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THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION OF THE DIOCESE OF ST. AUGUSTINE, INC.

ST. AUGUSTINE Catholic

March/April 2002

Volume XI Issue 4

The *St. Augustine Catholic* is the official magazine of the Diocese of Saint Augustine, which embraces 17 counties spanning northeast and north central Florida from the Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic Ocean. The diocese covers 11,032 square miles and serves 143,000 registered Catholics.



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Photographer: Chris VanHouten



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Publisher Most Reverend Victor Galeone

Editor Kathleen Bagg-Morgan

Associate Editor Chelle Delaney

Contributing Writers Joy Batteh-Freiha

Editorial Assistant Gina Petrone

Advertising Manager J. Michael Lenninger, APR

Layout and Design Jennifer Holland

Printer Allied Graphics

Diocesan Editorial Board
Kathleen Bagg-Morgan
Sister Lucille Cynes, DW
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The St. Augustine Catholic Magazine

is published bimonthly (six times a year) by the

Diocese of Saint Augustine

Office of Communications

P.O. Box 24000

Jacksonville, FL 32241-4000

(904) 262-3200, ext. 110

Fax: (904) 262-2398

E-Mail: KTBAGG@aol.com

Visit the

**St. Augustine Catholic
magazine online at:**

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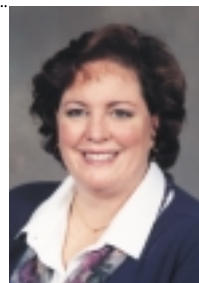


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www.dosaonline.com

editor's *notes*

In Preparation For Easter



Kathleen Bagg-Morgan

How are you doing with your plans to follow the Lenten practices of the church? Easter is just four weeks away (March 31) and while many of you have made a commitment to opening yourself up more fully to the presence of God — others need to be reminded that it's not too late to take advantage of this 40-day period to ask for God's help, to see things as they really are, and to set your eyes on what lasts forever.

This issue of the *St. Augustine Catholic* may help those of you who want to deepen your faith journey during Lent. Whether you practice almsgiving, fasting and prayer — or conduct a personal inventory to discover your deepest priorities — don't overlook the opportunity that Lent and Easter brings to deepen your faith and love of God.

On page 16 Father Frederic Maple in his article on "Discovering Our Deepest Priorities," says we shouldn't fear change because change is good and God is with us every step of the way. He refers to St. Augustine to sum it up this way, "To grow is to change; to be whole is to change often."

On page 6 Robert Ross in his article on "Beginning Again When A Marriage Ends," shares with us the changes he has had to make as a result of his divorce. He explains how he found healing and fellowship in a church sponsored ministry called New Beginnings.

And change is what Bishop Victor Galeone calls us to do in his column on page 4. He explains the churches position on the hotly debated issue of capital punishment and calls us to "show the criminal the love and mercy of Jesus, who, while being nailed to the cross not only forgave his executioners, but even made excuses for them."

In closing I want to draw attention to our cover. It depicts an adult Baptism — an image that we will all witness at the Easter Vigil. More than 700 people in the Diocese of Saint Augustine will be receiving the sacraments of initiation this Easter. Let us pray for our catechumens and reflect on our own baptismal promises. Remember at the heart of Christian Baptism is a dying to one way of living and a rising to a new way of life. Take time this Lent to list the ways in which, because you are a disciple of the Lord, your way of life is better.

Kathleen Bagg-Morgan, editor

CCHD Now Accepting Applications For The 2002 Funding Year

Founded in 1969, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is the domestic anti-poverty, social justice program of the U.S. Catholic Bishops. Its pastoral strategy is empowerment of the poor through a methodology of participation and education for justice, leading toward solidarity between poor and non-poor as impelled by the church's biblical tradition, modern Catholic social teaching, and the pervasive presence of poverty in the United States.

CCHD will fund projects if they benefit a group of people living in poverty. At least 50 percent of those benefiting from the project must be from the low-income community. Members of a poverty group must have the dominant voice in the project and at least half of them who plan, implement or make policy decisions should be persons who are involuntarily poor. CCHD will not fund individuals or projects that are in opposition to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Requests for funding should not exceed the maximum of \$10,000. The deadline to submit applications is April 15. To request additional information and application forms, please write or call: Office of Justice and Peace, 134 East Church Street, Jacksonville, FL 32202; (904) 358-7409 or (904) 282-0439.

Thank You For Magazine

I was in St. Augustine recently visiting my daughter at Flagler College. Your magazine caught my eye at a convenience store. It is so attractive, professional and informative. I was astounded to see such a periodical distributed by a Catholic diocese.

I took a copy with me, but I would love to have two additional copies to share with our local diocese and with my pastor.

Thank you all. I am so impressed by your magazine and hope that it is a sign of things to come for Catholic dioceses in the future.

*Gayle Flynn
Bradenton, Fla.*

Editor's Note: The *St. Augustine Catholic* is distributed the first weekend every other month in parishes and various Catholic facilities throughout the 17-county area. It can also be found in local libraries and convenience stores. For a mail subscription, write to: *St. Augustine Catholic*, P.O. Box 24000, Jacksonville, FL 32241-4000. Cost: \$20/year.

Catholic Church Promotes Human Rights

The article "Welcoming the Stranger" in the January/February issue of the *St. Augustine Catholic* describes the odyssey of a Nicaraguan family who fled the political persecution of the Sandinistas who had replaced the Samozoa government.

In the article the family describes the Sandinistas as anti-Catholic, which they are. However, it might be helpful to readers unfamiliar with the turbulent period in Nicaraguan history to recall that the Roman Catholic Church strongly opposed the anti-Catholic policies of the repressive Samozoa regime.

In the 1970s, the Catholic Church in Nicaragua issued a pastoral letter calling for a completely new order. In 1972, the Archbishop of Managua boycotted the ceremony installing a new Samozoa supported government and finally in 1978 the church demanded the resignation of President Samozoa.

The leadership of the church in helping refugees and in promoting human rights should make every Catholic feel proud.

*John P. Bozzone
Cathedral-Basilica, St. Augustine, Fla.*

Birthright Does More

Thank you for the list of alternatives to abortion in the December issue of your magazine.

Birthright does more than referrals just as the others do. We also offer free pregnancy tests, information and friendship counseling, and referrals to medical and community resources. Mothers and babies are also clothed. We love them all — one at a time.

All our services are free and our hotline provides 24-hour access to someone to talk to at the touch of a phone

Many thanks for your continued bimonthly publication. I brag about our diocese to friends and family who are visiting!

*Sharon Foy
Jacksonville, Fla.*

Correction:

In the January/February issue of the *St. Augustine Catholic*, the **Act of Contrition** prayer on page 14 had a typo. Here is the correct version:

Act Of Contrition

My God,
I am sorry for my sins
with all my heart.
In choosing to do wrong
and failing to do good,
I have sinned against you
whom I should love above all things.
I firmly intend, with your help,
to do penance,
to sin no more,
and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.
Our Savior Jesus Christ
suffered and died for us.
In his name, my God, have mercy.
Amen.

(One Faith, One Lord — Sadlier)



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My Dear Friends in Christ,

Every Good Friday we hear Pilate demanding that Jesus answer his question, "Where are you from?" When Jesus remained silent, Pilate asked: "Do you refuse to answer me? Don't you realize that I have the power either to free you or to crucify you?" Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me at all if it had not been given to you from above." The Lord's reply to Pilate acknowledges that the state does have the right to mete out the death penalty — a right that comes directly from God.

"You would have no power over me at all if it had not been given to you from above."

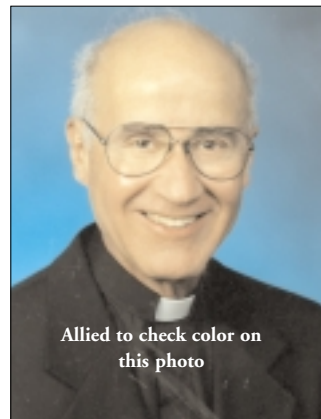
Elsewhere in this issue there is an article on capital punishment. (See page 10) Some people question why the church has changed her teaching in such an important area. As Cardinal Avery Dulles points out in that same article, the church's position on capital punishment has been modified, not reversed. While admitting that the state still possess the right to execute criminals, today the church says that the state should exercise that right only if incarceration would be inadequate to prevent the criminal from inflicting further harm, a situation which is practically nonexistent in modern society.

In November, I issued a request that signatures be collected in our parishes for a petition, asking the governor to place a

temporary moratorium on the death penalty. The purpose of the moratorium is to allow time for a serious study to be conducted on all ramifications of capital punishment—specifically concerning the cases of 373 prisoners on Florida's death row. My call for a moratorium received both positive and negative reactions. For example, someone asked me, "Bishop, let's say that someone raped and killed a niece of yours, would you still be against the death penalty?" My position then would be the same as it is

now. Yes, the authorities would have the right to execute the criminal, but I wouldn't want them to. I'd want to show that criminal the love and mercy of Jesus, who, while being nailed to the cross, not only forgave his executioners, but even made excuses for them. Furthermore, I'd want to be sure that the criminal had enough time to realize the terrible crime he had committed and to ask the Lord for pardon. For that to happen, much time might be needed.

That was precisely the case with Maria Goretti and her 18-year-old assassin, Alessandro Nettuno. Though only 11 years old, she courageously rebuffed his attempts to rape her. In a frenzy, he stabbed her 14 times, abandoning her in a pool of blood on the kitchen floor. The next morning, with



Allied to check color on this photo

Bishop Victor Galeone

death just hours away, the parish priest of Nettuno asked Maria if she forgave her assassin. From her hospital bed, she feebly replied: "Oh yes, Padre, I forgive him. I want him to be with me in heaven one day." At his trial three months later, Alessandro was unrepentant. He blamed Maria for all that had happened. "She threw herself at me like a slut. I did it to defend myself!" Since he was a minor, Italian law spared him the gallows. Sentenced to a 30-year prison term, he spent the first seven years bitterly angry, cursing the prison chaplain whenever he approached the cell. Then one night, Alessandro had a dream: "I saw Maria standing in a field of lilies. She had the most precious smile I've ever seen. Without saying a word, she proceeded to pick 14 lilies and hand them to me one by one. Then I awoke." The next morning, he called for the chaplain to make his peace with God.

July 6th of this year marks the first centenary of Maria Goretti's martyrdom. Let's pray for our youth, that they will treasure their purity as Maria did. Let's pray for those in prison, that they will repent as Alessandro did. And finally, let's pray for ourselves, that we may show to everyone who may have committed a heinous crime the compassion and mercy and love of Jesus.

