

Throughout the Mass, music was performed by the internationally acclaimed Aquinas Chorale and St. Thomas Orchestra, filling to the rafters a gym more accustomed to referee whistles than strains of liturgical composition.

Archbishop Wenski noted the tradition of excellence of the school in academics, athletics and the arts.

“Twenty-five percent of the faculty are former students,” he said. “This must be a great place not only to study, but to work.”

The crowd erupted in applause as he added, “When I look and see all the banners you have won, you can see this is a school of champions.”

The theme of Archbishop Wenski’s homily was the importance of being open to serving God. “Stay awake, Jesus tells his disciples in today’s Gospel.”

The archbishop explained that a disciple is a kind of student. “These words of Jesus are an invitation — an invitation not to miss out on a great adventure — the adventure of discipleship.

“Over the years St. Thomas Aquinas has existed to help you be not only good students, but also good disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. To become a disciple is to set out on a great adventure with Jesus who calls us each by name and says, ‘Follow me.’

“You could say that a Catholic school, like St. Thomas, should awaken within us the ability to hear the Lord’s invitation to follow him. A Catholic school, with its emphasis on discipline and character and excellence, should equip us with the courage to act on that invitation — and thus to follow him as we make our journey through life. It is how we respond to this invitation that will determine the direction our lives will take,” Archbishop Wenski said.

In closing, he challenged the students to “wake up and don’t miss out



Archbishop Thomas Wenski receives a St. Thomas Aquinas football jacket from legendary coach George Smith in honor of the archbishop’s first visit to the Fort Lauderdale high school. Behind them is Msgr. Vincent Kelly, the school’s longtime supervising principal. (GAIL BULFIN | FC)

on the great adventure of being not just a student at a great school, but also of being a disciple of the one who is the reason this school exists for you: Jesus Christ.”

Archbishop Wenski lingered in the hallway until the very last note of the recessional was played, tapping rhythmically on his pastoral staff as the choir led a booming rendition of the hymn “God Has Smiled on Us,” written by 2010 St. Thomas grad Daniel Murcia.

After Mass, Tina Jones, St. Thomas’ principal, greeted the students and guests and promised that, throughout this next year, “We will continue to honor the past, embrace the present and envision the future.”

Proclamations and congratulatory letters were read from the City of Fort Lauderdale, Broward County Commission and Florida Gov. Charlie Crist. Dominican Sister John Norton, a former St. Thomas Aquinas principal, accepted an award on behalf of the school from the National Catholic Educational Association for the school’s outstanding success.

St. Thomas parent Maureen Rotella read a letter from Cardinal Sean O’Malley of Boston. And Msgr. Souckar read a special letter of congratulations from Pope Benedict XVI.

In a gesture of gratitude for help-

ing the school launch the year of celebration, Stephen Grenet, a senior and president of the student council, presented a visibly moved Archbishop Wenski with a check for \$10,000 — money raised by the students and earmarked for school-children in Haiti.

The final gift, an Aquinas Raiders football jacket, was presented by St. Thomas’ legendary coach George Smith, who made the archbishop laugh when he suggested he use it the next time he rides his motorcycle. ■

SEE MORE ON THE WEB

Here’s a look at some stories that ran on the archdiocesan website, www.miamiarch.org, in the past month. To see them, click on the “news center” tab and look along the column on the right, or click on “news archive” and search via keywords.

- Recent opinion pieces by Archbishop Thomas Wenski on Labor Day and immigration; the 9/11 controversy; Christian prayer; and his homilies to Catholic principals, as well as students at St. Thomas Aquinas and Cardinal Gibbons high schools.
- Archbishop Curley Notre Dame: Archbishop Wenski celebrates opening-of-school-year Mass.
- “Cycling for Change”: Priest and his team make pit stop in Miami before ending 5,000-mile anti-poverty journey in Key West.
- St. Monica Gardens: Archbishop Thomas Wenski dedicates the archdiocese’s 15th apartment building for low-income elderly.
- Mother Teresa: Downtown buildings “light up” to mark the 100th anniversary of her birth, and Archbishop Emeritus John C. Falavola celebrates Mass on the anniversary of her death.
- “A journey of love”: Mother Adela Galindo, founder of the Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary, celebrates 25 years in religious life.
- Quilts for Africa: St. Anthony parishioners solidify their bonds with parish in Ghana.

