Help yourself: Fill out the census

Archdiocese joins efforts with the U.S. Census Bureau to ensure everyone is counted in 2010

BRENDA TIRADO-TORRES
Florida Catholic correspondent

MIAMI — If you think that ignoring the Census 2010 will have no impact, think again. At stake are federal dollars that could help your community.

This year’s census is so crucial that faith-based organizations are joining efforts with the U.S. Census Bureau and local governments to educate the faithful about the importance of being counted.

More than $130 million addresses across the nation are receiving the 2010 Census form this month. March 19-21 has been designated Faith-Based Census Awareness Weekend by the U.S. Census Bureau. The Archdiocese of Miami is encouraging its pastors to educate their parishioners about the census, and urging the faithful to cooperate.

The Constitution of the United States requires that a national census be taken every 10 years for the purpose of determining the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Counting every person living in the country also helps to determine the allocation of federal funds for community services, such as school lunch programs, child care and senior citizen centers, and new construction, such as highways and hospitals. Every year, the federal government distributes more than $400 billion to local, state and tribal governments based on census data.

“Complying with the census is more important this year because of the recession and the overwhelming financial crisis,” said Maria De la Milera, special projects coordinator for the Building and Neighborhood Compliance Department of Miami-Dade County.

“We know that foreclosures in Miami-Dade will affect us in the census; that is why it is so important for everyone to be counted. The county offers many services to the community, such as medical care, housing, transportation, child care and job placement, and we need federal subsidies to keep providing them. For each person who is not counted in the census, Miami-Dade County loses between $1,200 to $3,000 in federal subsidies per year, and the negative impact on the community would be overwhelming,” De la Milera said.

Religious organizations and institutions rely on census data to apply for grants, determine locations for new facilities, and connect with potential new members. Miami-Dade County and the Census Bureau have requested assistance from faith leaders to raise awareness among the faithful about the importance of returning the com-

IN THIS ISSUE

Palm Sunday is March 28

2 elementary schools to close in May

 Seeing the faith through new eyes

About Census 2010

• With only 10 questions to answer, the 2010 Census form is shorter, making it easier to fill in and send back.
• Census Day is April 1. Questionnaire responses should represent the household as it exists on this day. They should be mailed back by April 15.
• Those who do not send back a completed census form can expect a visit from census workers between May and July.
• 2010 Census form language assistance guides are available in at least 59 languages. Questionnaire Assistance Centers also will assist those unable to read or understand the form. The assistance centers are open seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., through July 30. The phone number is 1-866-872-6868 in English; 1-866-928-2010 in Spanish; or 1-866-783-2010 for the hearing impaired.
• Census takers are organizing outreach events in neighborhoods such as Little Haiti and others with large concentrations of immigrants because many people there are not familiar with the census. Pastors should check with the Census Bureau about the possibility of having a campaign at their parishes to inform people about the census and assist parishioners in completing the forms.
• Miami-Dade County residents without internet access can dial 311 to ask questions about the census. In Broward and Monroe counties, the number to call is 1-800-923-8282.

Please see Census, A5
Two elementary schools closing

Financial concerns, underenrollment lead pastors at St. Joseph and St. Elizabeth of Hungary to close their parish schools at the end of this school year

ANGELIQUE RUHI-LOPEZ
Florida Catholic correspondent

MIAMI — When Paul Hammett was a child, he longed to attend the school at his parish of St. Elizabeth of Hungary.

“T always wanted to go there but my family couldn’t afford it, so I always knew I would send my kids there. When we finally could, it was what we expected to be for our children: a great school, a great parish and a great environment,” Hammett said of his two youngest children, Lindsey, an eighth-grader, and Daniel, a sixth-grader at St. Elizabeth-St. Joseph School. (The name St. Joseph was added to the school last year after the parish merged with St. Joseph Haitian Mission in Pompano.)

This year will be the last that the Hammett children and all students of St. Elizabeth-St. Joseph will attend the 49-year-old school: Father Paul Kane, pastor, announced March 9 that the school will not reopen for the 2010-2011 school year, citing financial reasons and underenrollment.

“We didn’t come to a decision overnight,” said Father Kane of the school, which offers pre-K4 through eighth grade. “We had 530 students enrolled in the 2003-2004 school year and we have had a steady and significant decline in enrollment since then. We currently have 160 students and only had 96 students enrolled for next year.”

St. Elizabeth was not the only school to announce in early March that it was closing its doors: St. Joseph School in Miami Beach also will close at the end of the current school year.

“We have been underenrolled for 11 years now and during these years, there have been less than 200 children in our school,” said Father Enrique Estrada, pastor at St. Joseph.

In a letter to his parishioners, Father Estrada cited three reasons for the decision to close the school: the economy, low enrollment and demographic changes in the community.

“Everyone is devastated, including all the people who have walked our hallways in the past 53 years,” said Father Estrada. “It was a tough decision, but we needed to do it, in all fairness. I could not postpone this until May or June because families need to find new schools and teachers need to find new jobs.”