+ Victor Galeone

*“Getting into one of the boats,
Jesus sat down and began
to teach the people” – Luke 5:3*



Just as Jesus taught Simon Peter, the fisherman, to be a “fisher of men,” so this missionary priest and others like him continue to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and His disciples. They bring the hope of salvation to young people, such as those in Liberia, whose lives are marked by suffering and uncertainty — children who’ve lived for years with civil strife. Through this priest’s words and witness, they come to know Jesus’ love — and His peace.

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Beginning Again when a Marriage Ends

By Robert Ross



After my marriage ended, I wanted to withdraw into my shell, lock out the world, and just lick my wounds. But something inside warned me that I needed to connect with other people, especially positive, supportive people, or else I'd become isolated, resentful, and bitter — and remain that way.

When I heard about the New Beginnings program sponsored by the Catholic Church, I decided to give it a try. I've never regretted it. I gained so much from the program that, after completing it, I became a facilitator for other groups.

New Beginnings is a program for separated, divorced and widowed people that lasts 19 weeks. Meetings are held each week at a sponsoring parish and sometimes in the homes of participants and are led by facilitators who have previously completed the program. What is said remains absolutely confidential.

During the first nine weeks of the program, participants tell their stories and talk about the challenges they're facing. They soon grow to trust and care about each other. Weekly topics include understanding the grieving process, being alone, single-parenting, rediscovering oneself, relating to others, dealing with one's ex-spouse, and relating to God and the church.

During the second half of the program, participants read, discuss, and do exercises from the book *Rebuilding When Your Relationship Ends*, by Bruce Fisher, who compares post-divorce recovery and growth to scaling a mountain. On their climb, participants pass through such challenges as "denial," "fear," "guilt," and "rejection" at the bottom, progressing through "anger," "letting go," "self-worth," "openness," and

“trust,” before eventually reaching “freedom” at the top.

Everyone in the group moves through these stages at a different pace. Those who are farther along in their journey share their insights with others who have just begun.

New Beginnings is not a social program or a singles group, and participants agree not to date or become involved in romantic relationships with each other while in the program. But meaningful friendships do form, bonds as close as those between brothers and sisters.

“When you’re separated or divorced you feel that your life is over and you may feel alienated from the church,” says Father Anthony Palazzolo, who serves as a consultant for the separated and divorced in the Diocese of Saint Augustine. “These groups and those who serve in this ministry help dispel these feelings by nurturing support and compassion and displaying the love of Jesus Christ.”

Father Palazzolo speaks from personal experience. Earlier in his life, he had been a husband and a father before his marriage ended in divorce. He says he got through his grief with the aid of the late Father Jim Young, a priest who pioneered ministry to divorced Catholics, and by helping others in the same circumstances. Father Palazzolo is now chaplain of the North American Conference of Divorced and Separated Catholics, an organization that Father Young founded.

“When you’re separated or divorced you feel that your life is over and you may feel alienated from the church.”

—Father Anthony Palazzolo

The fact that others care enough to hear about your struggles, sorrows, joys, setbacks, and triumphs is in itself a healing thing. A year after going through New Beginnings, I can pick up the phone and talk with people who were in my group as familiarly as if we’d seen each other the day before.

Groups average about 10-12 people. For men, who are usually in the minority, the atmosphere during the first few weeks can be tense, and eye-opening, when women whose husbands left them express their hurt, bewilderment, and anger.

But the experience is eye opening for women, as well. In the room with them are men who are in pain, too, yet are willing to stay and share their pain, even though it may be difficult. Both grow in understanding and compassion. Stereotypes crumble, replaced by real human beings.

Many people enter the New Beginnings program after a rebound relationship or a second or even third marriage has failed. They’ve reached the belated conclusion that changing partners isn’t the solution, but rather they need to look at changing themselves and the way they relate to others.

One of the hardest things for me to accept after my divorce was the recommendation to avoid becoming involved in another serious relationship for one to two years. Therapists say that for most people, it takes at least that long to heal the wounds caused by the end of a marriage or death of a spouse. But equally important, one needs time to learn from what happened and develop a new “self” — a wiser person with new attitudes, interests, and ways of relating to others.

At first I resisted this advice, but I soon acknowledged its value. A new relationship with someone else can feel good, but it steals valuable time and energy from the necessary work of healing and growing as a person.

As a New Beginnings facilitator, one of the miracles I’m privileged to see is the transformation that takes place in participants. On the first evening, most people sit with their arms crossed and jaws clenched. Their body language says: I’m hurt, shut down, and mad as hell. But during the weeks that follow, tentative smiles emerge, followed by sighs of relief, tears, lots of tears, and, finally, laughs of recognition and hope.

It’s amazing how beautiful we become when our faces are freed from fear, anxiety, bitterness, and suspicion. As we close each meeting with a prayer, God’s presence is visible in those faces. New life is beginning. 🙏

Robert Ross is a freelance writer based in the Orlando Diocese.

Services for Divorced and Separated in the Diocese

The Diocesan Center for Family Life coordinates a variety of support groups and programs for separated and divorced Catholics. They are:

Gainesville:

St. Patrick Parish: Support Group — Maureen Sheehan-Carney (352) 374-4904; *Level One Workshop* (nine weeks) — Dee Hartley (352) 331-7980 or Steve Heneka (352) 372-0294.

Green Cove Springs:

Sacred Heart Education Center: *New Beginnings* (ongoing) and *Rebuilding When Your Relationship Ends* (10 weeks) — Jeannie Gallina (904) 215-0642.

Jacksonville:

St. Joseph Parish: *New Directions* (support group) — Beckie Flint (904) 268-1591.

San Jose Parish: *Single Again* ministry — Jeff McFetridge (904) 739-3062 and *Rebuilding When Your Relationship Ends* (10 weeks) — Lisa Corso (904) 292-1795.

Christ the King Parish: *Single and Single Again* ministry — Pat Bell (904) 722-8525.

Catholic Charities Bureau — a trained therapist leads a nine-week support program for people who are going through divorce and separation — David O’Byrne (904) 354-4846, ext. 234.

Jacksonville Beach:

St. Paul/Our Lady Star of the Sea/St. John Parishes: *Divorce and Beyond* (support group, classes) and *Rebuilding When Your Relationship Ends* (10 weeks) — Maureen Williams (904) 246-9660.

Workshops, Conferences, and Retreats:

For information about workshops, conferences, retreats, and other services for divorced and separated Catholics in the diocese: Call the Diocesan Center for Family Life at (904) 308-7474, visit them online at www.dcfll.org or call Father Anthony Palazzolo, diocesan consultant for the separated and divorced at (904) 280-5422.

Overcoming Addictions

By Kathleen Bagg-Morgan



We have all had experiences of struggling to break a habit, failing repeatedly, and then at some point meeting with success. However, for many individuals their behaviors go beyond just bad habits and often lead to addictive or compulsive behaviors that can take years to overcome — if at all.

Let's first ask: "What is addiction?" Marie Weber, a substance abuse counselor for the Jacksonville Bureau of Catholic Charities, likes to refer to the no-nonsense way that television talk show host, Sally Jesse Raphael defines addiction: "When people perform a behavior over which they have absolutely no control, and they behave this way consistently, repetitively, as a way of escaping from profound feelings of worthlessness, prolonged feelings of helplessness and powerlessness and anxiety, and this is the way to avoid and escape from what's going on inside and what's going on outside their lives, you better believe it's an ADDICTION!"

Weber says these four aspects characterize addictions: loss of control, persistence in the face of adverse consequences, a poor sense of self and a breakdown in relationships.

Addictive behaviors are compulsive and include the over-consumption of alcohol, nicotine, caffeine, food, prescription drugs, illegal drugs, material goods, sex, relationships, gambling, work, electronic technology like the Internet and adrenaline rushes.

"The deterioration of relationships is where addictive behaviors usually show up first,"

said Weber. She points out it is usually the loved one of an addict who makes the first call to her office seeking help.

"When couples or parents come to see me they are usually seeking help in their marriage or family," said Weber. But she says, "Before counseling can begin, the problem must first be identified." If a person is chemically addicted, she refers them to a chemical detoxification treatment program first. "You can't begin to help them heal their marriage or improve their family relationships if they are irrational or not thinking clearly due to substance abuse," says Weber.

She begins by asking her clients to take a personal inventory or a global picture of their life. Weber asks them to rate themselves on a scale of 1-10 on their ability to manage their affairs in the following key areas:

- Living within my financial means _____
- Getting along with my significant other(s) _____
- Parenting responsibly and lovingly _____
- Doing a good job at work or school _____
- Getting along socially _____
- Attending to my spiritual affairs _____
- Caring for my body with adequate nutrition _____
- Keeping my body fit and well _____
- Enjoying myself recreationally _____

If, after totaling up your points, you discover that you score a one in any of the

above areas, you are considered to be neglectful of these issues in your life. A five is considered average and a 10 means you are doing a terrific job in effectively managing your affairs.

Weber says it is not an addiction until you have a significant problem in one or more areas of your life. She says she works hard to help her clients reflect honestly with themselves and if they have a behavior that bothers them — to accept it. "Before an individual can overcome an addiction, they must be able to identify addiction as a problem-causing agent, know where to go for help and to eventually accept their addiction without shame," she says.

Weber adds, "No one abuses alcohol or drugs with the intention of becoming addicted; it happens to about 10 percent of us nonetheless."

Bad habits can have a way of quickly turning into compulsive, addictive behaviors. Many individuals are unaware they have a problem until it has taken over their life.

It is important to remember that recovery is a process; it is not a quick fix. It involves much more than giving up the addictive behavior. It involves taking a good hard look at your life, accepting your failings and seeking professional and spiritual help. ➤

Professional treatment and prevention programs and community-based organizations are available to help the addict and his/her family. To find out more about these programs, call: Marie Weber at Catholic Charities in Jacksonville at (904) 354-4846, ext. 230; Stephen Henneka in Gainesville at (352) 372-0294 or Sister Carolyn Tucker, SSJ, in St. Augustine at (904) 829-6300.

Hope For Catholic Alcoholics

By Father Neil J. Carr, SJ

Called one of the Catholic Church's best-kept secrets, the Calix Society is a 55-year-old, four-nation movement designed to help alcoholics maintain their sobriety through increased spirituality. It serves as a supplement to Alcoholics Anonymous (AA).

The Calix Society, named after the Latin word for chalice, had its inception in 1947 when five laymen in Minneapolis — all recovering alcoholics — got together to pray daily for several alcoholic priests they knew.

Today Calix is home to Catholics who are active in AA, but feel uncomfortable with the nondenominational atmosphere that AA provides. For many Catholics who were brought up in a church rich in tradition, dogma and ritual, AA doesn't provide them with the spiritual recovery they hunger for.

