Archbishop to Haitians:
Your suffering is not in vain

Temporary protected status has been granted and “finally, finally” the focus of the world is on Haiti

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO
Florida Catholic staff

MIAMI — Temporary protected status: Granted.
Donations: in the millions of dollars and counting.
Aid: Flowing slowly but surely into Port-au-Prince from every corner of the world.

Amid the devastation, amid the thousands dead and hundreds of thousands unaccounted for, some good news came for south Florida’s grieving Haitians, still trying to make contact with missing relatives, still reeling from the worst earthquake to strike their homeland in 200 years.

As they gathered at Notre Dame d’Haiti for Sunday Mass Jan. 17, Archbishop John C. Favalora assured them that their suffering was not in vain, and that the earthquake was not a punishment from God.

“The Lord Jesus himself was a suffering son of the Father and that was not for punishment. That was to bring about new life,” an emotional archbishop said during Mass Jan. 17 at the church in the middle of Little Haiti.

“We Catholics believe in miracles. And we look for a miracle in this situation. Finally, finally, the focus of the world is on Haiti. Finally, the archbishop repeated, as Father Reginald Jean-Mary, pastor of Notre Dame d’Haiti, translated his words into Creole.

“It was a natural disaster that brought them there. But finally the focus of the world is on Haiti. And it should be on Haiti. New life, I hope and I pray, will come because of the suffering of the Haitian people. Jesus was innocent and he suffered. I believe that your people are innocent and have been suffering and the Lord will reward that,” Archbishop Favalora said.

He pointed out the great number of nations, governments and businesses that have pledged to help Haiti.

“That, itself, is a sign of God’s being with us and of the consolation of God being with us. We must see the hand of God in all of this,” Archbishop Favalora said. “Good Friday was not the end of the story. Easter Sunday was the end of the story. People of faith believe that. And that’s what gives us life.”

A few days earlier, Archbishop Favalora had led a chorus of activists and community leaders in urging the Obama administration to grant the Haitians temporary protected status — a legal distinction that gives undocumented immigrants from affected nations the right to stay and work legally in this country without fear of deportation.

“It is a humanitarian gesture that has been invoked in the past when immigrants’ country of origin has been beset by a natural disaster, such as an earthquake or a hurricane.”

“It’s not about telling your people to come to the U.S.,” Father Jean-Mary told his congregation Sunday. “Don’t encourage your friends or your family members to take to sea to come to the U.S. We don’t want any more tragedy.”

Instead, work and “save your money to help the children in Haiti. You’ve got to sacrifice for Haiti,” Father Jean-Mary said.

The archdiocese also asked federal officials to grant humanitarian parole to orphaned Haitian children.

Deacon Richard Turcotte, chief executive officer of Catholic Charities, said at a press conference Jan. 13 that the Church is ready to house them and find permanent homes for them in the U.S., either with their own relatives

PHOTOS BY MARLENE QUARONI | FC

Haitians gather at Notre Dame d’Haiti in Miami the evening of Jan. 13 to mourn and pray for victims of the earthquake in their homeland.
ABCD: Blessings and dollars

Why Catholics should give to the annual appeal which kicks off this month

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO
Florida Catholic staff

MIA MIAMI — It’s a question of blessings and dollars. That is how Catholics should view ABCD, the annual Archbishop’s Charities and Development appeal which will take place in all archdiocesan parishes at the end of January or beginning of February.

Blessings because everything we have comes from God, and the Bible tells us we have a duty to share that bounty with the less fortunate.

Dollars because ABCD is one of three sources of funding for the central offices of the archdiocese, and bills have to get paid.

Emilio Alonso-Mendoza, president of the Catholic Community Foundation and the archdiocese’s Development Corporation, spoke about ABCD with Archbishop John C. Favalora during the “Conversations with the Archbishop” that were taped Jan. 11 and can be heard online at the archdiocesan Web site, www.miamiarch.org.

“All my life, I’ve been a firm believer that the more you give, the more you get back,” Alonso-Mendoza said. “What I would ask is that when you make the pledge you consider the blessings you have been granted not only this year, but throughout your life.”

Archbishop Favalora explained that the archdiocese’s central offices rely on three sources of income: an assessment, similar to a tax that is collected annually from every parish; income from an investment portfolio; and ABCD.

Although the interest from the investment portfolio rebounded a bit in 2009, it was not enough to keep up with the costs of running the archdiocese. In fact, for several years now the archdiocese has been unable to fund its operations without borrowing money.

“And that’s why we’re getting to the end of our ability to borrow,” Archbishop Favalora said.

That dwindling ability to borrow is what led to the drastic measures and difficult decisions he had to make in 2009: eliminating archdiocesan subsidies for financially struggling parishes and schools; laying off staff and eliminating ministries at the Pastoral Center; merging parishes.

“We’ve had to cut back on some of these services, there’s no question about it, just to keep the basic operations going,” Archbishop Favalora said.

He noted that when he arrived in the archdiocese, the subsidy to struggling schools was about $1 million. By the time it ended last year, it had risen to $5 million.

ABCD has never raised more than $9 million.

“The fact is, at the end of the year, in order to balance the books, we had to borrow $3 million, $4 million, $5 million,” Archbishop Favalora said.

Among the archdiocese’s “must pay” bills, he cited the “outrageous” cost of property and liability insurance in hurricane-prone south Florida and the escalating costs of health care for employees.

Every parish in south Florida is struggling with those same costs.

“One of our pastors said recently he has to pay over $400,000 a year just for insurance, just for insurance on the buildings,” Archbishop Favalora said. “So that’s part of the problem. You do have to pay the bills because, if not, who’s going to pay the bills?”

The ABCD video that many will see in their parishes — and which also can be seen online at isupportabcd.org — touches on that subject.

“The archbishop and I had long discussions about how we were going to communicate the problems that ... we have had throughout the year in the archdiocese,” Alonso-Mendoza said. “Sometimes being a good steward entails making some tough decisions.”

In the video, “the archbishop...”
Four women, two men mark anniversaries as religious

Public is welcome to attend Mass in their honor Jan. 31.