“Pastors and principals have left no stone unturned trying to see different ways to recruit more students, get funding, and pay down their debt,” said Brother Richard DeMaria, director of Christian Formation and superintendent of schools for the archdiocese, “but each of them separately came to the conclusion that they couldn’t go forward another year without adding more debt to what they already

PLEASEE SEE SCHOOL, A7
Door-to-door, Church to Church

Archdiocese outlines plan for providing long-term aid to Haiti

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO
Florida Catholic staff

MIAMI — The Archdiocese of Miami has committed more than $1 million to immediate and long-term relief in Haiti, including $40,000 apiece to each of the country’s 10 dioceses. But the money is only the beginning, as teams of medical personnel and clergy have begun rotating in and out of the island, providing one-on-one assistance to thousands who are camped out in church facilities there, and offering respite to the priests and religious who are caring for them.

“We are going to offer medical care, we are going to cook food and also (provide) pastoral care,” said Msgr. Jean Pierre, pastor of St. James Parish in North Miami and the archdiocese’s point-man for Haiti relief.

He spent the first three weeks after the Jan. 12 earthquake in Port-au-Prince. “We are going to offer medical care, we are going to cook food and also (provide) pastoral care,” he explained.

He spent the first three weeks after the Jan. 12 earthquake in Port-au-Prince. “We are going to offer medical care, we are going to cook food and also (provide) pastoral care,” he explained.

The $1 million which the archdiocese has committed includes $40,000 getting those supplies to the various parishes within Port-au-Prince and to the Diocese of Port-de-Paix in northwestern Haiti, said Deacon Richard Turcotte, director of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami.

Port-de-Paix is the sister diocese of the Archdiocese of Miami, the poorest region in Haiti, and now home to thousands of earthquake survivors who have left Port-au-Prince.

Catholic Charities spent about $180,000 getting those supplies to Haiti, money that came from a total of about $400,000 donated directly to the agency for Haiti relief.

A $1 million which the archdiocese has committed to Haiti came from the special collection held the weekend of Jan. 15 and 17 in all the parishes in Miami-Dade, Broward and Monroe counties.

Deacon Turcotte stressed that the outreach being provided by the archdiocese is “Church to Church. We’re giving no money to government or any other aid agency at this point.”

The Archdiocese of Miami also will assist Haitian earthquake survivors living in south Florida by offering them counseling and providing them with food vouchers and emergency financial assistance.

From its own collection, Catholic Charities has set aside about $200,000 to assist medical evacuees who were brought to south Florida, as well as repatriated American citizens and the families who are caring for them there, Deacon Turcotte said.

Those who are eligible will receive food vouchers for up to 90 days, and $75 in one-time cash assistance. Another $10,000 will be used to purchase food cards from Publix which will be distributed by the pastors of the archdiocese’s three predominantly Haitian parishes.

The archdiocese also is seeking medical personnel — including counselors and psychologists — to volunteer for five- or 10-day trips to Haiti.

“We’ll provide them with a place to stay, transportation and security, but they’ll have to contribute $750 for airfare and food,” said Father Reginald Jean-Mary, pastor of Notre Dame d’Haiti in Miami, who also has traveled to Haiti several times since the earthquake.

WHAT ABOUT THE ORPHANS?

Father Reginald Jean-Mary, pastor of Notre Dame d’Haiti in Miami, said the archdiocese also envisions giving scholarships to at least 100 Catholic youths, to encourage them to go back to school or learn a trade.

“That will give them a way out and help them to be self-sustaining in the future,” he said.
... The Gospel of suffering

My dear friends,

We live in an age of instant gratification. If we want to call someone, we reach for the phone in our pocket. If we want to look up a fact or a reference, we Google it.

Instant gratification does not go well with suffering. We want immediate cures for what ails us, be it a disease like cancer or Parkinson’s, an unplanned pregnancy, a difficult family situation or even the economic crisis.

And yet, as Christians, we believe in a God who chose suffering as the means of salvation. Jesus proved that the Father loves us so pitiably by dying on the cross, by allowing himself to become an innocent victim of our human injustice, our collective pride, our stubborn disobedience.

Perhaps that is why the Gospel seems so unaffected to so many in the world today: A suffering servant? A religious leader who washed his disciples’ feet? A God who reduced himself to our human nature, becoming like us in every way but sin?

Indeed, as we prepare to enter Holy Week, we may struggle to make sense of the crucifixion. We may have difficulty relating it to our modern lives.

Perhaps it would help if we asked ourselves: Where do I see Jesus suffering today? Where can I find the hope that the Gospel promises despite the certainty of suffering and death? Where are people living the Beatitudes in such a way as to be an example to me?

I think we can find that in the suffering people of Haiti. They are living the Beatitudes in the way St. Francis of Assisi advised his followers to do: “Preach the Gospel always; use words when necessary.”