cafeteria of Notre Dame Academy for girls. The goal is to build a new church building in order to accommodate the growth of the community. The parish has collected \$2.2 million so far and is struggling to raise the remaining \$800,000. With the crisis in Haiti, it has been difficult to move the campaign forward.

“The good thing about this young adult mission to Haiti is that our kids have come to realize that they have taken things for granted, and after seeing the conditions that people are living in we have to be more grateful for the things we have,” Father Jean-Mary said. “It was very fulfilling.” ■

HAITI

FROM A3

As the national election approaches (bringing instability and safety concerns) and as earthquake donations collected in Miami have been mostly depleted, the Notre Dame-sponsored outreach to Haiti will slow for the remainder of the year, according to Father Jean-Mary.

Notre Dame d’Haiti is also in the midst of a building project to erect a new, larger church structure for what is an important center of Haitian-Catholic life in the U.S. Parishioners at Notre Dame are still worshipping in what used to be the old

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CYBERBULLY: Face-to-face or online, bullying is a real threat

FROM A17

I check their stuff and if I see something inappropriate, I will disable the account," she said.

POSITIVE INFLUENCES

Aguilar said it is not all doom and gloom when talking about social networking sites. In fact, she said, they can be great tools for teens as long as appropriate permissions and security measures are put in place and parents are monitoring what is happening online.

While some people, including older teachers, might tell Aguilar that social networking sites, "tweating" on Twitter, text messages and instant messaging are damaging children's and teens' abilities to interact face-to-face, Aguilar disagreed. In schools, Aguilar has noticed that social networking might connect students who might not have thought about knowing each other while walking the halls at school.

"There are eighth-graders saying hello and talking to fifth-graders at school because they are friends with one another on Facebook. Normally, these kids might not even say hello to each other in the hallway," Aguilar said. "Children are expanding their opportunities of friendship to a more global society. It is amazing to see children and teens relating to children and teens in other countries. ... Of course we can always find bad things, but we need to look at the positive and not the negative."

Aguilar said while some people

may have "lost a filter" of what they say online versus face-to-face, being online makes it easier for some teens to express themselves. So while it is important at home and in the classroom to stress Internet courtesy, it is also critical to channel teens' abilities to freely express themselves.

"We need to tell young people that they make sure what they post online is a true representation of who they are, and to make sure it is appropriate and defines who they are. Because it will be there for years to come and people, including employers, will search what is posted under their name," Aguilar said. "It is important that they protect their identity and that parents are proactive in helping young people do just that."

BULLYING: PART OF GROWING UP

There were some teens, such as Laney Hughes of Fort Myers, who said while she knows about cyberbullying, it was "no big deal" in her own experience. Laney, a sophomore at Cypress Lakes High School, said cyberbullying, like any type of bullying, is an unfortunate part of growing up. She recalled an experience with conventional bullying in her own life when she first moved to Fort Myers from Alabama in the sixth grade. Kids at her school, especially girls, heard her thick, Alabama-bred accent and picked on her.

While she said it was not a fun experience or one she would want to repeat, it was a time in her life that went away after a while.

"The problem was with them, not me," Laney said. "Some kids feel the need to make fun of other kids because it makes them feel better about themselves. I just tried not to take what they said seriously. But sure, it hurt."

Alejandro Hernandez Jr. admitted that when he was in middle school, he bullied other children. His fellow HEART workmates were surprised by the admission because they described him as a great guy. But Alejandro, who came to Catholic HEART Workcamp from Calhoun, Ga., said when he went to middle school he picked on other kids so they wouldn't pick on him. He usually called kids names, laughed at them or shoved them around, trying to pick on their insecurities.