Calix is not a Catholic AA. While it incorporates AA's 12 Steps and is endorsed by AA co-founder Bill Wilson, its monthly meetings are enhanced by the fact that members come from the same religious background. Calix members can express their specifically Catholic feelings and concerns without fear of offense or reprisal. Soon Calix members see how their Catholic faith can become a sustaining culture for living a spiritually productive and sober life.

The Diocese of Saint Augustine has one Calix chapter. It meets the last Thursday of every month at the Catholic Center, 11625 Old St. Augustine Road in Jacksonville. The meetings begin with Mass at 7:30 p.m. followed by group discussion and fellowship.

To learn more about Calix or if you would like to establish a Calix meeting near you, call Jim McDade at (904) 262-9494.

Jesuit Father Neil Carr is a Calix chaplain and a resident priest at Christ the King Parish, Jacksonville.



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UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

Why can't we agree about the **Death Penalty?**

by Chelle Delaney



Tom Gillan

Becky Stringer

Moratorium Marchers

Jason Stephens

Delena Stephens

Delena Stephens, Becky Stringer and Tom Gillan see eye to eye. They are in total agreement, even though Tom Gillan is an ex-cop who lost three friends in the line of duty, Becky Stringer's brother was murdered and one of Delena Stephens's five sons is on Death Row.

What do the three of them agree on? They believe that there shouldn't be a death penalty, it's that simple.

Delena Stephens is director of the Office of Justice and Peace of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Saint Augustine.

Becky Stringer is executive director of the St. Augustine Regional Office of Catholic Charities and represents the diocese on the Florida Catholic Conference's Committee Against the Death Penalty.

Tom Gillan, director of the Criminal Justice Commission for the Diocese of Orlando, represents his diocese on the same committee.

Bishop Victor Galeone of the Diocese of Saint Augustine is the spiritual moderator for the committee that oversees the conference's Committee Against the Death Penalty.

But there are arguments, even on television. For example actor James Garner plays a Supreme Court Justice on a CBS series titled *First Monday*. The series began explosively by dealing with abortion and the death penalty.

Still another fictional Supreme Court television drama will appear later. It's titled, *The Court*, and will star Sally Fields.

That brings us to a real Supreme Court Justice, Antonin Scalia. He spoke at a daylong conference on "A Call for Reckoning: Religion and the Death Penalty."

Justice Scalia, who is Catholic, disagreed with the church's view. According to the Catholic News Service (CNS), he said that he is not obligated to believe the pope's teaching, only to give it serious consideration. "I have given it careful and thoughtful consideration and rejected it," Scalia said. "I do not find the death penalty immoral. I am happy to reach that conclusion, because I like my job, and would rather not resign."

On the other side is the group of marchers, Delena Stephens included, who left Raiford and the Union Correctional Institution (where executions in Florida take place) for a 143-mile walk to Tallahassee with a petition they planned to present to Governor Jeb Bush. It asked the governor to begin a moratorium on executions.

The marchers arrived, as promised — accompanied by three men who had formerly been on Death Row and were exonerated.

But Governor Bush was out of his office. A spokeswoman for Bush said his stance on

the death penalty has not wavered. That is, he will continue to sign orders for execution.

However, while the marchers were walking their 143 miles, their prayers may have been temporarily answered. The U.S. Supreme Court, including Justice Scalia, on Jan. 23 halted the Florida execution of Amos King, 47, to consider if whether his case in Florida is similar to one in Arizona that they are considering.

You see, the Supreme Court had ruled that the jury make the decision on the death penalty. But in Arizona, Florida, and seven other states, it's the judges who impose the death penalty after the jurors decide guilt.

The delay could hold up executions in Florida for several months. Good news for the 373 prisoners on Florida's Death Row.

On Jan. 25, two days after the U.S. Supreme Court halted the execution of Amos King, Cardinal Avery Dulles held a press conference on capital punishment at which, according to CNS, he said that the church's position on capital punishment had been modified, not reversed. "Self-defense of society continues to justify the death penalty." It "should remain on the books, symbolically."

However, "I think the pope and bishops feel we should go to the extreme of

respecting human life, even guilty human life," the Cardinal said.

Becky Stringer said, "There is nothing in the death penalty that would bring my brother back. The death penalty only creates more victims, the families of whoever commits a crime. Why should they be punished?"

"Those were my initial reasons for opposing the death penalty. Since then, I've educated myself. I've realized that the death penalty was unfairly applied, based on economic status and race. We have no right to take a life. You can go to the Old Testament and say the state has a right to do this. I simply don't agree with it."

Tom Gillan, a former police officer, has also been associated, since 1994, with the organization, Concerns of Police Survivors, or COPS. What he and his office are working on is a ministry to crime victims as well as the well-established prison and jail ministry. "I've always worked with victims, but over the years, I've learned to do both sides. We've reached out to the clergy and the laity in our diocese. It's important to reach into the faith community."

Workshops to train representatives from each parish in the Diocese of Orlando and representatives from Florida's other six dioceses are being planned, he said. Hopefully, parishes can learn to be as helpful to people who become victims of crime as they are to those who lose a loved one and are attended to by parish bereavement ministries. Gillan said.

"When something bad happens that's when people sometimes lose their faith,"

Gillian said. "They ask, 'How could God let this happen to me?'"

That's a question Delena Stephens might have asked when her 23-year-old son Jason was sentenced to death for the murder of a three-year-old boy.

The facts are that Jason did commit a robbery, did take the boy "as insurance," and left the boy in a stolen car.

"But Jason did not intend for this child to die," Delena said. "I publicly asked that he turn himself in."

Jason did call a detective and said he would turn himself in, but fled instead.

"We're a close-knit loving family," said Delena, a widow. "Myself and the children, David, Angela, Erik, Michael and Brian, we just have to be strong, to support Jason, not his action, but him."

Of course, Delena's whole family is a victim.

While Jason's trial was taking place, Delena Stephens was the featured speaker at a rally at a Jacksonville high school honoring victims of violence. She said:

"When a mother gives birth to her child, she sees dreams. I saw dreams. I didn't see the monster that the media has created.

"When a crime occurs, there's more than one victim. We are all victims. If we're going to make a difference, we all have to work together."

The trial was a real trial for Delena. While there is help and support for the victims, the only help the accused gets is from the court-appointed defense attorney.

"I didn't know what was going on. I didn't know where to turn," Delena said.

It's a fact that, currently, there are no support groups for the families of those on trial. What support there is comes later when the accused are incarcerated.

However, there are people, even those who have been injured, who want to help the families of the accused. Delena Stephens even has received a card from the three-year-old boy's grandmother that says the grandmother was praying for Delena.

Circuit Judge Jack Schemer sentenced Jason Stephens to death on Tuesday, April 7, 1998.

Jason is now among those 373 prisoners on Death Row — waiting. Do they have a chance to live?

"We are still a long way from the time when our conscience can be certain of having done everything possible to prevent crime and to control it effectively so that it no longer does harm and, at the same time, to offer to those who commit crimes a way of redeeming themselves and making a positive return to society."

— Pope John Paul II, July 9, 2000

"...the nature and extent of the punishment must be carefully evaluated and decided upon and ought not go to the extreme of executing the offender except in the cases of absolute necessity: in other words, when it would not be possible otherwise to defend society. Today, however, as a result of steady improvements in the organization of the penal system, such cases are very rare if not practically nonexistent."

— Pope John Paul II in his encyclical, *The Gospel of Life* (1995)

"As bishops, we believe that the current trend of more prisons and more executions, with little education and drug treatment, does not truly reflect Christian values and will not really leave communities safer. We are convinced that our tradition and our faith offer alternatives that can hold offenders accountable and challenge them to change their lives; reach out to victims and reject vengeance, restore a sense of community and resist the violence that has engulfed so much of our culture."

— *A Statement of the Catholic Bishops of the United States on Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice.*

"The God of the Bible is not indifferent before evil, and although his ways are not our ways, his times and plans are different to ours, yet he places himself on the side of the victims and appears as severe judge of the violent, the oppressors, the victorious who have no mercy. However, his intention does not seek destruction, in showing his power and his faithfulness in love, he can also generate in the conscience of the evildoer a shudder that will lead him to conversion."

— Pope John Paul II Jan. 23, 2002



continued next page

The U.S. Supreme Court has held up executions in Arizona and Florida because the sentencing was by a judge. And Jason Stephens was sentenced by a judge. That action has been followed by two other stays ordered by the U.S. Supreme Court and the Governor's Office stopping the executions of two men scheduled to die that week.

However, the Florida Attorney General's Office said the significance of the stays should not be overestimated, that the other death penalty cases are continuing to go through the system, and that the Supreme Court and the Governor could lift the stays at any time.

On the other hand, there are people, like those who marched to Tallahassee in support of a moratorium on the death penalty, who, unlike a certain Supreme Court Judge, believe the death penalty is immoral.

Supporting them, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) just announced the distribution of a second round of grants, totalling \$538,500, to support criminal justice reform activities at 16 organizations across the nation.

The Florida Catholic Conference was awarded a \$50,000 grant to produce a nine-



Chele Delaney

minute, bi-lingual film, "Talking About the Death Penalty." The film will educate Catholics on church teachings regarding the death penalty. Tom Gillan and Becky Stringer are members of the committee. Bishop Victor Galeone is the Episcopal Moderator of the State Pro-Life Coordinating Committee.

Jacksonville Citizens for a Moratorium, which has been aided by the Diocese of Saint Augustine through its Office of Justice

and Peace, directed by Delena Stephens, has been selected for a \$10,000 grant.

Both of these efforts are particularly important since Floridians will be asked to vote in November 2002 on an constitutional amendment that would make death an almost certain penalty for a capital crime in Florida.

So, when it comes to the death penalty, we still haven't been able to agree. ☹

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"Death Penalty and Hebrew Scriptures"

**Thursday, March 14
7-9 p.m.**

**presentation by Dale Recinella
Auditorium, FCCJ Kent Campus
3939 Roosevelt Blvd., Jacksonville**

May 15-16

**Presentation by Dr. James McGivern
author of *The Death Penalty: An
Historical and Theological Survey*
Time and place to be announced
For more information
(904) 358-7410.**

**May 15
6:30-9:30 p.m.**

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Eucharist

the seven sacraments of the catholic church ■ part three of a series

By Joy Batteh-Freiha

What the Eucharist Does For Us

When we go to Mass, we gather, first, to be with our friends of the church in which we worship. By gathering we show that we share our faith, that we are part of the Body of Christ.

We also gather to listen together, to hear the Word of God together, including “Do this in memory of me.”