Florida Catholic Staff

MIAMI — The annual celebration for men and women religious who are marking 25, 50 or 60 years of profession will take place Sunday, Jan. 31, 4:30 p.m., at St. Mary Cathedral, 7525 N.W. Second Ave., Miami.

The Mass will be celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop John Noonan. The public is welcome. Following are brief biographies of those marking anniversaries this year.

**DIAMOND JUBILARIA — 60 YEARS**

**Sister Francisca Jauregui**

Sister Jauregui was born in Santiago de Cuba, Province of Oriente, Cuba. She entered the Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul on Aug. 5, 1950.

After completing her education and taking vows, she was assigned to La Santa Infancia School in San Antonio de los Baños, Havana, where she served until August 1957, when she was transferred to La Milagrosa School in Guanabacoa, also in Havana. In 1961, she was forced to leave Cuba for political reasons. She arrived in Puerto Rico with other members of her congregation and served from 1961 to 1963 at St. Vincent de Paul School, Santurce. She then was assigned to La Sagrada Familia School in Ponce and Residencia Santa Luisa, Caimito, Rio Piedras, a home for sick and elderly sisters.

In 1970, she was transferred to Miami and assigned to serve at Gesu Parish and Centro Hispano Católico (Catholic Hispanic Center). After serving at St. John Bosco Parish, she was moved in 1975 to the Shrine of Our Lady Queen of Heaven in New Rochelle, N.Y., for 18 years, holding various positions including chairman of the department, dean of students, provost, and chief operating officer of the university. She has published many articles on spirituality.

Beginning in 1989, she worked as an educator with the Hispanic migrant people on the west coast of Florida. She then served as principal of Archbishop Curley-Notre Dame High School in Miami from 1993 to 1998. Beginning in 1998, she served as superintendent of schools for the Archdiocese of Miami and now holds the position of executive director of Christian formation and superintendent of schools.

He entered the juniorate of the Christian Brothers in 1958. This year marks the 50th anniversary of his entrance in the novitiate.

**Brother Richard DeMaria, Congregation of Christian Brothers**

Brother DeMaria holds degrees in science and in religious studies, including a doctorate in theology from St. Michael’s in the University of Toronto.

He was a faculty member at Iona College in New Rochelle, N.Y., for 18 years, holding various positions including chairman of the department, dean of students and chief operating officer.

**GOLDEN JUBILARIES — 50 YEARS**

**Sister Faiver, Order of Preachers (Dominicans)**

Sister Faiver was born in Lansing, Mich., the youngest of five children. She attended elementary and high school at Resurrection School in Lansing, conducted by the Adrian Dominican Sisters. Following graduation in 1950, she entered the Dominican Order. After formation in Adrian, her ministry took her to schools in Clayton, Greenville and Detroit, Mich., where she taught elementary and junior high school. She then worked in the order’s central information office, and at their then-motherhouse and the Immaculate Conception Provincial Office in Detroit. She then went to the rural area of Santa Cruz Parish in Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico, for three years, and spent 19 years serving the needs of the sugar cane workers of San Jose Obrero Parish in Guayamate, Dominican Republic.

In 2003, Sister Faiver moved to Miami, where she is currently doing volunteer ministry, helping with the needs of those in the Miami area.

**Brother Richard DeMaria, Congregation of Christian Brothers**

Brother DeMaria holds degrees in science and in religious studies, including a doctorate in theology from St. Michael’s in the University of Toronto.

He was a faculty member at Iona College in New Rochelle, N.Y., for 18 years, holding various positions including chairman of the department, dean of students and chief operating officer.

**Brother Patrick Sean Moffett, Congregation of Christian Brothers, Ph.D.**

Brother Moffett was born into a close-knit family grounded in faith. He attended parochial schools conducted by the Sisters of Charity in New York City and New Jersey, and met the Christian Brothers at Bergen Catholic High School in New Jersey. “Their joyful engagement in the process of opening to us a greater world helped consolidate my vocation,” he said.

His assignments have included seven years as a teacher and counselor in high schools in Chicago and New York, 15 years as a professor of psychology, pastoral counselor and administrator at Iona College, New Rochelle, N.Y., followed by 15 years as president of Boys’ Towns of Italy Inc. and administrator of the Girls’ and Boys’ Towns of Rome.

He is currently in his sixth year as principal of Archbishop Curley Notre Dame High School in Miami.

“It has been a rich journey with

**PLEASE SEE JUBILARIANS, A11**
Our faith sustains us: let us sustain it: ABCD

My dear friends,

Jesus Christ himself tells us of the many trials his disciples must endure and promises us a treasure in heaven in the end. Even though these times are trying for us and for our Church, it is not the first time in the history of the Church.

Our Savior reminds us that we need not worry in the meantime; our heavy heart, he said, is that we need to even work for God, and even if we are righteous in his sight, all our needs will be supplied from heaven.

This has been the belief that guides my service to you and what I have hoped to help you understand: God, as a loving Father, will always provide for us if we only believe.

In this year of countless concerns and pressures, it is to God that we must turn. With love and perseverance, with utter trust to our neighbors, we are always God's way again.

Remember that our Father's love is boundless, and our Savior is boundless. Be faithful to the love others as he has loved us, with tolerance, forgiveness, generosity and care.

It has been my joy and my honor to serve the people of God in the Archdiocese of Miami for 15 years. In that time, I have met people whose faith has inspired me, whose generosity has overwhelmed me, and whose prayers have enabled me to be your shepherd, following humbly in the path the Wise Counselor set before us.

This Church — founded on the death and resurrection of our Most Holy Savior who laid down his life so that we may live with him eternally — this faith sustains us and we in turn must sustain it.

Reflect on the many wonderful advancements of mankind made possible through the grace of God. The Church — scientific discoveries, educational systems, hospitals and charities that care for people in need. Find hope in knowing that our Lord has done all this to provide for us, and return to him a sacrificial gift that will enable his work to continue.