"When I was in the seventh grade, I didn't understand the concept that we are all brothers and sisters of God," said the high school senior who was making his third trip to the volunteer workcamp. "I didn't want kids to be friends with me, I just wanted to feel cool. And I thought bullying kids made me a big person."

But as Alejandro grew older, he began going to church and understanding that what he was doing was wrong.

"Once I got closer to God I realized that wasn't the kind of person I wanted to be," he said. "And if someone is being bullied, they should know it's not something wrong with them — it's something wrong with the bully. What I was doing was wrong, I needed to stop and I will never do it again." ■

Chinese apostolate marks 14 years

The Chinese Apostolate, which started out with less than 20 faithful at gatherings back in 1996, has grown to more than 50 registered families this year who celebrate weekly Masses at St. Jerome Parish in Fort Lauderdale.

The apostolate also has gone from "importing" Chinese priests from Hong Kong and different states to having two permanent Chinese priests: Father Joseph Bai and Father Peter Lin, who are studying for their doctorate degrees at St. Thomas University in Miami Gardens.

"We have come a long way and it has been a difficult but miraculous journey," said Helena Chan, a member of the apostolate.

She recalled how, in the early days, Father Henry Mullin would place the sign of the cross in Chinese, written phonetically, alongside the Missal: "Yin fu, ji zi, ji sheng shen zhi ming. A meng."

The first bilingual Chinese/English Mass was celebrated by Msgr. Joseph Jiang on Aug. 15, 1996, at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in South Miami. Masses then continued at St. Louis in Pinecrest and St. Gregory in Plantation.

"As most of us flocked together in Broward County, we finally settled down in St. Jerome" in 2002 with the blessing of then Auxiliary Bishop Thomas Wenski, now archbishop of Miami, Chan said.

Today, the two Chinese priests conduct biannual retreats, monthly Bible study classes,

weekly sacrament of reconciliation and other ministerial activities.

"Our evangelical work has been fruitful as we witnessed, this past Easter Vigil, six adults receiving the sacraments of baptism, holy Communion and confirmation," Chan said. "On Easter Sunday, five children received the sacrament of baptism, two children received the sacrament of first penance and first holy Communion, plus one teenager received the sacrament of confirmation while another teenager received all three."

"For the first time in 13 years," Chan added, "we had three Chinese priests celebrating Chinese Mass on Easter Sunday. We were even honored by the presence of Auxiliary Bishop John Noonan to administer the confirmation."

Beginning this October, the apostolate is offering Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults classes in Chinese every first and third Sundays at 10 a.m. at St. Jerome, 2533 S.W. Ninth Ave., Fort Lauderdale. For information call 954-920-2644.

Members of the apostolate also are offering Chinese language classes every Sunday through Dec. 12 at St. Jerome. The class schedule is as follows: For children 6 years and older, beginners' class is 9:30-10:30 a.m.; intermediate class is 10:30-11:30 a.m. Cost is \$140 plus materials. For preschool children, ages 3 to 5, classes are 12-12:30 p.m., and cost is \$70 plus materials.

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NEWSbriefs

Run/walk benefits St. Vincent de Paul Society

The third annual "Friends of the Poor" walk/run will take place Saturday, Sept. 25, beginning at 7 a.m. in two locations: Our Lady of Lourdes School, 14000 S.W. 112 St., Miami; and St. Gabriel Parish, 731 N. Ocean Blvd. (A1A), Pompano Beach. Both walks benefit the local, parish-based councils of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, which helps the poor throughout the archdiocese. "The poor are our masters," said Victor Martell, president of the archdiocesan council. The St. Vincent de Paul Society "works for them."

For information go to www.svd-priestsofthepoorwalk.org or call 954-943-9717.

'Empowered women' topic of seminar

The Miami Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women will host a morning seminar, "Women Empowered to Action Through Faith," on Saturday, Oct. 2, 9:30 a.m., at Barry University's Andreas Hall, 11300 N.E. Second Ave., Miami Shores.