What we do “in memory of me” is to share a meal, just as Jesus and his disciples did. We are remembering that Jesus “took the bread, blessed it and gave thanks for it and gave it to his disciples.”

But we also gather to part and carry out, each of us — with Jesus — Christ’s mission.

Those are the reasons we gather.

In order to celebrate Mass as a faithful community, we must also celebrate the Eucharist. It is the reason we gather — to hear the Word of God proclaimed and to receive the bread and wine, which become the sacrament of Christ’s life and sacrifice.

The foundation for celebrating the Eucharist has been passed down to us from the early Christians who came together to share the Eucharistic meal. The word “Eucharist” is derived from the Greek words — *eucharistein* and *eulogein* — that mean thanksgiving and the blessings offered during a meal.

At Mass, we listen to the words of Christ, give thanks together while we call upon the Holy Spirit to come into our lives and transform the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ.

As Catholics, our understanding of the mystery of the Eucharist is shaped by the images of Holy Thursday, when, during the Last Supper, the Lord gathered all of his disciples to his table, even those who would betray and deny him. That’s when he offered them the sacrament of his body and blood.

The mystery of the Eucharist is also shaped by the Passion of Good Friday and his sacrifice on the Cross.

But the Eucharist is also shaped by Easter Sunday and his Resurrection.

“It is at the Last Supper that Jesus said, ‘Do this in memory of me,’” said Father John Phillips, associate pastor of St. Augustine Church and Catholic Center in Gainesville. “We are to join in the same sacrificial meal, now the Eucharist, until Christ comes again in glory. The Last Supper is foundational to the celebration of the Eucharist.”

We prepare ourselves for the sacrament of the Eucharist by listening to the Word of God, singing psalms and joining in prayer. We are asked to give thanks for all we have and unselfishly offer gifts, ‘the work of human hands,’ to the church and the poor. As the priest invites us to the table — altar — we come as a people ready to be transformed into his body and blood —

the church — and to carry out his mission of love to our neighbors.

Children usually begin preparations to receive the Sacrament of Eucharist for the first time around age seven. Adults who enroll in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, or RCIA, program in the fall, spend months of preparation before receiving the three sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil.

As a faithful church community of family, teachers, parents, priests, it is our baptismal obligation to help mold the Christian faith, by living the sacraments daily.

“If parents live the sacrificial love of Christ renewed in each Eucharist and explain to their children how they are inspired and called by the Eucharist to do this, then children will grasp the vital importance of the Eucharist,” said Father Phillips.

Carol Ginzl, director of Religious Education at St. Joseph Parish in Jacksonville, agrees that family and friends play a significant role in forming a lifetime of Christian faith for the candidate.

“Parents are active participants in sacramental preparation meetings,” said Ginzl. “They are given activities to use at home and are asked to be involved in the preparation of the Seder Meal which helps children understand the connection between the Passover, the Last Supper and the Mass. Both children and adults are taught the significance of the body of Christ, that it is both the church community itself and the life of Christ.”

As baptized Catholics, we are given the privilege and honor to receive the ultimate gift of the Lord's body and blood. Through the priest, Christ offers himself to us in the form of his body and blood. It is Christ's way to make us a visible part of his Body, the church.

"Whenever we celebrate the Eucharist, we make real what our baptism is all about: to live as Jesus lived and to 'do this' in memory of Jesus," said Father Moises Palaroan, pastor of St. William Parish in Keystone Height. "The Eucharist is remembering, celebrating and believing that we are one body with Christ, hence, a living sacrifice of praise — an 'eternal prayer of mortal' journeying toward the fullness of the Kingdom."

At the completion of our Christian Initiation, the Sacrament of the Eucharist is our statement of our commitment and faith in Christ. It is an opportunity that unites us with the sacrifice he made for us.

In Baptism, we are introduced to and accepted by the Christian community.

Through Confirmation, we are strengthened by that community as we affirm our devotion to Christ.

But through the Eucharist, we are given the privilege of coming, each week, with our Catholic community, to the table where we renew our baptismal promise, give thanks, and receive the life of Christ.

"The Eucharist," said Father Phillips, "completes the sacraments of initiation by the

continual renewal of our one-time baptism. The Eucharist renews our membership in the Body of Christ, the church; it proclaims the Lord's death and Resurrection; it reconciles us into the Body of Christ; and gives us the opportunity to ask God to send the Holy Spirit to make the gifts of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ, so as to 'make us one body, one spirit in Christ.'"

Father Palaroan said the Sacrament of Eucharist allows us to find the real meaning of our role in society. "As St. Augustine reminds us, 'Be what you see and receive what you are.' The Eucharist teaches us to be a real presence in our world where we hardly have time to be present to one another, especially our loved ones," said Father Palaroan. "As Christ is present in the assembly, in the Word, in the minister and in His body and blood, we become a real presence to one another and to the world through the sacrament of love, the sign of unity and the bond of charity."

When we gather as a faith community, we are coming together as one body to Christ's table, to hear His word, eat His body and drink His blood. By doing this, we are summoned to go out and live His word each day.

"The Eucharist is the school where we learn to become a gift to one another," said Father Palaroan. "The Eucharist transforms us into a gift shared even at the great cost of self. One can give without loving, but no one can love without giving." 🌿

Welcoming Children to the Lord's Table

Suggestions for Parents

Keep first in First Communion. Talk about the many future occasions when your child will take Communion with you.

Stress the baptismal connection. Get out the scrapbook and recall your child's Baptism. Unpack the christening garment and tell its history; when and where you bought it or who made it, who else wore it. Attend the Easter Vigil with your child.

Involve your child in the sacrifices you make. Let the youngster help you fix a meal for a neighbor in need, sort through toys and clothing for gifts to the poor, visit a nursing home, add pennies to a charitable cause.

Explore the family of faith. Visit the parishes where grandparents and friends worship, the oldest church in town (learn its history), an ethnic parish, the Cathedral-Basilica of St. Augustine.

Put a little extra effort into family meals. Let your child decorate the table for an evening meal. Talk about special meals your family has shared.

For the Rest of the Parish Family

Be attentive to the "high chair set." Get to know the children who sit near you in church. Show them that church is a place where people sing and are happy, where a little one is greeted with smiles.

Watch for signs that a child is approaching First Communion, such as a greater attentiveness at Mass. In your own way, welcome him or her to the larger table.

Notice when a child is using a new prayer book or joining the line for Communion. Express congratulations, your pleasure that the youngster is joining you for Communion.

Source: *Catholic Update*

Watch for part four, Sacrament of Holy Orders in the May/June issue.





Discovering Our Deepest Priorities

By Father Frederic Maples, SJ

In so many ways life is served up to us. We do not change so much as we are changed.

Inner and outer forces seemingly beyond our control often shape our lives. Some forces are positive: falling in love, having children. Some can be positive: growing old. And some are negative: disasters, life-threatening accidents or illnesses, loss.

Yet, over and over we see people who respond with grace and creativity to the most grievous life experiences. In suffering they discover what is most important, change their priorities and find inner healing.

These people are not passive in the face of the experiences served up to them. They enter into a dance with life.

They change and are changed.

Indeed, change is an essential ingredient in our spiritual pilgrimage. To paraphrase St. Augustine: To grow is to change; to be whole is to have changed often. We are being stretched in preparation for something wonderful beyond human imagining. But it is a big stretch!

This life is a pilgrimage. As individuals and as a Christian community, we are on the way.

During Lent and Easter we are encouraged to see life in this perspective.

- ❖ Lent recalls Jesus' 40 days in the desert.
- ❖ Jesus' experience itself recalls Israel's 40 years of desert pilgrimage toward the Promised Land.
- ❖ The experiences of ancient Israel and Jesus are true images of our own lives.

But how do we participate in this big stretch? What does it take to change our own priorities, to take initiative, to freely stretch?

Just like the ancient Jews or like Jesus, we do not have to navigate alone. God is with us.

God is not only the goal, God is the Way!

In that sense our eternal life already has begun even if it is not yet fully realized.

The Jesuit spiritual tradition is embodied in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola. He recognized that the heart's deepest desires are indications of God's own desires for each of us.

And the surest guide to our deep and holy desires — to God's desires for our good — is careful attention to what most deeply consoles us. God's most intimate touch and action in the soul of a person is to console!

A person may be doing some ministry and feel that God was present in giving just the right words to say to someone. Or someone in prayer might feel loved and accepted by God. These are examples of consolation.

One could say that St. Ignatius' advice, bottom line, is simply this: Follow your consolation! To console is how God affirms our desires and choices, how God helps us to discern God's own desires for us.

Does that sound like an easy way to discover God's will, to change our own priorities? This way does have its joys, but it is also a great challenge. For many of us it is a task of many years to simply reach awareness of our deepest desires, much less to acknowledge and accept our deepest nature and truest desires.

How can I not know my deepest desires?

We are surrounded by so many voices, so many attractive images claiming to know

what we should be, should desire and should have. And yes, "having" is a big one!

All these voices are a constant noise telling us what is desirable, smart, cool, important and acceptable. They tell us what will make us feel good and what will make us look good.

Yes, "looking good" also is a big one!

And our wounded nature is hooked so easily. These voices would have us pay careful attention to what makes us look good in others' eyes. It is a real shift in attention to focus on God's consolation deep in our own soul.

Surrounded by so much noise and hype, so easily hooked by our woundedness, how do we even begin to shift attention to God's "still, small voice" in our hearts? Among Ignatius of Loyola's rich teachings, a simple method stands out as a wonderful place to begin or a wonderful addition to our ongoing effort to find God's will.

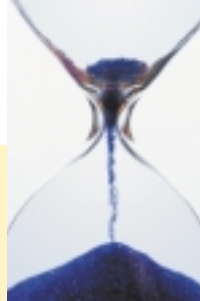
*"Follow your consolation!
To console is how God affirms
our desires and choices, how
God helps us to discern God's
own desires for us."*

Today we call this method the examination of consciousness or, for short, "the examen." It takes only a couple minutes at the end of the day. In God's presence, and asking for God's help, we walk through our day to see where there was an experience of being consoled and where, by contrast, we were definitely not consoled, even desolate. Then we speak to God about what we have seen and give God thanks.

By simply doing this in the presence of God and by asking for God's help, we are already, if subtly, looking at our experience in a deeper and spiritual way. Over time we are surprised by the patterns of consolation. We become confident about what truly consoles us. We find the courage to follow our deepest, most inspired desires.

And we experience a conversion in our priorities and choices. ☞

Jesuit Father Frederic Maples is a spiritual director with Loyola, a spiritual resource in St. Paul, Minn. This article is part of the Faith Alive! series by Catholic News Service.