Only you can make this possible. Please accept my grateful thanks for your generosity in supporting the Church in the Archdiocese of Miami through your generosity in supporting the Church in the Archdiocese of Miami.

It should be our goal as Catholics to make that generosity of spirit a daily experience. I know that I can count on you as I invite you to take on this challenge responsibly.

May the Lord continue to bless you and your loved ones abundantly.

John C. Favalora

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Dinner, run raise funds for life

While some will “run for life” beginning Feb. 15 — a nine-day, 350-mile trek from Homestead to St. Augustine — others can join the cause by attending a fundraising dinner fundraiser Friday, Feb. 5, at the Royal Palace Banquet Hall in Homestead.

Tickets for the dinner are $25 and must be reserved in advance. The money raised by both the dinner and the run will benefit the Knights of Columbus Florida State Charities, a group of more than 200 Knights’ councils working together to support between 30 and 40 maternity homes, emergency shelters and crisis pregnancy centers statewide.

The Run for Life has been an annual event since February 1989, when Mike Sapp, a local Knight and Homestead resident, ran from the Cathedral of St. Mary in Miami to the Great Cross in St. Augustine, covering about 40 miles each day and raising $12,000 in the process.

A year later, he began the run at Sacred Heart Parish in Homestead, and three years later he was joined by several other runners who take turns each day. This year’s relay team consists of five runners who will set out Feb. 13 at around 8:30 a.m. from Sacred Heart, proceeding north on Krome Avenue, then east on Campbell Drive to U.S. 1.

The runners will stop each day at churches along Florida’s east coast, including St. Martha in Miami Shores and St. James in North Miami, where they will celebrate Mass the first day.

This will mark the fourth year that a similar Run for Life will take place on the west coast of Florida, from Marco Island to Zephyrhills, and the first year that a run will take place in Florida’s Panhandle, starting in Pensacola and ending in Fort Walton Beach. All three runs will start Feb. 13.

Last year, the east and west coast runs raised a total of $32,000. The runs have raised more than $260,000 over the past 21 years.

For tickets to the dinner and more information on the run, go to www.kcnfl.org, call 385-245-5685 or e-mail angelovolus@aol.com.

Rekindle romance with Marriage Encounter

For more than 40 years, Worldwide Marriage Encounter has been offering a Catholic enrichment experience that teaches couples the skills they need to renew their commitment and rekindle their romance.

The movement invites couples to attend one of the four encounter weekends, which will be held in the archdiocese this year. The first will take place the weekend of Feb. 19-21 at St. Lawrence Church in Homestead. The others will take place April 16-18, Sept. 10-12 and Nov. 12-14.

For information and reservations, call Fred and Laurie Martin at 561-963-1170. Additional information and materials are available at www.wme.org.

Symposium focuses onmatrimony

“The Liturgical Spirituality of Matrimony” will be the subject of a symposium to be held Saturday, Feb. 6, 8:30 a.m.-noon, at St. Thomas University, 16-401 N.W. 37 Ave., Miami Gardens.

The symposium is sponsored by the university in conjunction with Rome’s Pontifical Institute of Liturgy. Keynote speakers will be Benedictine Father Juan Javier Flores, president of the Pontifical Institute of Liturgy, who will speak in Spanish, and Benedictine Father Ephrem Carr, professor at the institute.

This symposium is open to priests, deacons and laity involved in marriage preparation as well as married and engaged couples themselves. For information call 305-756-2755 or e-mail cors@bishopsf@archdioceseofmiami.com.

‘Schott Saturdays’ aimed at adults with special needs

Schott Communities for the Deaf or Disabled has launched a Saturday program for adults with special needs.

The program is held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Saturday and features life skills, exercise, light academics, fun time and weekly specials such as dancing, yoga, crafting or art classes.

“We have been working diligently with members of our program committee to find ways to expand programs for the special-needs population in western Broward County,” said Liz Disney, program director. “The Saturday program is just the beginning. We are growing and adding more programs to help fill that critical need of where do our special-needs children go when they age out of the school system.”

Schott Saturdays are open to all individuals with special needs who are 18 and older. Participants can sign up for all Saturdays or just one. Tickets are based on the number of Saturdays for which participants enroll. Space is limited. For information, call 954-434-5306.

Catholics to lobby in Tallahassee

Catholics in south Florida are invited to join their counterparts throughout the state for the Catholic Days at the Capitol lobbying trip to Tallahassee.

The annual event takes place March 8-10 under the auspices of the Florida Catholic Conference. Participants will lobby their legislators and celebrate the 35th annual Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit (Red Mass) with Florida’s bishops and Catholic elected officials. Archbishop John C. Favalora will be the homilist at this year’s Mass.

To learn more, contact Joan Crown, archdiocesan director of respect life, at 954-981-2922 or go to www.flacathconf.org.

CORRECTION

The artist who painted the cover for the December 2009 edition was properly identified in the story, but his name was wrong in the art and photo captions. He is Diego Zorrilla, a volunteer at Schott Communities for the Deaf and Disabled in Cooper City.

Florida Catholic January 2010
Never miss Mass again

Traveling is no excuse, as Web site offers Mass, confession schedules for nearly half the churches in the world

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO
Florida Catholic staff

MIA — Traveling is going to Yellowstone National Park and wondering if you will be able to attend Sunday Mass while visiting Old Faithful? As the commercial says, “There’s an app for that.”

Actually, it’s an Internet site — www.masstimes.org — where you can search for the Mass times at 117,337 Catholic churches, chapels and missions in 205 countries around the world.

The site lists Mass times, confessions and devotional services, as well as linking to maps that tell visitors where the church is located. Visitors can search by diocese, city and state or country. They can search in different languages and search for Masses celebrated in a particular language.

For those who own iPhones, there is an “app” as well that uses GPS technology to find you and locate the nearest church.

The Web site grew out of Bob Hummel and his wife’s desire to attend daily Mass.

“We were going to daily Mass and couldn’t find Masses when we were traveling,” said the retired businessman and Pensacola resident.

The search for Mass times and locations led him to create a Web site that welcomed nearly 4 million unique visitors last year. Those visitors, in turn, conducted about 57 million church searches, according to statistics shown on the site itself.