Featured speaker will be Ellen Bachman, past president of the National Council of Catholic Women, who will speak on women's role in positions of leadership in the Church, family and community.

The council's Legislation Commission also will present valuable information on the Catholic Days at the Capitol lobbying trip scheduled for March 2011.

All Catholic women in the archdiocese are invited to attend. A complimentary continental break-

fast will be served. Those wishing to attend should R.S.V.P. to Barbara Asfendis, 954-437-6805, by Sept. 25.

Retired priests invited to lunch

All retired priests living in the archdiocese are invited to attend a luncheon Tuesday, Oct. 12, starting at 11:30 a.m. in St. Martha Parish center, 9200 Biscayne Blvd., Miami Shores. Archbishop Thomas Wenski will be the guest.

Those wishing to attend should R.S.V.P. to Father John McLaughlin at 954-683-1938 before Oct. 6.

St. Jerome Parish marks 50th

On Wednesday, Nov. 10, at 7 p.m., St. Jerome Parish will inaugurate its 50th anniversary year with solemn evening prayer, a candlelight procession, and the unveiling of a newly bronzed statue of its patron saint. Auxiliary Bishop John Noonan will preside. A social will follow. St. Jerome is located at 2533 S.W. Ninth Ave., Fort Lauderdale. For information call 954-525-4133.

Get ahead by studying online

Teachers, school administrators, art gallery managers and people looking to move up the corporate ladder can now choose from a wide variety of master's degree courses offered online by St. Thomas University. A new master's in elementary education is now offered online to benefit those facing full-time jobs and after-5:00 family pressure. The courses are being launched in the term that begins Oct. 16 and include "Content and Methods for Teaching Language Arts," which provides

added insight and specialization to thousands of teachers and teaching assistants who deal with south Florida's diverse populations.

For those already in school administration who are looking for a doctoral-level degree in a minimum timeframe, there is also the Ed.D. in educational leadership, a doctorate in education that prepares the recipient for the digital age by featuring a specialization in instructional technology. In addition to the education degrees, the School of Leadership Studies recently launched a master's in art management aimed at entrepreneurs in art galleries, museum and other cultural or public service institutions. Also within that school, the master's degree in professional studies in executive management synthesizes cutting-edge concepts and the student's professional experiences, serving working adults who wish to advance their careers. Most of the curriculum is online and the program represents a fast-track way to advancement that can be achieved within an 18-month time frame. A graduate open house will be held on campus Sept. 23, from 6 to 8 p.m., covering all the degrees offered by St. Thomas. For information, go to www.stu.edu.

Three local groups get CCHD funds

Three local organizations have received a total of \$105,000 in grants from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the U.S. bishops' organization that works to end poverty and injustice in the United States. The groups and the grants they received are: BOLD Justice (Broward Organized Leaders Doing Justice), \$30,000; PACT (People Acting for Community Together), \$35,000; and WeCount!, \$40,000.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

"Don Bosco Among Us": Relics of St. John Bosco, founder of the Salesians, arrive at Immaculata-La Salle High School, 3601 S. Miami Ave., Miami, Sunday, Sept. 25. All-night vigil begins 8 p.m., includes activities for high school, middle school students; schools, parish youth groups invited to participate. Vigil concludes Monday, Sept. 26, 8 a.m., with Mass celebrated by Archbishop Thomas Wenski. Relics then go to St. John Bosco Parish, 1358 N.W. First St., Miami, for veneration from noon until midnight. 786-427-5788, 305-649-5464, <http://donboscoamongus.org>.

"Noche Caribeña," Saturday, Sept. 25, 7 p.m., DoubleTree Miami Mart Hotel, 711 N.W. 72nd Ave., Miami. Annual fundraiser gala for Amor en Accion, archdiocesan lay missionary community with projects in Dominican Republic and Haiti. Live music by Latin Groove. \$60 per person. events@amorenacion.com.