FOOD For Thought

To label something a "priority" is to say it ranks higher than something else among our concerns.

A priority deserves time and attention. Identifying priorities enables us to clarify how we'll invest our time and attention. Except —

Except that we have so many concerns. There are family concerns, work concerns, education concerns, health and exercise concerns. Woven throughout are faith concerns.

These concerns vie with each other for our time and attention. And other people are only too ready to say what our priorities should be in each of these areas.

One of my assumptions about priorities is that my concerns can't all be equal. Something has to be a lesser priority for me — though saying so might take courage. Probably some of my current concerns even should be labeled nonpriorities.

Another assumption: True priorities tend to come into view at crisis times or other key moments. The time of a loved one's death is such a time.

The challenge is to remember later what came into view then. In other words, realigning priorities is bound to become an ongoing project.

*David Gibson
Editor, Faith Alive!*



A Memorial to the Heroes of Sept. 11 Is Being Created in St. Augustine For St. Francis of Assisi Church in New York City

By Gina Petrone

A stained glass window that is being created in our diocese will be installed in the Church of St. Francis Assisi in New York City as a memorial to the heroism that followed the tragedy of Sept. 11.

The window, titled "Even From a Dark Night," is being created by Sister of St. Joseph Diane Couture of our diocese at the Sisters of St. Joseph Architectural Stained Glass Studio on State Road 16 in St. Augustine.

The window's design has been approved by the St. Francis' pastor, Franciscan Father Peter Brophy, and Cardinal Edward M. Egan, archbishop of the Archdiocese of New York.

The window will depict firemen and firewomen sitting in front of the rubble at

Ground Zero. In the background, among the tortured beams at Ground Zero, a cross will appear — God's way of letting us know that he is with us even amidst this horrible tragedy.

"I want people to see this piece as a sign of light, hope and healing from God," Sister Diane said.

St. Francis of Assisi Church, a Franciscan ministry, is in midtown New York at 135 West 31st Street, quite removed from Ground Zero. But it has a Ground Hero. Alongside the church is the Friary where 46 Franciscan friars were living. One of them was Franciscan Friar Mychal Judge, a Fire Department Chaplain since 1992, and the first recognized casualty of the World Trade Center attack.

A dozen steps across the street from the Friary and church is a fire station, home of Engine Co. One and Ladder Co. 24, where Mychal Judge kept the Fire Department car that took him to New York City's many fires.

On the morning of Sept. 11, a fellow friar rushed into Judge's third floor room and told him of seeing a plane strike one of the World Trade Towers. "Mychal, I think they're going to need you," he said, "I think the World Trade tower is on fire." So Judge put on his uniform and helmet, rushed to to his Fire Department car and, with two fellow firemen, headed for the World Trade Center.

At the site, Judge was spotted by a friend, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. "Pray for us," the Mayor said.

"I always do," Judge replied and went to work. He tended to a fireman killed by a body that fell from the tower and then ...

You have probably seen the photograph, his friends the firemen carrying his body out of a cloud of dust. It has become an international symbol of the tragedy and some have called it a modern day *Pietà*.

Mychal Judge's body was taken to the altar of nearby St. Peter's church. From the altar, his body was taken to the firehouse, where he was surrounded by kneeling firefighters and friars, before being taken to the morgue.

Mychal Judge's death was the first recognized at the World Trade Center. His death certificate is numbered 00001.

Mychal Judge was 68; he had joined the friars when he was 15 years old; he had been a priest for 40 years.

His funeral on Sept. 15 brought 3,000 mourners. In his remarks at the funeral, Cardinal Egan called Judge "Ground Hero." Of course, Father Mike, as everyone called him, was just one of 343 firemen killed that day, four of them from the fire companies across the street from the church.

It is those firefighters who will be memorialized in the window Father Brophy asked Sister Diane to create, after seeing her sketch of the proposed window.

Father Brophy said that he was "touched by the drawing sent to us and liked the religious significance of life after death, not only seen in the art, but in the heart of the artist, Sister Diane."

Sister Diane, one of 10 children, was raised in an imaginative and artistic family that used arts and crafts as an inexpensive way to entertain themselves.

She entered the congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1973 after being inspired by

their hospitality and depth of spirituality. Soon after joining the order, the chapel at St. Catherine Labouré Manor needed a major facelift. Because of her artistic talent, Sister Diane was approached to create a backlit stained glass window. Although at the time she knew nothing about the art of stained glass, she tackled the project by taking a course in stained glass and went ahead.

"I want people to see this piece as a sign of light, hope and healing from God."

—Sister Diane Couture, SSJ

"From that point on my main purpose was to develop the spirituality of the arts," Sister Diane said. She had found her niche and has been working in stained glass for the past 22 years.

Last year, Sister Diane and her congregation moved their stained glass studio from Orlando and reopened it in St. Augustine. Sister Diane is also an adjunct professor at Flagler College in St. Augustine where she teaches the art of stained glass to about 20 students. The graduates of the 76- to 80-hour-credit program will not only earn a degree in the arts of stained glass but will be certified by the Stained Glass Association.

Sister Diane's own work, largely in church-oriented structures all across the United States, has been featured in the *New York Times*, as well as local newspapers, trade publications and syndicated features.

But it was a picture and a few words in the *Annual Report* of the Retirement Fund for Religious that brought Sister Diane and her stained glass art to Father Brophy's attention.

And that's why St. Francis of Assisi Church in New York City will have a stained glass memorial created in the Diocese of Saint Augustine and installed in the church by September 11, 2002, the anniversary of the reason for its being — Father Mychal Judge and all the other 343 firemen and firewomen who gave their lives last September. 🙏

Information in this story about Father Mychal Judge was taken from the numerous articles which were published after his death.

To reach Sister Diane Couture, SSJ, email: liteart@aol.com





The Baptismal Font

By Father Paul Turner

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus came forward and addressed the eleven disciples in these words:

"Full authority has been given to me both in heaven and on earth; go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name 'of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.' Teach them to carry out everything I have commanded you. And know that I am with you always, until the end of the world!"

Father Michael Larkin, pastor of Prince of Peace Parish in Jacksonville, prepares Barry Hoover for his Baptism that will take place at the Easter Vigil. Father Larkin was one of the first pastors in the diocese to incorporate a full immersion baptismal font into his church.

CHRIS VAN HULLEN

—Matthew 28: 18-20

The baptismal font is the womb from which Christians are born. As physical birth happens only once, so does our spiritual birth. Although fonts originated as part of the furnishings for cathedrals, today virtually every Christian church building maintains a font to facilitate the welcome of new members.

Fonts have many traditional shapes. Some are round, recalling a mother's womb. Some are cruciform, showing our sharing in the death of Christ. Others are tomb-shaped for the same reason. Still others form an octagon, reminding us that Christ rose on the "eighth day" of the week, a day outside normal time, like the eternity we will share with Him through our baptism.


The font may be placed in one of many traditional locations. Some are in a room to themselves. Originally, fonts were in separate buildings. At the Easter Vigil, the assembly would go out to the font to attend the baptisms then bring the newly baptized into the church for the Eucharist. Some of our fonts — in rooms by themselves — keep this tradition, but small rooms make it difficult for the assembly to celebrate with the newly baptized. For this reason, other fonts are placed in or near the sanctuary for better visibility or near the door of the church to symbolize our entry into the Christian community.

In churches where the faithful enter each Sunday past the baptistery, they may use the font to sign themselves with holy water. We remind ourselves of our baptism in Christ each time we enter our churches. Some parishes have a moveable font — they wheel it in for baptisms and wheel it out afterwards. It helps visibility but lacks the reverence of a stable place.


Many fonts are large enough for full immersion of the candidate. Others are small to accommodate pouring water over the head of an infant. Both forms of

EASTER GIFTS TO TREASURE

"I have risen, I am with you once more"
Psalm 139:18, 5-6




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baptism are permitted, but a renewed interest in full immersion in the universal church is introducing larger fonts in full view of the assembly for fully symbolizing our death and rising in Christ.

Some fonts resemble fountains, with flowing water even when baptisms are not celebrated. The running water symbolizes life in Christ.

The font is one of the most sacred areas of our church. It deserves the reverence of the faithful, for it is there where we are

reborn, where are family grows, and where we first meet Christ whose resurrection is our destiny. 

Father Paul Turner, pastor of St. John Regis Parish in Kansas City, Mo., holds a doctorate in sacramental theology from Saint Anselmo University. His email address is PaulTu@aol.com

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The Catholic Diocese of Saint Augustine

Statement of Activities as of June 30, 2001



Information about The Catholic Diocese of Saint Augustine Statement of Activities

The information at right includes assets, liabilities, net assets of the Diocese, Providence Center, Center for Family Life, Marywood Center for Spirituality, Bishop Kenny High School, St. Joseph Academy and Mission of Nombre de Dios.

Various Catholic Religious orders, lay societies, and religious organizations which operate within the diocese are not fiscally responsible to the Bishop of Saint Augustine, as well as parishes and their related institutions are not included.

A copy of the auditor's report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001 is available upon request by writing to:

Fiscal Office, Catholic Center
P.O. Box 24000
Jacksonville, FL 32241-4000

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 895,979
Investment accounts	9,966,691
Receivables:	
Parishes, other institutions and individuals with varying interest rates, less allowance for doubtful accounts and pledge discounts of \$110,501 and \$521,679	14,664,480
Interest	128,489
Notes	184,142
Other	1,120,900
	<u>16,098,011</u>
Land, buildings and equipment, at cost less accumulated depreciation	<u>27,420,265</u>
Other assets:	
Capital Campaign	26,311,547
Other assets	462,981
	<u>26,774,528</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 81,155,474</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 2,587,037
Loans payable to parishes and other institutions	13,162,024
Notes payable	769,156
Other liabilities	1,000,479
Escrow and deferred tuition	3,501,868
	<u>21,020,564</u>
Total liabilities	<u>21,020,564</u>
Net assets:	
Unrestricted	26,260,434
Temporarily restricted	33,774,476
Permanently restricted	100,000
	<u>60,134,910</u>
Total net assets	<u>60,134,910</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 81,155,474</u>

2000/01 Diocesan Stewardship Appeal Allocations

Education and Formation

Campus Ministry	\$ 66,037
Diocesan Advisory Board of Education	\$ 301,500
Catechetical Ministry	\$ 67,500
Christian Formation	\$ 98,116
Curriculum Coordinator	\$ 53,718
Education / Guidance	\$ 60,687
Educational Services	\$ 123,276
Marywood	\$ 234,689
Ministry Formation	\$ 78,232
Morning Star School	\$ 195,431
Subtotal:	\$ 1,279,186