“We have approximately one-half of all the Mass times of the world on our Web site,” said Jim Adair, president of the Catholic Tour Company, who houses the site in his Ohio offices as a favor to Hummel, a longtime friend.

“We were traveling, ‘said the retired businessman and Pensacola resident. ‘We couldn’t find Masses when we were traveling.’

The site began in 1994 as a toll-free 800-number that provided Mass times for Catholic parishes in the United States. It moved to the Internet in 1998 and began publishing Mass times of churches worldwide in 2002.

“Initially, the toll-free number received between 200,000 and 300,000 calls a year. ‘That’s kind of what told me that there is quite a pent-up demand for that type of information,” said Hummel.

Almost 25,000 calls still come into the phone line, even though it is no longer toll free.

“The volume got to the point where it was costing about $18,000 a month for the phone bill and I just couldn’t afford that anymore. That caused me to get serious about the Internet,” said Hummel, who personally pays for about two-thirds of the Web site’s annual $300,000 cost. The other third is raised by ads and donations.

Hummel began amassing the names, locations and Mass times of churches by requesting the printed directories of every diocese in the U.S. The first year, he received 150 of 176 diocesan directories.

“I just hired people to start entering them into the database. That took another year or so,” he said.

He still brings in seminars once a year to help keep the listings current, and said he has about 1,000 volunteers who help out during the year. But what is really helpful is when parishes

For more information, please see MASS, A11
Jesus on your laptop

Pax Catholic Communications’ virtual adoration chapel enables people to pray before the Blessed Sacrament by simply going online

BLANCA MORALES
Florida Catholic correspondent

MIAMI — All those who “labor and are burdened” now have a place to pray no matter where they are, thanks to the virtual Blessed Sacrament chapel available on the archdiocesan radio station’s Web site 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Jesus’ words from Matthew 11:29 greet all who visit the online site at www.paxcc.org/adoration/adoration01.html, which welcomes all to post their prayer intentions as they pray before the Blessed Sacrament.

The virtual adoration chapel allows homebound individuals, those who are sick in hospitals, or anyone constrained by distance or time to pray before the Blessed Sacrament and place their petitions from anywhere at any time.

Necessity is the mother of invention, and in this case it combined with divine inspiration to give birth to the idea for this online service.

At 3 a.m. one day, struggling with a difficult situation, Gonzalo Penagos felt the need to visit the Blessed Sacrament. Penagos is director of operations for PaxNet, a satellite programming service that comes under the umbrella of Pax Catholic Communications, whose flagship station is Radio Paz 830 AM.

Penagos remembers searching the Web hoping to find a 24-hour broadcast of the Blessed Sacrament.

“All I found were photos, but nothing live,” he said.

He felt that there should be a place on the World Wide Web that allowed individuals in need of prayer to speak to Jesus face to face, if only in cyberspace.

He shared his idea with Isaúl Gonzalez, chief operations officer for Pax Catholic Communications, and they both approached Father Jaime Acevedo, pastor of Mother of Our Redeemer Parish in Miami.

Father Acevedo was more than willing to help out by setting up a camera and Internet connection in Mother of Our Redeemer’s Holy Family Chapel, where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved.

The chapel lent itself perfectly for the project, Penagos said. It is visually appealing yet simple, and has excellent lighting for recording.

The tabernacle in which the Eucharist is reserved is also perfect: Nontraditional in design, it has two little windows, or flaps, which can be opened up to reveal the Eucharist. This keeps the Blessed Sacrament visible yet protected, since it cannot be unattended while it is exposed.

The design allows it to be visible to the camera even when it is not exposed, said Penagos, who set up the equipment and continues to oversee its operation.

The Web site features a virtual wall on which prayer requests can be posted. Radio Paz’s intercession ministry, along with the Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary, an archdiocesan religious community, pray for the posted intentions.

Approximately 1,000 prayer requests are e-mailed to the site on a daily basis. Visitors come from all over Latin America, Spain and the U.S.

The service, which was first announced on Radio Paz, drew an even larger number of visitors after Gonzalez mentioned it on EWTN, the Catholic television network.

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Schools finding friends on Facebook

Several archdiocesan high schools have official sites for keeping in touch with alumni, promoting activities.

MELODY REGALADO
Florida Catholic correspondent

MIAMI — The Internet is changing the way Catholic schools keep in touch with their alumni. Many are turning to social networking sites to expand their reach.

It’s incredible to me how I can post something on Facebook and within three minutes, I have an answer from somebody,” said Martica Castellanos, alumnae director at Our Lady of Lourdes Academy in Miami, who manages the Facebook page for the school. “This technology, when used correctly, is beneficial to any institution.”

In some cases, such as that of Sts. Peter and Paul School in Miami, alumni have been administrators about the punch, creating Facebook pages where they can keep in touch and reminisce with other alumni.

But some school administrators have put aside misgivings and have begun to use the technology of Facebook, a social networking site where people can form groups and add each other as friends.

With this tool, former classmates are able to reconnect and find each other more easily, and faculty can post pictures of reunions and events while promoting information about the school.

Through Facebook, school administrators can reach out to former students and current parents to disseminate information about school happenings, promote events and market alumni merchandise.

“Our Christmas outreach with Sacred Heart (Outreach Center) helped more than 75 families this year,” said Castellanos. “We promoted it on Facebook and had an overwhelming response, including from friends of friends and even from people who aren’t alumni of Lourdes.”

The alumni and development office at Chaminade-Madonna College Preparatory in Hollywood also uses Facebook to reconnect with alumni, post upcoming events, athletic activities, major headlines, and alumni, post upcoming events, athletics, activities, and alumni merchandise.

Some faculty members admit they were hesitant to start a Facebook page at first because of the responsibility of having to monitor, control and update the site.

Katherine Doble, public relations and special-events coordinator at Archbishop Curley Notre Dame College Preparatory in Miami, is the creator and manager of the school’s fan page. She has Facebook connected to her cell phone, so she is able to monitor the page at all times to ensure and control the content.