Pancake breakfast, third Sundays, 8:30-11 a.m., Sacred Heart Parish hall, 108 S.E. Second Road, Homestead. Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Homestead Council 4998. Pancakes, eggs, sausages and bacon, potatoes, biscuits and fruit at a very moderate price. www.kofc4998.org.

"Friends of the Poor" third annual 5K walk/run, Saturday, Sept. 25, 7 a.m., St. Gabriel, 731 N. Ocean Blvd. (A1A), Pompano Beach; and Our Lady of Lourdes, 14000 S.W. 112 St., Miami. Benefits archdiocese's St. Vincent de Paul Society. www.svdprfriendsofthepoorwalk.org, 954-943-9717.

"Camino de Santiago: Two Perspectives," art exhibit featuring works by Laura Luna and

Silvia Lizama, Barry University's Andy Gato Gallery, Barry University's Thompson Hall, second floor, 11300 N.E. Second Ave., Miami Shores. On display through Dec. 5. mdelapena@mail.barry.edu, 305-899-4887.

St. Andrew bazaar and craft fair, Saturday, Oct. 2, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., St. Andrew Parish hall, 9950 N.W. 29 St., Coral Springs. Hosted by St. Andrew Council of Catholic Women. Looking for vendors. Indoor spaces: \$60; outdoor spaces: \$45. 954-227-1640.

14th annual "Swinging FORE Charity" golf tournament, Friday, Oct. 8, 12:30 p.m., Shula's Golf Club, 7601 Miami Lakes Drive. Benefits Catholic Hospice. \$150 per player, \$625 per foursome, includes lunch, cocktail reception, greens fees, awards ceremony and silent auction. 305-351-7065.

Oktoberfest celebration, Friday, Oct. 15, 5:30 p.m., St. Sebastian Parish, 2000 S.E. 25 Ave., Miramar. Traditional German fare and music, rock-climbing wall and children's field games. Adults: \$15; children: \$10. 954-524-9344.

"Late Nite Catechism: 'Til Death Do Us Part," Friday, Oct. 15, 7 p.m. doors open, Mary Help of Christians Parish, 5980 University Drive, Parkland. Brush up on your knowledge of the sacraments of matrimony and last rites with this comedy by Maripat Donovan and Vicki Quaide. Includes the Catholic version of "The Newlywed Game." Tickets: \$50, \$40, \$30. 954-323-8008, preschool@mhccr.org.

34th annual fall craft festival and car show, Saturday, Oct. 16, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, 9500 S.W. 184 St., Miami. Crafts, food, entertainment, kids' area, classic car show. A south Dade tradition! Free admission. www.holyrosaryhs.org.

Outdoor flea market, Saturday, Oct. 23, 7 a.m.-2 p.m.,

St. Maximilian Kolbe, 701 N. Hiatus Road, Pembroke Pines. Free admission; food available for purchase. Vendors welcome, spaces for rent: one for \$30; two for \$50. 954-432-0206, reled@stmax.cc.

CONCERTS

St. Catherine of Siena Parish anniversary concert, Saturday, Oct. 23, 6:30 p.m., Roca Theater of Belen Jesuit Prep School, 500 S.W. 127 Ave., Miami. Performances by Coral Ars Vocalis of Puerto Rico, and other well-known artists. Advanced tickets: \$35; \$45 at the door. 305-274-6333, ext 210.

FAITH EDUCATION

Sunday CCD classes for working/busy parents, after 9:30 children's Mass, Our Lady of Mercy Parish, 5201 N. Military Trail, Deerfield Beach. 954-421-1973, www.olomdeerfield.org.

"The Ethics of the Gospel of John: Challenges for Interpreters in Today's World," Friday, Sept. 24, 7:30 a.m.; and Saturday, Sept. 25, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., St. Anthony's Chapel, St. Thomas University, 16401 N.W. 37 Ave., Miami Gardens. Led by Dr. R. Alan Culpepper, dean, School of Theology, Mercer University. Registration: \$20. Part of St. Thomas University's Catholic Biblical Scholars Series. 305-628-6765 or jreisinger@stu.edu.