Catholic Charities Bureau

Aging Services	\$ 21,431
AIDS Task Force	\$ 1,109
Apostleship of the Sea	\$ 46,040
Catholic Charities — Central	\$ 149,919
Catholic Charities — Gainesville	\$ 116,285
Catholic Charities — Jacksonville	\$ 310,923
Catholic Charities — St. Augustine	\$ 102,517
Disabilities Ministry	\$ 104,088
Farmworker Services	\$ 35,469
Health Task Force	\$ 4,109
Justice and Peace	\$ 68,460
Justice and Reconciliation	\$ 105,892
Legalization	\$ 25,820
New Hope Program	\$ 15,000
Parish Social Ministry	\$ 51,108
Religious Education for the Deaf & Blind	\$ 87,790
Respite Care Services	\$ 1,555
Subtotal:	\$ 1,247,515

Outreach Programs

African/Native American	\$ 72,087
Carribbean Dioceses	\$ 24,000
Ecumenism	\$ 8,500
Family Life	\$ 123,952
Hispanic Ministry	\$ 104,552
Jubilee Celebration	\$ 30,000
Liturgical Commission	\$ 56,435
Rural Life Ministry	\$ 1,500
Vocations Office	\$ 44,485
Youth Ministry	\$ 72,492
Subtotal:	\$ 538,003

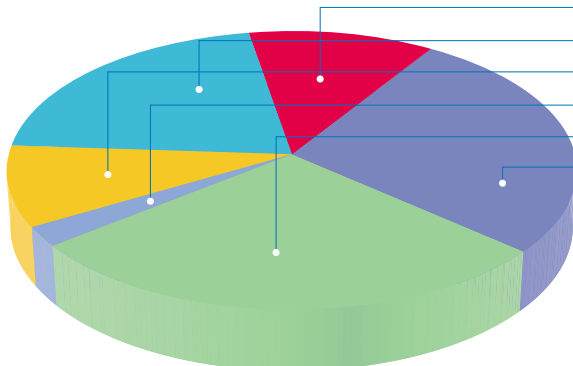
Central Services

Archives	\$ 40,000
Building Administration	\$ 74,509
Communications	\$ 337,663
Ministry Support Services	\$ 100,748
Planned Giving	\$ 41,593
Priest Retirement/Retreats	\$ 47,000
Respect Life	\$ 37,115
Stewardship Office	\$ 163,838
Tribunal	\$ 69,705
Vicar for Religious	\$ 25,403
Vicar for Priests	\$ 33,500
Subtotal:	\$ 971,074

Diocesan Administration

Administration	\$ 427,502
USCC and FCC Assessments	\$ 80,000
Contingency	\$ 25,000
Subtotal:	\$ 532,502

Grand Total: \$ 4,568,280



Diocesan Administration	\$ 427,502	9.36 %
Other/Assessments	\$ 105,000	2.30 %
Central Services	\$ 971,074	21.26 %
Outreach Programs	\$ 538,003	11.78 %
Catholic Charities Bureau	\$ 1,247,515	27.31 %
Education & Formation	\$ 1,279,186	28.00 %

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I begin my service with the Diocese of Saint Augustine, I am filled with gratitude for the generosity and good will of the clergy and laity in Northeast Florida. One of the challenges of managing a diocese is providing leadership in matters of financial administration. You may be assured that I am strongly committed to being accountable for the resources entrusted to the diocese.

The financial information displayed here is provided so you can see how your generous gifts are being used by the ministries and agencies funded through the Bishop's Stewardship Appeal. The information on these two pages is for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2001. A copy of the auditor's report on all funds of the diocese is available upon request.

May the Lord continue to bless you and your families.

Sincerely yours in Our Lord,

+ Victor Galeone

Most Reverend Victor Galeone
Bishop of Saint Augustine

That Great CCHD

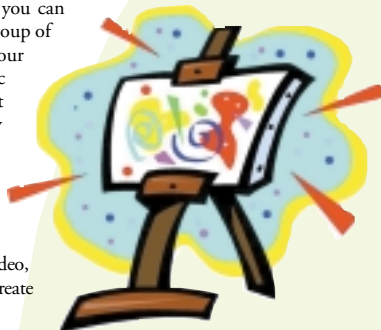
Youth Multi-Media ART CONTEST IS HERE!

If you're in a grade between 7 and 12, you can enter by yourself — or, better yet, with a group of friends. What do you do? You express in your artwork this year's theme from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD): "Breaking the Cycle of Poverty in America."

What kind of artwork? The following three categories: 1) Literature — put your story in writing; 2) The visual arts — drawing, painting, photography; and 3) Audio-visual — shoot your own video, compose and write your own song, or create a website.

Get creative and win:

A grand prize (worth \$500), a second prize (worth \$250) and a third prize (worth \$100). But that's not all. You can win for yourself, and you can win for your school or your religious education program. That's right. An equal amount to what you win will be donated to them!



Deadline for entries is April 30, 2002.

Want to find out more? Get more information from your director of religious education, your principal or call (904) 358-7410.

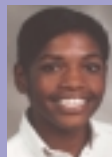
did u kno?

Congratulations to **Jennifer Seaver**, 18, who has received a music scholarship to attend Stetson University next year. She has sung lead roles in productions at St. Augustine High School and has sung with The First Coast Opera and St. Augustine Community Chorus. Since she was 10, Jennifer has also been a member of the Cathedral-Basilica's Chancel Choir in St. Augustine.



Jennifer Seaver

And kudos to **Michele James**, a sophomore at Bishop Kenny High School and a member of Crucifixion Parish in Jacksonville. She is a member of the school's first peer mediation groups. An honor roll student and athlete, she is also a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA).



Michele James

Winners from LIFE TEEN's annual HAC Video and Talent awards presentation on Jan. 27 at the Kingdom at Christ the King.

- Best Actress in an original video
— **Starr Bishop**
- Best Actor in an original video
— **Trent Layton**
- Best Original Video
— "Michael Jackson" by **Trent Layton, Tim Kutta, Scott Fichter, and Brandon Keel**
- Best Live Performance
— "The Spice Girls" by **Catherine Bekkedal, Corey Layton, Pauline Savino and Erika White**



Experientia en Cristo, a retreat for Hispanic teens, brought together dozens of Hispanic youth at Camp St. John.



Crucifixion Bell Choir performed at the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration at the Cathedral-Basilica in St. Augustine in January.



March 3, Sunday

Bishop Victor Galeone will preside at the 5 p.m. LIFE TEEN Mass at Christ the King Church in Jacksonville. All teens are welcome.

March 10, Sunday

Scouting Awards Sunday at 3 p.m. at the Cathedral-Basilica in St. Augustine

March 15-17, Friday-Sunday

“LIVE OUT LOUD” Retreat Weekend LIFE TEEN’s Spring retreat for high school students will be at Camp Cherry Lake. Call (904) 398-1961 for more details.

March 16, Saturday

The St. Patrick’s Day Shoot-Out St. Monica Parish in Palatka All Youth ministries invited to attend Call (904) 325-9777

April 1, Monday

CYO Golf Tournament Proceeds go to Youth and Young Adult Ministry San Jose Country Club, Jacksonville Call Peter Blay (904) 355-1136

April 15, Monday

Youth Ministry Day at the NFCYM Conference Training opportunity for those working with youth beginning at 9 a.m. (\$45) Adam’s Mark Hotel in Jacksonville Call Peter Blay (904) 355-1136



Blessed Are the Peacemakers

The Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center is a terrible example of what anger and hatred can do. When we think about the anger and hatred that can develop in our own lives, in our own families, and throughout the world, what can we do to achieve peace in our families and in the world?

Teens at San Juan del Rio Parish in Jacksonville offered these suggestions:

In a family members can compromise, pray together each night and then talk about their day’s activities and read the Bible. Lots of treaties would help the worldwide situation instead of going overboard with wars.

— **Barbara Piechoczek, 13**



When we have a disagreement, each of us goes to a different room to cool off. And we are able to forgive and forget. Members of families need to accept each other’s failings.

— **Nick Vaith, 19**

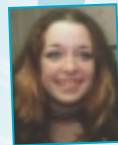


I think you should be peaceful and then you would receive peace back. I may stay mad at my sisters for a couple of days, but then it just seems useless.

— **Bo Culkeen, 13**

Families have to learn that each member is different and that we all have opinions that aren’t necessarily the same. But we must learn to communicate and understand these differences maturely. Countries need to work inside with their states and cities first. How can we promote world peace when there is so much turmoil within our own countries.

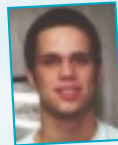
— **Eryka Permenter, 16**



In our family we usually have a discussion, we may yell, but it’s only because we are trying to be heard, it’s not because we are mad or anything.

Families and the world could remain at peace with one another if they loved one another.

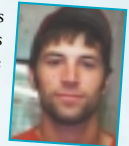
— **Caroline Powers, 15**



When the tempers flare, the house gets very quiet. To make peace, family members can meditate and take some time to think about what they have done.

In the world, countries could give a little and not be takers all the time.

— **Mike Kolisayk, 18**



We usually argue and yell for a little while, but then we apologize. God forgives us, so we should forgive, too.

The world would be better if people loved one another and took care of each other.

— **Tara Permenter, 14**

Photos and report by Aisling Culkeen of San Juan del Rio Parish, Jacksonville.



Jacksonville Fire Chief Ray Alfred

and other firefighters were presented this award for their compassionate response to the 9/11 tragedy in New York City on behalf of Bishop

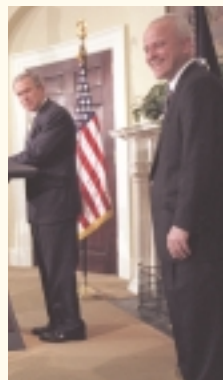
Victor Galeone, the diocesan Office of Black and Indian Ministries and the Diocese of Saint Augustine. Firefighters went to Manhattan to help at Ground Zero and also hosted New York firefighters in their Jacksonville area homes for some much needed R&R. The award was presented in January at the Cathedral-Basilica in St. Augustine as part of the diocesan celebration commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Bishop Galeone, homilist for the 16th Annual Commemoration Mass for Peace, said that King's struggles and lifetime commitment to righting injustices were a reminder and challenge for us to continue his work today.