The school uses the site to promote events, and attendees can RSVP right from Facebook. Once a week, she posts a question for alumni to respond to about their memories of the high school. She said that one she recently posted about Christmas received 20 replies.

“We organized a soccer tournament in April of (last) year and promoted it solely through Facebook,” she said. “We had about 300 spectators turn out to watch the teams play.”

Schools also have seen an increase in attendance at events and reunions after launching their Facebook sites.

Melinda Miel, alumni coordinator at Msgr. Edward Pace High School in Miami Gardens, said she was able to notify the majority of the class of 2000 about their upcoming 10-year reunion.

Because a lot of alumni information is missing from the school’s database, Miel uses Facebook as a tool for getting in touch with former students and encouraging them to come to our Open House on Wednesday, Feb. 3rd. 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Our Vision: C.O.R.E.

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Please see FACEBOOK, A11

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MIA A7
Immaculate Conception’s principal ‘walks the walk’

Eddy Garcia, an advocate of special-needs education, is the archdiocese’s principal of the year for 2010

MARLENE QUARONI
Florida Catholic correspondent

HIALEAH — As Eddy Garcia, 47, walked along the breezeway at Immaculate Conception School, he came across Kathy Callow, his seventh-grade teacher.

“That was polite and a pleasure to have as a student,” said Callow. “His three kids, also my students, were just like their dad.”

Further along the breezeway, third-grader Emily Matias, 8, remarks that she likes Garcia’s tie. At the bottom of the black-patterned tie are the words, “Mr. Garcia, 2009 Principal of the Year.”

“A parent gave this tie to me after the Archdiocese of Miami named me principal of the year,” said Garcia, principal of Immaculate Conception School, which he attended as a child.

Garcia was selected for the honor from among 50 other archdiocesan school principals. His selection puts him in the running for the National Catholic Educational Association’s Distinguished Principal of the Year award, which is given to 12 principals from across the nation at the group’s annual convention in April.

On the lapel of his jacket, Garcia wears a silver cross, a reminder of his faith.

Although the Sisters of Mercy, who staffed the Hialeah school since it opened in 1954, are long gone, the lay staff, led by Garcia, maintains Catholicism by setting an example for their student body of about 800.

“You walk the walk,” Garcia said.

Garcia and his family are active at Immaculate Conception Parish. Family members sing in the choir, have been altar servers and have been involved in various other church activities. Garcia includes Father Francisco Hernandez, Immaculate Conception’s pastor, in the school’s administration.

“We work as a team,” said Father Hernandez. “Every week we have a meeting and discuss what’s happening in the school and he asks for my input.”

Garcia’s daughter, Jenice, 24, is in the middle of teaching a class for seventh-grade students with special needs as Garcia pays her a visit. She is getting married this year. Her brother, Bryan, 21, will graduate from St. John Vianney College Seminary in Miami. Another brother, Steven, 17, will graduate from Msgr. Edward Pace High School in Miami Gardens, where his mother, Ana, is a seventh-grade teacher.

“My wife and I are sounding about our children, with Jenice in the middle wearing a veil, and Bryan and Steven wearing mortar boards on their head,” Garcia said. “This is a momentous year for my family.”

Garcia and his wife met at Pace High and share a love of teaching. They married in 1984 after he graduated from Miami-Dade Community College with a business degree. Garcia worked full time in public relations for Southern Bell, helping with charitable organizations. He took advantage of a company program that paid 80 percent of college tuition and earned a bachelor’s degree in specific learning disabilities and a master’s in educational leadership. He left Southern Bell in 1992 to teach special-education students at Glades Middle School. In 1999, Garcia became principal of Immaculate Conception.

“Sister Teresita O’Sullivan, the principal, was retiring,” said Garcia. “The pastor asked Sister Teresita to make a list of people who she recommended to be the new principal. The only name the pastor and Sister Teresita agreed on was my name.”

Teaching students with learning disabilities is a special concern for both Garcia and his wife.

“My wife and I are sounding boards for each other,” he said. “She is my mentor. The cookie-cutter

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In the soul of a child is the kingdom of God

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PRINCIPAL EDDY GARCIA TALKS TO EMMA MARIA TORRES, 6, AS SHE DOES ARTWORK IN KINDERGARTEN CLASS.
Schools schedule open houses, exams

Catholic schools throughout the archdiocese will be hosting open houses and administering entrance exams in the next few weeks. Following is a schedule. More up-to-date information also is available at www.miamarch.org, by clicking on “Things to Do” under the News Center tab.

OPEN HOUSES
Elementary schools
• All Saints, 10900 W. Oakland Park Blvd., Sunrise; Sunday, Jan. 24, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Applications available beginning Feb. 1; $25 nonrefundable fee required. 954-742-4842.
• Mother of Our Redeemer, 8445 NW 186 St., Miami; Sunday, Jan. 31, 2 p.m. esalinas@mooorsch.org.
• Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, 18455 Franjo Road, Miami; Monday, Jan. 25, 7:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. 305-235-5442.
• Our Lady of the Lakes, 6600 Miami Lakesway North, Miami Lakes; Saturday, Jan. 23, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
• St. Agnes Academy, 122 Harbor Drive, Key Biscayne; Tours given Tuesdays, 10-11 a.m., by appointment. Applications for new students available until Jan. 31. Call 305-361-3245, ext. 203.
• St. Andrew, 9990 NW 29 St., Coral Springs; Wednesday, Jan. 27, 8-11 a.m. 954-753-1280.
• St. Anthony, 620 NE Third St., Fort Lauderdale; Sunday, Jan. 31, 2 p.m. 954-467-7747.
• St. Elizabeth-St. Joseph, 901 NE 31st St., Pompano Beach; Sunday, Jan. 24, 9 a.m.-noon. 954-942-2161 or moussseau@eoicyclones.org.
• St. Helen, 3340 W. Oakland Park Blvd., Fort Lauderdale; Sunday, Jan. 31, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.; Monday, Feb. 1, 6-7:30 p.m.; Thursday, Feb. 4, 8-11:30 a.m. 954-739-7094 or mwil@sthsantihelen.net.
• St. Jerome, 2601 S.W. Ninth Ave., Fort Lauderdale; Sunday, Jan. 24, 11 a.m. 954-524-1990.
• St. John Neumann, 12115 S.W. 107 Ave., Miami; Monday, Jan. 25, 7:30-11 a.m.; Wednesday, Jan. 27, 6-8 p.m. 305-255-7315 or sfarginals@sjcs.org.
• St. Michael, 300 N.W. 28 Ave., Miami; Sunday, Jan. 31, after 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Masses; Thursday, Feb. 18, 8-11 a.m. 305-642-6732.
• St. Patrick, 3700 Garden Ave., Miami Beach; Wednesday, Jan. 27, 9-11 a.m. 305-534-4614.