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

- **"Taller de Biblia: San Mateo",** 28 de septiembre-26 de octubre, 7:30-10:30 p.m., con el Padre Oscar Alonso, Sch. P. San Mateo se propone ayudar a su comunidad cristiana a superar una profunda crisis de identidad. Nuestra Iglesia en el siglo XXI también necesita ser fiel a sus raíces y tradición, a la vez que debe aceptar el reto de misionar a una sociedad neopagana.

- **"Cómo hablar de sexo a los hijos",** sábado, 2 de octubre, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Salón Félix Varela, Ermita de la Caridad, 3609 South Miami Ave., Miami; auspiciado por el Movimiento Castos por Amor, \$30 por persona, \$50 por matrimonio; incluye material, almuerzo y refrigerios. 786-488-4072.

- **"Ignite the Spark Within Us,"** annual Respect Life Conference, Oct. 29-30, Fort Lauderdale Marriott North, 6650 N. Andrews Ave., Fort Lauderdale. Information and registration: 954-771-0440, www.respectlifemiami.org

- **Encuentro Internacional Batalla Espiritual 2010,** 15 y 16 de octubre, Broward College, 1000 Coconut Creek Blvd., Coconut Creek. Teatro, danza, música y prédica, con Monseñor Rómulo

Emiliani, Padre Fernando Orejuela, Iván Díaz, entre otros. Donación: \$5. 954-588-7229, www.holytm.org.

Seminario de Acción Cristiana (SEMACE), sobre la mayordomía cristiana, sábado, 16 de octubre, iglesia de Mother of Christ, 14141 S.W., 26 St., Miami. Según las enseñanzas del Vaticano II, el laico debe pasar de ser un cristiano pasivo a un cristiano activo amando al hermano a través del servicio. 305-559-4515, edearagoza@gmail.com.

RETREATS/DAYS OF REFLECTION

Retiro de Emaús para caballeros de Little Flower, 22-24 de octubre, en Casa Manresa, Miami. 305-742-4529, 305-519-5336.

Pre Caná 2: El plan de Dios para un matrimonio lleno de alegría, basado en las enseñanzas de Juan Pablo II. Sábado, 2 de octubre, Casa Caná, 480 East 8th Street, Hialeah. Descubran el plan de Dios para sus vidas juntos. 305-762-1140, joyfilledmarriage@gmail.com.

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

- **"Breakfast With the Saints,"** Tuesday, Oct. 12, 7:30 a.m. Once a month through March 2011, a number of saintly friends will tell their faith story. Short presentation follows, highlighting aspects of a saint's life. Donation: \$7; all six sessions \$35.

- **Challenge retreat,** Wednesdays, beginning Sept. 29, 7-8:15 p.m., St. Matthew Parish, 542 Blue Heron Drive, Hallandale Beach. Based on Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. Learn discernment, contemplation, meditation. 954-458-1590, support@saintmatthewcc.com.

- **Cursillos in Christianity, Casa Emaús,** 16250 S.W. 112 Ave., Miami. An encounter with Christ to deepen your relationship with Christ. Men's weekend: Sept. 30-Oct 2; women's weekend: Oct. 14-17. ces2000@bellsouth.net, 305-279-2329.

- **Marriages in Victory retreat,** Oct. 16-17, St. Timothy Parish, 5400 S.W. 102 Ave., Miami. There is a design for marriage that works: God's design. 786-397-7990.

- **Impacto,** a weekend program that creates the proper atmosphere for a sincere dialogue between spouses. Designed for couples with children 3-11 years old. Retreats are held Saturday and Sunday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Register online at www.impactos.org or call 305-571-7111:

- Sept. 25-26, in English, St. Kevin, 12525 S.W. 42nd St., Miami.
- Oct. 2-3, in English, St. Timothy, 5400 S.W. 102nd Ave., Miami.
- Oct. 9-10, in Spanish, St. Joachim, 19150 S.W. 117th Ave., Miami.