The Florida Moratorium Walk for a Time-Out on Executions was completed on Jan. 31, with the delivery of more than 20,000 petitions to the office of Florida Gov. Jeb Bush. To deliver the petitions walkers filled the hallway leading to the office of the governor. Among those delivering the petitions were exonerated Florida death row survivors David Keaton, Brad Scott and Delbert Tibbs. The walk began on Jan. 21 in Raiford (see above) across the street from the Florida prison where 373 prisoners are on Florida's death row. (See related story on page 10)

James Towey, a 1974 graduate of Bishop Kenny High School, was tapped on Feb. 1 to be the new director of the White House Office for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. At the announcement of his appointment at the White House, Towey told President Bush, "I am deeply grateful to God and to you, sir, for entrusting me with this honor to serve my country, particularly those Americans who are hurting and are in need. It's been my privilege to work with the poor and to see firsthand the difference that charities and faith-based organizations can make in their lives."

Towey lead Florida's health and rehabilitative services under the late Gov. Lawton Chiles. In 1996, he founded the advocacy group, Aging With Dignity. Towey, who worked with Mother Teresa in Washington, D.C., has spoken at several events and at parishes in the diocese about this inspirational woman who founded the Congregation of the Mission of Charity and served the poor in Calcutta.



President Bush and James Towey at the White House.

Next Generation of Masters

The St. Patrick Interparish School Chess program in Gainesville continues to grow each year, says Lisa Adel, club coordinator. The club started with about 10 children. Currently, there is a K-2nd grade club with 30 children and a 3rd-5th grade club with 25 members. The club's coach, Milos Baishanski, helps the younger students with the chess basics and teaches the older students critical thinking and chess strategies. The chess club also promotes the spirit of good sportsmanship and fair play. Students also help each other as they continue to play and learn on a weekly basis with the guidance and

supervision of their coach and parents.

The club plays in monthly tournaments with other chess clubs in Alachua County. Members play for individual and school/team awards. During tournaments as many as 130 children are gathered in a gymnasium and it is so quiet you could hear a pin drop, says Adel. The chess club has played in county, state and national tournaments, always bringing home team and individual trophies, Adel says.

This March, the state tournament will be held in Gainesville and St. Patrick's will have three teams participating in the K-2, K-3, and K-5 divisions.

From left, Jon Branch, Billy Triggs, Andrew Brinsko



At parishes ...

Glenn Kuhnel, Ph.D., was named pastoral associate at Holy Family Parish in Jacksonville, effective Feb. 18. Kuhnel, who served the diocese for nearly 30 years, resigned earlier this year. Kuhnel most recently served as director of the diocesan Liturgical Commission and as such served on planning



Glenn Kuhnel, Ph.D.

committees for the celebration of the 125th anniversary of the diocese in 1996, the Jubilee 2000 and for the episcopal ordination of Bishop Victor Galeone. He also served as the diocesan liaison for the office of Ecumenism and Interfaith.

During his 30 years of service in the diocese he also served as superintendent of schools and directed Christian formation in the diocese.

Kuhnel said, "The bonds and relationships I have made over the years are of great support. I expect that I will be in touch with many of you for some time. I ask your prayers and support in this time of transition and a new beginning."

Redemptorist

Father Glenn Parker, who served for six years as pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in Jacksonville, has been appointed pastor of St. John Evangelist Parish in Hapeville, Ga., near Atlanta.

Father Michael Koncik, CSSR, has been appointed the new pastor of Holy Rosary. Father Koncik was pastor of St. Michael Parish in Wachula, Fla. in the Diocese of Venice.

At St. Joseph Academy ... Michael

Heubeck has been appointed principal of St. Joseph Academy in St. Augustine effective July 1. Heubeck joined the faculty of St. Joe's 11 years ago.

At St. Vincent's Health System ... Franciscan

Sister Georganne Brown was named director of pastoral care at St. Vincent's Hospital and St. Catherine Labouré Manor.



Sister Georganne Brown

At Marywood ... Lou Negron has been

selected as the facilities administrator responsible for the Marywood Retreat Center, Camp St. John and Casa San Pedro,



Lou Negron

the priests' retirement center. He was previously facilities manager at Jacksonville University, where he also earned his MBA. Negron is a member of Holy Family Parish in Jacksonville.

Susan Perry is the new conference coordinator at Marywood. She's an MBA graduate of Rice University and a member of St. Joseph Parish in Jacksonville.

St. Vincent's Bids Father DeMott Farewell

St. Vincent Medical Center held a going away celebration in early January for **Father Lester DeMott, CM**. John Logue, St. Vincent's chief operating officer, presented Father DeMott with a sculpture of a fireman because Father DeMott had worked with the New York Fire Department. Father DeMott is leaving St. Vincent's after almost 20 years to work with several parishes in the Alabama region and, eventually, will serve in Emmitsburg, Md.



Eli Shami Ordained to Order of Deacon

About 300 people gathered on Saturday, Feb. 2, for the ordination of **Subdeacon Eli Shami** to the order of Deacon by His Excellency **Bishop Stephen Doueichi** of the St. Maron Eparchy of Brooklyn at St. Maron Maronite Catholic Church in Jacksonville.

Earlier in the day, there were presentations at the Marriott Hotel by Bishop Doueichi on "Christianity in the Middle East: Present and Future," and by Father Mitchell Pacwa, SJ, on "The Whole Word of God: Genesis to Revelation." Father Pacwa hosts a program on the EWTN television network.

Bishop Doueichi said Christians in the Middle East are in a critical situation because they are often persecuted. Yet, it is a part of their Christian vocation to proclaim Jesus Christ in the region. He compared their suffering to the suffering of Jesus Christ at Golgotha.

The presentation by Bishop Doueichi and Father Pacwa was part of the Southern Regional Convention of the National Apostolate of Maronites held in Jacksonville in early February.



Bishop Doueichi ordains Deacon Eli Shami



Terri Sanders, Gainesville office

Terri Sanders has been named executive director of the Catholic Charities Gainesville Regional Office. She succeeds GERALYN RYAN who will work part-time to staff the agency's adoption services.



Special

Msgr. Joseph L. Dawson, 75, died Jan. 4 after an extended illness. He had served in a number of parishes throughout Florida beginning in 1951, headed the Tribunal from 1969 to 1980, served in the military service and in the reserves, and as consulor of the diocese before he retired in 1991. A funeral Mass was celebrated at Immaculate Conception Church and burial was at St. Joseph's Cemetery, Jacksonville.

Msgr. Dawson was born in Miami Beach, Dec. 29, 1926. He attended St. Charles Seminary, Catonsville, Md. and St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, Md. He also studied for the priesthood at The Gregorian University, Rome, Italy, where he lived at the Belgian House near Father Karol Wojtyla, who, on Oct. 16, 1978, became Pope John Paul II.

Msgr. Dawson was one of several priests from the Diocese of Saint Augustine — which, at that time, included most of Florida, who knew or were the classmates of Pope John Paul II.

One was now-retired Msgr. Robert Schiefen of the Diocese of Venice. Another was then-Father W. Thomas Larkin who was a classmate of the pope's at Angelicum University in Rome. In 1954, Msgr. Larkin founded Christ the King Parish in Jacksonville. He later became the second bishop of the Diocese of St. Petersburg, serving from 1979-1989.

Another priest, one who is currently in the Diocese of Saint Augustine, is retired Father Walter D. Bayer of Bunnell. He served with Karol Wojtyla in Poland. Both were assigned to St. Mary Parish in Cracow as young priests. After serving in Chicago, Father Bayer retired to Korona where he provided the Polish community of St. Mary's Church in Korona with Masses in Polish for a number of years.

Knights of Columbus Council Donates Pro-Life Shrine to Mary Queen of Heaven Parish

Msgr. R. Joseph James, pastor of Mary Queen of Heaven Church in Jacksonville, recently blessed and dedicated the statue of our Blessed Mother which the Knights of Columbus' Mary Queen of Heaven Council 11668 presented to the parish.

Father Francis "Frank" S. Haryasz, the founder of Mary Queen of Heaven Parish, had the idea for the shrine nine years ago.

The statue of Our Lady that resulted is one of a kind, designed by Grand Knight Frank J. Stoppa, Mike Creech, and Mike Costello. They all agreed the statue should have the same crown as the statue of the Blessed Mother inside the church.

That crown was copied from a statue of Our Lady in the chapel of the Frankfurt, Germany, airport. They succeeded. Today the Marian Statue with its special crown stands at Queen of Heaven Parish on a base with the inscription, "Blessed is the fruit of thy womb."



Msgr. R. Joseph James and Father Frank Haryasz.

Special



Left from center Msgr. James; D.G.K. Mike Costello; G.K. Frank Stoppa; D.W. Dennis Hall. Right from center Father Frank Haryasz, Mike Creech, P.G.K.; In the rear Color Corp Father Edward J. Masse Assy #2564, Middleburg.

Special

Father Williams Honored for Service as Chaplain of Jacksonville Quarterback Club



Special

At the recent annual Bowl Party of the Jacksonville Quarterback Club, Father Michael S. Williams was honored for 25 years of service as chaplain of the club.

Father Williams was presented with a bronze football trophy by Past Captain Paul Mahla of St. Matthew Parish in Jacksonville, and Tim Brando of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Shreveport, La. Brando is CBS' host of the television sports news program *College Football Today*. He was the speaker for the event in Father Williams' honor.

The bronze football trophy bore the names of the 25 past captains who Father Mike had served.

During his 25 years as chaplain to the club, Father Williams also served as pastor of St. Michael Parish, Keystone Heights, and pastor of Epiphany Parish in Lake City. Father Williams is currently pastor at Holy Faith Parish in Gainesville where he is affectionately known as "Father Gator."

Captain of the club for 2001, Brad Rupp said, "Father Mike brings great fellowship to our organization as team chaplain and is genuinely loved by all members. I'm confident that Father Mike sets a national standard in his continuous service to clubs of our nature."

Past Captain Mahla said, "It is a remarkable testament to his friendship, loyalty and caring that 25 captains of all faiths chose to have him as their spiritual leader."

New Alzheimers Recreation Center

At St. Catherine Labouré a new Alzheimers Recreation Center was dedicated on Jan. 29.

The idea originated four years ago because more than 80 percent of the 240 long-term residents at St. Catherine's have some form of dementia like Alzheimers. St. Catherine's wanted a recreational center for these patients and their families. "We wanted a setting that would feel like home," said Maureen Gartland, St. Catherine's vice president.

Several Jacksonville-based foundations awarded grants totaling more than a half million dollars to fund the construction of the center. Those foundations are The Raymond Pahl Trust, The Riverside Foundation, The Edna Sproull Williams Foundation, The Ida M. Stevens Foundation and the St. Vincent's Foundation.

Close to one in 10 seniors — four million Americans have Alzheimer's disease. John Logue, St. Vincent's chief operating officer, said, "The projected growth in numbers of elderly means a corresponding growth in cases of Alzheimer's." He called the new center a symbol of the kind of caring that will be needed more and more as the country's elderly population grows.



Eloise Beyerle participates in computer classes.