High schools
• Archbishop Coleman Carroll, 10390 S.W. 167 Ave., Miami; Saturday, Jan. 23, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Enrollment open for grades nine, 10 and 11. 305-388-6700.

ENTRANCE EXAMS
High schools
• Archbishop Curley Notre Dame, 4949 N.E. Second Ave., Miami; Jan. 30, 8 a.m. Please register at www.acnd.net/Admissions/EntranceExamApplication.htm.
• Archbishop Edward McCarthy, 5451 S. Flamingo Road, Southwest Ranches; Saturday, Jan. 30, 7:30 a.m.
• Cardinal Gibbons, 2900 N.E. 47 St., Fort Lauderdale; Saturday, Jan. 30, 8 a.m. All freshman applicants are required to take the test. Applications at www.cghfl.org or by calling 954-401-2900, ext. 198.

• Chaminade-Madonna College Preparatory, 300 Chaminade Drive, Hollywood; Saturday, Jan. 30, 7:45 a.m. Prospective students must pre-register at www.cmllions.org under “Admissions.”
• Christopher Columbus, 3000 S.W. 87 Ave., Miami; Saturday, Jan. 30, 8 a.m. Required for all incoming ninth-graders. Register by Jan. 25 at www.columbushs.com/reg/entrance_exam.aspx or call 305-223-5650, ext. 2217.
• Immaculata LaSalle, 3681 S.W. 143rd Ave., Miami; Saturday, Jan. 30. Contact admissions@lasallehighschool.com.
• Msgr. Edward Pace, 15600 N.W. 32 Ave., Miami; Saturday, Jan. 30, 7:30 a.m. Fill out an application at www.pacehs.com by clicking on “Admissions” or call 305-623-PACE, ext. 342.
• Our Lady of Lourdes Academy, 5525 S.W. 84 St., Miami; Saturday, Jan. 30, 8:30 a.m.
• St. Thomas Aquinas, 2801 S.W. 12 St., Fort Lauderdale; Saturday, Jan. 30, 7:45 a.m. For eighth-graders only. Appropriate dress required, consisting of khakis, dress pants and a skirt or dress (no T-shirts, jeans or tennis shoes). Registration forms accepted until Jan. 27. Fee is $50. Go to www.aquinass-sta.org to download form or call 954-327-2180.

Elementary schools
• Good Shepherd, 14187 S.W. 72 St., Miami; Saturday, Feb. 6, 9 a.m. 305-385-7902.
• St. John Neumann, 12115 S.W. 107 Ave, Miami; Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2 p.m. 305-255-7315 or sfarginals@sjcs.org.
education of Catholic schools in the past had to undergo curriculum changes to accommodate gifted and special-needs students,” he said. “I feel confident that I can send graduates to Catholic high schools such as Msgr. Pace, Columbus and St. Brendan.”

Brother Richard DeMaria, a member of the Christian Brothers who served as superintendent of schools and director of Christian formation for the archdiocese, praised Garcia’s leadership in the area of special education.

“He has demonstrated leadership over the years in the way that he has prepared his faculty to welcome and educate special-education children,” Brother DeMaria said. “There are 44 students (at Immaculate) who participate in the John McKay program, which allows parents of children with an individualized education plan to move their children to a nonpublic school.”

Brother DeMaria added that Garcia is a model of service for his willingness to accept appointments to committees in the archdiocese.

“Eddy serves as a wonderful role model for young Catholic men,” he said. Garcia has served on the Catholic school principals’ advisory council and has mentored school principals.

“Being a school principal is more than a job,” he said. “It’s a vocation. It’s not about money; it’s about the children.”

Immaculate Conception’s assistant principal, Victoria Leon, said Garcia’s award is well-deserved.

“He’s very supportive of the school staff,” she said. “He helps us advance in our careers.”

FOLLOW MARCH FOR LIFE
WITH STUDENT BLOGGERS

St. Brendan student Katie Dugard, 17, prays after receiving Communion during the opening Mass of the Archdiocese of Miami’s pilgrimage to the March for Life last year. The pilgrimage was renamed Father Kidwell’s March for Life to honor the Jesuit priest who had brought teens to Washington for the Jan. 22 event since the mid-1980s. Father Kidwell died two years ago. In 2009, the largest delegation of high school students — 130 students from 10 Catholic schools from around the Archdiocese of Miami — descended upon the nation’s capital for the annual March for Life. Follow this year’s March for Life with high school bloggers at www.miamimarch.org
JUBILARIANS
FROM A3

many side trips,” he said. “I have worked with challenged students in Harlem, with our young brothers in formation, with our brothers in West Africa, and with religious congregations in the U.S., England, Ireland, Italy, India and Australia. The brothers have afforded me time to chronicle these adventures in the popular and professional press. The story that emerges is one of Christ being present to me and to all of us in the children we are privileged to serve.”

Sister Helene Kloss, Order of Preachers, Dominican
Sister Kloss is a native of Detroit. She attended Edwin Denby High School and began her studies in music education at Wayne State University before entering the Adrian Dominican Congregation in Michigan. She has taught school in Ohio, New York, Miami (St. Rose of Lima) and Puerto Rico. The love of people, music and pastoral work has made liturgical music the ideal ministry for her. She has been director of music at Visitation Parish in North Miami, St. Patrick in Miami Beach, and presently at Our Lady of the Lakes in Miami Lakes.