MASSES/PRAYER SESSIONS

Mass for healing, Tuesday, Sept. 21, 7 p.m., St. Maurice, 2851 Stirling Road, Dania Beach. Celebrated by Father Andrew Chan-a-Sue, preceded by rosary at 6:30

p.m. 954-967-9533.

REUNIONS

Retired priests' luncheon, Tuesday, Oct. 12, 11:30 a.m., St. Martha Parish hall, 9201 Biscayne Blvd., Miami. Special guest: Archbishop Thomas Wenski. R.S.V.P. before Oct. 6, 954-683-1938.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

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

- Sept. 21, 7 p.m., Epiphany Parish, Miami.
- Sept. 25, 9 a.m., Mary Help of Christians Parish, Parkland; 10 a.m., Visitation Parish, Miami (in Spanish); 10:30 a.m., St. John the Apostle School, Hialeah (in English and Spanish).
- Sept. 29, 6 p.m., St. Rose of Lima School, Miami Shores.
- Oct. 7, 6:30 p.m., St. Coleman School, Pompano Beach.
- Oct. 9, 9:30 a.m., Blessed Sacrament Parish, Fort Lauderdale.
- Oct. 16, 9 a.m., St. Louis Parish, Pinecrest; St. Jerome School, Fort Lauderdale.

SCHOOL EVENTS

Cardinal Gibbons 50th anniversary celebration, Saturday, Oct. 2, 7-10 p.m., at the school, 2900 N.E. 47 St., Fort Lauderdale. Join us in remembering our past, envisioning our future and celebrating 50 years of Catholic education. \$40 per person. 954-491-2900, ext. 115.

Curley Notre Dame's 20th annual golf tournament, Friday, Oct. 8, Miami Shores Country Club, 10000 Biscayne Blvd., Miami Shores. All proceeds support school programs. <http://tinyurl.com/acndgolf2010>; 305-751-8367, ext. 19.

Rodgers' and Hammerstein's "South Pacific," Oct. 21-23, 7 p.m.; Oct. 23-24, 2 p.m., Bienes Center for the Arts at St. Thomas Aquinas High School, 2801 S.W. 12th St., Fort Lauderdale. Presented by drama department. Tickets: \$12 adults; \$5 students. Joan.Kneski@aquinas-sta.org.

SPIRITUAL

Songs and prayer in the spirit of Taizé, Tuesday, Sept. 21, 7:30 p.m., Barry University, Cor Jesu Chapel, 11300 N.E. Second Ave., Miami Shores. Chant, Scripture, silent reflection, intercessory prayer. 305-899-3650 or 305-458-9919.

VOCATIONS

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

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Band of brothers

Seminarians' band gives musical voice to their 'Restless Surrender'

BLANCA MORALES
Florida Catholic correspondent

MIAMI — On a recent night at the Paulinas bookstore, a group of young men set up microphones and instruments for the monthly coffeehouse hosted by the Daughters of St. Paul.

They seemed to be the typical college band rehearsing contemporary music. They fiddled with their electric guitars and drums, and practiced their best announcer-voice on the mike.

Joined by an entourage of classmates and "fans" in the form of family and friends, the T-shirt-and-denim-clad group is not your average band, however. They are young men from St. John Vianney College Seminary.

The men officially formed the group earlier this year, although the idea to start a band had been on their minds for a while.

"Music happens together," said band member Jonathan Sanchez. He said those in the seminary who have musical gifts often get together to play music.

Having heard of that talent, Mickey Itchon of 1Body Music Ministry approached Sanchez with the idea of forming a "seminary band."

Sanchez, a Miami native, was then joined by four other seminary brothers, all hailing from different dioceses: Michael Hartley and

Thomas Kennell from Pensacola/Tallahassee, and Bob Angel and Jonathan Stephanz from St. Petersburg.

They are currently calling themselves "Restless Surrender," a name that captures their discernment process.