Computer Classes For Adults Earn Money For School's Software

At Sacred Heart School in Jacksonville computers in the school's computer lab are doing double duty.

Parishioner Kathryn Christ has organized evening classes for adults in Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Publisher, and the Internet. "The lab is new and we wanted to have money to buy more software for the children," Christ said. "It's a long term fundraising effort."

School Principal Sister Josephine O'Leary, RSM, has already taken a course.

Classes start about every six weeks. For more information call (904) 771-5800.



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MARCH

- 1-3 Lenten Retreat: Contemplation to God's Creation**
Leader: Sister Mary Irving
 Friday, 7:30 p.m.-Sunday closing with Mass at 10 a.m.
 Marywood Retreat Center, Jacksonville
 For more information or to register call (904) 287-2525
- 3 Christian Meditation: The Gift of God in Jesus**
Leader: Gene Bebeau
 Sunday, 1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.
 Marywood Retreat Center, Jacksonville
 For more information or to register call (904) 287-2525
- 5 Hesburgh Lecture Series: How Parents Can Help Their Children Achieve in a Changing World**
Speaker: John G. Borkowski, Ph.D.
 Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
 Bishop Kenney High School cafeteria
 Please call (904) 398-7545 to reserve a seat
- 8-10 The IV Hispanic Charismatic Catholic Congress**
 Friday, 8 p.m.-Sunday, 1:30 p.m.
 St. Catherine Catholic Church, Orange Park
 For more information call Ricardo Martinez at (904) 272-7077
- 8-10 Religious Vocation Retreat: God in Stillness Waits**
Leaders: Sisters Diane Couture and Eileen Marie Flanagan
 Friday-Sunday
 Villa Flora Spirituality Center, St. Augustine
 For more information, call (904) 823-1918
- 8-10 Men's Lenten Retreat: The Men of Matthew Following Jesus Through Lent**
Leader: Msgr. Vincent Haut
 Friday, 5:30 p.m.-Sunday afternoon
 Marywood Retreat Center, Jacksonville
 For more information or to register, call (904) 287-2525

- 9 Cemetery of the Innocent-Crosses Commemorating Abortion**
 Saturday
 Mission of Nombre Dios, St. Augustine
 For more information call Caroline Wolff at (904) 829-5516
- 9 Healing Hands Retreat**
Hosted by St. Paul's M.O.M.S. Ministry
 Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Mass, 9 a.m.
 St. Paul's, Jacksonville Beach
 Advanced registration required. Cost is \$10. For more information call GiGi Carroll at (904) 249-2660
- 9 Parent Gathering for Parents of gay and lesbian children**
Sponsored by the Catholic Gay and Lesbian Family Ministry
 Saturday, 2-4 p.m.
 Contact Sister Marlene Payette for registration and location at (904) 354-4846, ext. 229 or mpayette@ccbjax.org
- 15- Engaged Encounter**
17 A weekend marriage preparation course.
 Friday-Sunday
 For more information call (904) 308-7474 or visit their website at www.dcfll.org
- 16 M.O.M.S. Diocesan Workshop: Facilitator Training in Peer Ministry**
 Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
 St. Luke Catholic Church, Middleburg
 For more information or to register, call Donna Simons at (904) 745-4881
- 20 Theresian Retreat Day: On Pilgrimage with St. Therese of Lisieux**
Presenter: Pat Cook
 Wednesday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Marywood Retreat Center, Jacksonville
 For more information or to register call (904) 744-0850

- 23 Forty-fifth Annual Fashion Show and Luncheon**
Proceeds to benefit All Saints Catholic Nursing Home & Rehabilitation Center Auxiliary
 Sunday, 11 a.m.
 St. Matthew Parish Activity Center, Jacksonville
 For more information please call Fashion Show Chair Bede Tencza at (904) 771-2414 or Auxiliary President Anne Dedge at (904) 771-4049
- 24 Women's Help Center Open House**
 Tour facility, meet directors, staff and volunteers
 Sunday, 1-4 p.m.
 Women's Help Center, 1519 Emerson Street, Jacksonville
 For more information call (904) 398-5143

- 25 Seder Meal Celebration**
Leader: Sister Edith Paschall
 Monday, 6-8 p.m.
 Marywood Retreat Center, Jacksonville
 For more information or to register call (904) 287-2525

APRIL

- 1 CYO Golf Tournament**
Proceeds to benefit Youth Ministry
 Monday
 San Jose Country Club, Jacksonville
 Call Peter Blay (904) 355-1100
- 4 Christian Meditation: Prayer Beyond Prayers**
Leader: Father Bill Eckert
 Thursday, 7-8:30 p.m.
 St. Catherine Catholic Church, 1649 Kingsley Avenue, Orange Park
 For more information call Rose White at (904) 264-2950 or Gene Bebeau at (904) 346-3816

CATHOLIC CHARITIES EPICUREAN DELIGHTS

A celebration of delicious cuisine from around the world to benefit the many services of Catholic Charities. Each event will offer a different theme, host, location, attire, menu and cost. For more information, call Janet Mallot at (904) 223-3652 or email, noting Epicurean Delights as the subject, jsmallot@aol.com

5- 6 The Marriage Journey (Couples Retreat): Avoiding the Potholes
Leaders: Bridget Bremman and Jerry Shen
 Friday, 7:30 p.m.-Saturday at 3:30 p.m.
 Marywood Retreat Center, Jacksonville
 For more information or to register call (904) 287-2525

12- 14 Engaged Encounter
 A weekend marriage preparation course
 Friday-Sunday
 For more information call (904) 308-7474 or visit their website at www.dcf.org

13 Small Christian Communities: An Experience of Prayer
Leader: Bea Schoefield
 Saturday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
 Marywood Retreat Center, Jacksonville
 For more information or to register call (904) 287-2525

13 Ordination to Diaconate
 Seminarian Christopher Ligouri
 Saturday, 10 a.m.
 St. Vincent de Paul Seminary,
 Boynton Beach

14 Christian Meditation: To Know Christ Jesus
Leader: Gene Bebeau
 Sunday, 1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.
 Marywood Retreat Center, Jacksonville
 For more information or to register call (904) 287-2525

19- 21 GAYLE: Gainesville Area Youth Leaders and Educators
 A retreat for all high schoolers — 9th thru 12th grade
 Friday, 7 p.m.-Sunday, 1 p.m.
 Camp Kulaqua, High Springs
 Call Elisa Wern at (352) 373-4715 or ewern@fdn.com

20 Mass and a shared meal for gay and lesbian persons and their family and friends
Sponsored by the Catholic Gay and Lesbian Family Ministry
 Saturday, 3:30 p.m.
 Contact Sister Marlene Payette for registration and location at (904) 354-4846, ext. 229 or mpayette@ccbjax.org

21 Concert with a Cause
 Performed by Joseph Colasant, Jennifer Seaver and Shannon McKay
 Sunday, 3 p.m.
 Bishop Baker Parish Center, St. Augustine
 For more information call (904) 829-8326

26- 27 Mothers & Daughters Retreat: Celebrating Life Together
Leaders: Celeste and Jean Krueger
 Friday, 5 p.m.-Sunday, 4 p.m.
 Marywood Retreat Center, Jacksonville
 For more information or to register call (904) 287-2525

M A Y

11 Ordination to Diaconate
 Jhon Guarnizo, Jan Ligeza and Peter Tomczak
 Saturday, 10:30 a.m.
 Cathedral-Basilica, St. Augustine

11 A Spiritual Journey With Julian of Norwich
Leader: Ms. Helen McDevitt-Smith
 Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
 Marywood Retreat Center, Jacksonville
 For more information or to register call (904) 287-2525

18 Ordination to Priesthood
 Dung Bui, Rouville Fisher and Jason Trull
 Saturday, 10:30 a.m.
 Cathedral-Basilica, St. Augustine

18 Workshop: Finances For Today's Catholic Family
 Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
 St. Patrick Catholic Church, 1429 Broward Road, Jacksonville
 For more information contact Becky Patterson at (904) 768-2593

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An Easter Reflection

By Msgr. James Lisante

“On the First Day of the Week ...”

Called “the holiest day of the Christian year,” Easter certainly is that. It completes what Christmas starts: in December’s darkness and cold, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus and His promise; in Easter’s springtime, we celebrate the mystery of His death and resurrection.

The perennial liturgical cycle offers the comfort of the familiar over the course of a year. But this is not just any year. Many people have had their lives turned upside down over the last few months — not only the loved ones of the 3000 men, women and children killed in the Sept. 11th attacks, but also the rest of us in America and around the world who were stunned by the horror and grief. The Christmas holidays intensified the desire for many of us to stay close to home, to be with our families, to be grateful for all we had and to mourn for what we lost.

A little more time has passed now. Easter certainly includes family gatherings, feasting on traditional foods, children in new outfits munching on jellybeans from their baskets and hunting for colored eggs. The day, at its core, is overwhelmingly spiritual. Our own mortality and the mortality of those closest to us have a new context in this celebration of life over death and eternity over time.

It isn’t a coincidence that in the Gospel according to John the last miracle we see Jesus perform before He enters Jerusalem for the final time is the raising of Lazarus from the grave. The event does more than foreshadow Jesus’ own rising from the dead. It shows us His deep love for a friend and for each of us as an individual. When Jesus was told that Lazarus was dying, He hesitated before going to his home in Bethany. Both Martha and Mary admonished Jesus that if He had been there earlier, their brother would not have died. Jesus responds by doing three unforgettable things.

First, He spoke to those grieving as well as to the ages when He said: “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in Me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die” (11:25-26). Then, overcome by grief for His friend and his bereaved loved ones, Jesus wept. Even knowing what He intends to do, Jesus is still as human as He is divine, and He shows it. And, finally, they all went to the tomb: “And Jesus looked

upward and said, ‘Father, I thank You for having heard Me. I knew that you always hear Me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that You sent Me.’ When He had said this, He cried with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come out!’” (11:41-43)

And Lazarus did!

For 2000 years people have probably wondered what Lazarus felt and thought in the moment he was recalled to this life. I wonder, too, but I really can’t imagine. And what were his sisters and other relatives and friends going through when, in an instant, their mourning turned to joy? There are others I think about as well: on that day like every day in the history of the world, people died and others were left to grieve in the normal cycle of life and death. Until Easter morning.

For while our pain at the loss of a loved one is real, our


consolation comes to us from Jesus Himself whose first words on that first day of the week were to comfort the weeping Mary Magdalene. When Jesus rose from the dead He took us with Him and broke death’s power over us by exchanging time for eternity. ☪

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, “Out of the Ordinary,” write: The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017; or e-mail: mail@christophers.org



Marie Deschêre

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