SILVER JUBILARIAN — 25 YEARS
Sister Immaculata Hanisch, Carmelites Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles
Sister Hanisch was born and raised in Tulsa, Okla., the second of eight children in a loving Catholic family. When she was 23 years old, being drawn to a deeper prayer life, she entered the Carmelites Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles. For 14 years she worked as a clinical dietitian at Santa Teresa Hospital and Manor, while at the same time teaching religious education.

In August 2002, she was assigned to Miami’s Archbishop Coleman F. Carroll High School, where she currently chairs the theology department and teaches sacred Scripture to sophomore students.

“The most loyal users are really daily Mass people. It’s much easier to find weekend Masses than it is daily Mass.”

Bob Hummel
U.S. parishes, missions and chapels, as well as nearly 100,000 churches in about 3,300 dioceses around the world.

“Fourteen percent of people in the U.S. are actually looking for churches outside the U.S.,” Hummel said. “The most loyal users are really daily Mass people. It’s much easier to find weekend Masses than it is daily Mass.”

Mastimes.org also lists the times for confession and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

“We do get a good number of inquiries about that. But clearly, Mass times is where most of the action is. It goes up around Thanksgiving and Easter and Christmas, and in the summers and on weekends,” Hummel said.

A running counter allows parishes to view the number of people who have searched for their church, and the site allows people to search for Masses in specific languages.

Hummel admits he was not the first to come up with the idea, and other Web sites, such as CatholicWeb and CatholicOnline, also list Mass times. But “none of them take the time and effort and investment to keep it as current as we do. That’s what makes our site more useful than the other people’s,” he said.

The bottom line, said Adair: “There’s no reason to miss Mass.”

.Advance, Facebook has been an amazing tool to help us stay connected with alumni from all class years,” said Rentz.

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Send today for your free Novena prayer folder and medal of St. Jude. Wear it to give you hope and strength.
COMMUNITY EVENTS

Archbishop Curley Notre Dame Art Gallery, 4949 N.E. Second Ave., Miami, “Young Artists” on display from Jan. 26 to Feb. 17, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m., featuring selected works from student artists in neighboring Catholic high schools. 305-751-8367, ext. 29; www.ascd.org, or news@ascd.org.

St. Andrei Karetny, Jan. 28-31, 950 N.W. 29 St., Coral Springs. Rides, games, food, cake walk, raffles, vendors, performances by local talent. 954-258-8023.

Lubavitch (Hasidic) Community, 4296 N.W. 53 St., Miami, “Fin de Semana en Español, por favor contacten a pareja. Se enfocaran en su relacion, aprenderan y termina por la tarde del Domingo. Esto ocurre una jornada que inicia el Sabado por la manana.”

Themed Rides, Games, Food, Cakewalks, Raffles, Vendors, by Broward County Family Success Administration. 305-434-3306, ext. 102.

Separated and divorced support groups meet in various locations in Miami-Dade and Broward counties. Go to www.miamifamilycatholic.org.

VOCATIONS

Discerning a vocation to the priesthood? Meeting Monday, Jan. 25, in English and Spanish, Pastoral Center, 1401 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, 752-1137 or vocations@theadom.org.

Sisters of St. Joseph vocational retreat, Friday, Jan. 29-Saturday, Jan. 30, St. Joseph Motherhouse, 10301 St. Joseph, Miami. Daily Mass, eucharistic adoration, prayer in community, optional individualize times for spiritual direction. Retreat fee: $10, includes all meals and overnight accommodations. 954-610-9228 or sfvocations@bellsouth.net.

YOUNG ADULTS

Catholic “speed date,” Sunday, Feb. 14, 3-6 p.m., Living Room on the Rocks, 1709 N Congress Ave., Boynton Beach, for Catholic singles in their 30s and 40s. Includes free wine, cheese and a drink provided. $25 in advance; $30 at the door. 954-270-9447 or lionjames@yahoo.com.

MIA ARCHDIOCESE COMMUNITY PAGE SUBMISSION DEADLINES

The Florida Catholic welcomes calendar items of parish/orrganization events that are open to the whole archdiocese. There is no charge but items must be in the computer at least six weeks before the event. To be included on both the Web site and in the newspaper, go to www.miamiarc.org, click on the banner “announce your event for free” and follow the instructions. Notes may be sent by e-mail: arsoto@theadom.org; fax: 305-752-1132; mail: The Florida Catholic, 9401 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, FL 33138.
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McGrorty, chief executive officer of Catholic Legal Services. He said he already has received hundreds of e-mails from people interested in serving as foster parents or adoptive parents for the children. But it is too early to make those requests.

The first step, he said, is to work with the U.S. government “to create an orderly program to bring those kids (here) legally.”

The first step, he said, is to work with child care agencies in Haiti “who are the experts” to identify the children in need. But that will happen only after the initial search and rescue work is completed. “Right now, everyone’s priority is to rescue people from the rubble,” McGrorty said.

Many of those present at Notre Dame d’Haiti Jan. 17 had relatives in Haiti.

“I lost my cousins with their two kids and I can’t find two of my sisters,” said Patricia Charles, who made the pilgrimage to Haiti.

Kerwins Mathurin, an eighth-grader at St. Mary Cathedral School, prays during the Mass Jan. 13 for victims of the earthquake in Haiti.

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‘Nobody foresaw this’

Grieving Haitians mourn for dead, pray for missing relatives

MARLENE QUARONI
Florida Catholic correspondent

MIAMI — Martine Jeudi held photos of her aunt and other relatives in her hand as she prayed during a memorial service for victims of the earthquake which struck Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on Jan. 12.

“My aunt was killed,” said Jeudi, 36, who came to the Jan. 13 service at Notre Dame d’Haiti Parish in Miami from her home in Hollywood. “My other relatives are missing. They lived at Delmas 68. The building was destroyed.”

She was one of hundreds of Haitian-Americans whose relatives were killed or are missing in Haiti.