Marilyn Becerra, Sanchez's mother, expressed pride and joy upon seeing her son lead the band. She said she had always felt he would enter the seminary, but she knew how difficult it was for him to give up his music. Sanchez had started the drum line at Archbishop Coleman Carroll High School, and was studying music at Miami Dade College when he decided to enroll at St. John Vianney.

Becerra said she was glad her son could continue to enjoy playing music while pursuing his religious vocation.

Restless Surrender's members say they do not seek to become popular or draw any attention to themselves. Their purpose is simply to play, and if possible, to evangelize and witness to others. Aside from preaching the Gospel, the seminarians said they want to share a sign of hope that there are young men discerning priesthood. ■

Restless Surrender will play Nov. 20 at the Daughters of St. Paul Bookstore coffeehouse, 145 S.W. 107 Ave., Miami. For information, call 305-559-6715.



Restless Surrender members, from left, Jonathan Stephanz, Bob Angel, Thomas Kennell, Jonathan Sanchez and Michael Hartley pose at the coffeehouse hosted by the Daughters of St. Paul. They debuted there in April. (PHOTOS BY BLANCA MORALES | FC)



From left, Jonathan Sanchez, Jonathan Stephanz and Michael Hartley sing during a coffeehouse at the Daughters of St. Paul Bookstore. They are three of the five members of Restless Surrender, a band of seminarians from St. John Vianney College Seminary in Miami.



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'Whatever God wants'

St. John Vianney starts school year with new rector, 68 seminarians

MARLENE QUARONI
Florida Catholic correspondent

MIAMI — Christopher Carrasco, 20, a first-year student at St. John Vianney College Seminary, said he feels at home at the school.

"I'm really stoked," said Carrasco, a graduate of Felix Varela High School. "I feel God's presence here."

Carrasco said he thought about entering the seminary after graduation, but first he studied philosophy at Miami Dade College. He said his family has been very supportive about his decision.

"I'm discerning on the priesthood," said Carrasco, an only child. "I'm taking it year by year. I want whatever God wants for me."

Carrasco said he loves playing the guitar, singing, playing sports and working out. He considers challenges a blessing and said he was impressed by Archbishop Thomas Wenski's words during a Mass of the Holy Spirit marking the opening of the academic year Aug. 28: "Let go and let God."

"Holiness is about allowing



Christopher Carrasco, 20, a new seminarian, participates in the Mass of the Holy Spirit, marking the start of the academic year at St. John Vianney College Seminary Aug. 28. (PHOTOS BY MARLENE QUARONI | FC)

God to form you," Carrasco said. "As we seminarians say, don't be afraid to love God."

Carrasco is one of 68 seminarians studying at St. John Vianney. The seminarians come from



Jonathan Stepanz, 21, fourth-year seminarian, plays the violin during the Mass of the Holy Spirit, marking the start of the academic year at St. John Vianney College Seminary Aug. 28.

Mexico, Vietnam, Colombia, the Philippines, the United States, Cuba, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Haiti and the Bahamas, and range in age from 17 to 47 years old, according to Father Roberto Garza, St. John Vianney's rector and himself an alumnus.

Archbishop Wenski told seminarians at the Mass that those wanting to follow the Lord must

practice the virtue of humility and that prayer must be the soul of the seminary.

"Your being here at St. John Vianney represents your own response as you seek to discern God's will," the archbishop said as the seminary began its 51st year of preparing young men for the diocesan priesthood.

He urged the seminarians to be committed disciples of Christ.

"Be the good soil where God's word can grow," he said. "Seminary' means a 'seed bed.' As you test your vocation, you enter into a formative process. It requires your cooperation. Keep the goal in mind. Don't leave just because you have a bad day. Wait for a good day and decide."

Archbishop Wenski told the students that the seminary will be a challenge.

"The seminary is about helping you know Jesus Christ as an intimate friend," he said. "Walking with Jesus brings its own challenges and rewards. You must follow the example of Christ who knelt to wash the feet of his disciples. In the words of Pope Benedict, do what you can and entrust the rest to the Lord." ■

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