Father Reginald Jean-Mary, pastor of Notre Dame d’Haiti, called the earthquake the darkest moment in the history of Haiti.

“Nobody foresaw this,” he said in an impassioned address. “God and nature surprised us. God reminded us that something must be done. Haiti needs more than food and water. We need substantial change in Haiti.”

Father Jean-Mary told those at the memorial service to make a commitment to Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

“I don’t want you to come to church and cry,” he said. “I want you to make a commitment so that Haiti can stand on its feet. Today, many of you are wondering where your loved ones are in Haiti. But how many times did you contact them? You know how hard life is in Haiti.”

Father Jean-Mary said that the death of their fellow brothers and sisters was not a defeat.

“The light of God will continue to shine on Haiti,” he said. “We are here to show our solidarity and our commitment to Haiti. We are here to be a light in the darkness.”

Noel Augustin holds a photo of relatives during a memorial service for Haitian earthquake victims held Jan. 13 at Notre Dame d’Haiti Parish in Miami.

Carmen Pierre, right, and Sandrine Basquin, seventh-graders at St. Mary Cathedral School, pray the Our Father during the Mass for victims of the earthquake in Haiti. The student body of St. Mary Cathedral School gathered for Mass the morning after a 7.0 magnitude quake devastated Port-au-Prince, Haiti’s capital. Most of the school’s 380 students are of Haitian descent.
Archdiocese, Catholic Charities already helping in Haiti

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO
Florida Catholic staff

MIAMI — Even before an archdiocese-wide collection set for the weekend of Jan. 16-17, the Archdiocese of Miami committed $100,000 from its disaster relief fund to aid Haiti.

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami also opened an online site Jan. 13 for people to donate to the relief effort.

The archdiocesan money would go "for the initial rescue and recovery efforts," Archbishop John C. Favalora said in a letter read at all the parishes the weekend of the collection.

"I urge your generous support which will go directly to assist our brothers and sisters in Haiti," the archbishop said.

He noted that Catholic Charities also was collecting money "with which we will purchase the needed items and get them to the area as soon as possible."

Archdiocesan officials also emphasized that all of the money collected — 100 percent — would go directly toward relief efforts in Haiti.

Deacon Richard Turcotte, chief executive officer of Catholic Charities, said the agency had relief supplies "already positioned (in Haiti) in a warehouse" when the tremor struck. The relief supplies had been stored in Haiti since four hurricanes hit the northern part of the country in 2008.

He said his agency would partner with agencies such as Catholic Relief Services, which is sponsored by the U.S. bishops, and Caritas International, the Vatican agency which has long experience in the country, to provide and distribute whatever aid was required by the Haitian people.

The American Institute of Philanthropy gave Catholic Relief Services a grade of A and listed it among the top-rated charities working in Haiti.

"From all reports, it's totally. The infrastructure is completely destroyed," Deacon Turcotte said.

"This is a disaster that none of us were prepared for," Deacon Turcotte said. "None of us know the magnitude of what's going to take to rebuild. The only thing for sure is that it's going to be a long, long relief effort."

Also complicating the situation: Some of those who would take the lead in providing help, such as Church workers, were among those affected by the tragedy.

Port-au-Prince's Archbishop Joseph Serge Miot was among the first to be identified as a casualty of the quake. His vicar general and chancellor also were missing as of the end of the week. The seminary was reportedly heavily damaged, and many seminarians were unaccounted for.

Saleian Missions said their offices and schools in Port-au-Prince were damaged or destroyed and the whereabouts of aid workers was not known.

They also reported that Brother Hubert Sanon, 85, the first Haitian priest ordained in Haiti, in part because we have a sister Diocese of Port-de-Paix, is accepting monetary donations via the link at the bottom of its Web site, www.amorenaccion.com or at P.O. Box 141523, Coral Gables, FL 33174.

"The Shrine of Our Lady of Charity in Miami was accepting donations of nonperishable food, evaporated and powdered milk, and medicines ONLY from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at 3609 S. Miami Ave.

The archdiocese's St. Vincent de Paul Society joined efforts with the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, whose community has worked for decades in Haiti, to fill a special plane bound for Haiti. The Daughters of Charity working in Haiti would distribute the aid themselves. They asked that donations of rice, black beans, lentils, powdered milk and cooking oil be delivered to the Daughters' convent at 500 N.W. 63 Ave., Miami.

The archdiocese's St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Hialeah, in part because we have a sister Diocese of Port-de-Paix, is accepting monetary donations via the link at the bottom of its Web site, www.amorenaccion.com or at P.O. Box 141523, Coral Gables, FL 33174.

"The lay missionary group Amor en Accion (Love in Action), which has worked for decades in the archdiocese's sister Diocese of Port-de-Paix, is accepting monetary donations via the link at the bottom of its Web site, www.amorenaccion.com or at P.O. Box 141523, Coral Gables, FL 33174.

"The archdiocese's St. Vincent de Paul Society joined efforts with the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, whose community has worked for decades in Haiti, to fill a special plane bound for Haiti. The Daughters of Charity working in Haiti would distribute the aid themselves. They asked that donations of rice, black beans, lentils, powdered milk and cooking oil be delivered to the Daughters' convent at 500 N.W. 63 Ave., Miami.

"We expect to have collected up to $10,000 by the end of next week," said Carlota Morales, principal of Sts. Peter and Paul School in Miami, which had not tallied the funds raised by a schoolwide collection Jan. 15, but said she had received a donation of $1,000 from a single family.

St. Andrew School in Coral Springs scheduled a walkathon for the afternoon of Monday, Jan. 25. Mother of Our Redeemer School in Miami asked students to bring an empty can to school and challenged them to fill it with money for Haiti.

Also in Miami, Immaculata La Salle High School's student clubs said they would turn over all the money from planned fundraisers to the Haiti relief effort.

"We expect to have collected up to $10,000 by the end of next week," said Juan Carlos Moya, a faculty member at the school.

"We are very concerned about Haiti, in part because we have a sister school there and a Salesian mission that was completely destroyed," said Moya, noting that Immaculata La Salle's principal is a Salesian.