Haiti’s long-suffering people have been buffeted by storm after storm throughout their history; both locally and figuratively. The recent earthquake is one more in a long list of trials. Like Job of the Old Testament, however, their faith has never faltered.

Their example provides an interesting way for us to reflect this Lent on our attitude toward God. Do we believe in a God of instant gratification, who grants our every wish like a fairy-tale genie? Do we turn away from God when things do not turn out the way we hope?

The Haitian people, I believe, are living examples of the Beatitudes Jesus preached. They truly are “the poor” of this world. Accustomed to having nothing, they are not impatient, meek and humble in the face of disaster.

I think those of us who are not so materially poor, those of us accustomed to having much — and all at the push of a button — are much more impatient with God and with others. We have succumbed to the “me-first” materialistic mentality so rampant today across our nation.

Those who have nothing, on the other hand, recognize that life itself is a gift, undeserved and of immeasurable value. It is not difficult then to understand what Jesus meant when he said, “Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours” (Lk 6:20); and later, “Woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation” (Lk 6:24).

This Lent might be a good time to examine our consciences as to where we fall on the scale of “rich” or “poor” in Jesus’ eyes. Do we believe life after death. But there is no resurrection without crucifixion.

APPOINTMENTS

Archbishop John C. Favalora has made the following appointments:

Effective Feb. 17:
Father Manuel (Tito) Soler — parochial vicar at Our Lady of Divine Providence, Miami.
Effective Feb. 9
Father Jeremiah Singleton — member, Vocations Board, for a term of four years.

Father Chaim Jeikey — member, Vocations Board, for a term of four years.

From the chancellor:

• The New Divine Mercy Catholic Community, located at 2749 NE 10th Ave., Wilton Manors, is not associated with the Archdiocese of Miami nor is it in communion with Pope Benedict XVI. Roman Catholics should not approach their clergy for the reception of the sacraments, including but not limited to matrimony.

Delve into Genesis at St. Thomas U.

Genesis 37-50, the Joseph story, will be the topic of the next presentation in St. Thomas University’s Catholic Biblical Scholar Series.

The guest scholar will be Dominican Sister Barbara Green, professor of biblical studies at the Dominican School of Philosophy, Graduate Theological Union. She will present the Ray Apicella lecture on Friday evening, April 16, 7:30-9:15 p.m., in the Chapel of St. Anthony on the university campus.

She will also lead a seminar on Saturday, April 17, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., on campus.

The registration fee for the daylong seminar is $25. For reservations, e-mail fjesire@stt.edu or call 305-628-6765.

Speaker explores liberation theology

Barry University will host a special lecture on “Gustavo Gutiérrez Meets Giuseppe Verdi: The Beauty of Liberation and the Liberation of Beauty” on Monday, March 22, 7-9 p.m., in Andreas Building, Room 112.
CENSUS
FROM A1

plected census forms.

Last December, the archdiocese implemented an action plan to encourage the participation of all the faithful in the Census 2010. The campaign began with an ecumenical press conference at Notre Dame d’Haiti Mission in Miami, followed by meetings with principals of Catho-
lic elementary schools and a letter from Archbishop John C. Favalora to all pastors, reinforcing the archdi-
ocese’s involvement with the census and asking priests to reiterate the need for participating.

“With the help of the parishes, we can get our message across to a larger audience,” De la Milera said. “Church is very important to many people. They pay more attention and give more credibility if the message comes from a priest or a pastor. Pa-
rishioners in general follow the ad-
vise of their priest.”

Pastors are receiving weekly an-
nouncements from the archdiocese for publication in their parish bul-
letins, and interviews with Census 2010 representatives will air on “Conversations with Archbishop Favalora” (available on the archdi-
cesan Web site, www.miamiaarch.org, March 16-19 and 22); and on Ra-
tio Paz 830 AM, along with public service announcements during the programming.

The census form does not ask for immigration status or Social Security numbers, something that will clearly identify them as employ-
ees for the Census Bureau. People also have the right to request a third
definition from the worker to make sure that it is the same person from the Census Bureau.

“To put it simply, if you want your community and the county to receive better funding for schools, hospitals and other services, and to affect its voice in Congress, you must complete the census form and return it,” De la Milera said.

FREE BOOK
about
“The Passion”
You have seen the movie, now read what Jesus says about the meaning of His Passion as dictated to Catalina Rivas.
This 48 page book has the “Imprimatur” and is recommended for meditation. Mrs. Rivas was featured in the recent FOX-TV special, “Signs from God”, that was broadcast worldwide.
To receive this book, send your name and address with $2 for shipping & handling to:
Love & Mercy Publications
P.O. Box 1160
Hampstead, NC 28443

HALLANDALE BEACH
• St. Matthew
542 Blue Heron Drive
Hallandale Beach, FL 33009
http://stmatthewhch.com
Tel: 954-927-0000
Fax: 954-927-0001
E-mail: info@stmatthewhch.com

MIAMI SPRINGS
• Blessed Trinity
4020 Curtiss Parkway
Miami Springs, FL 33166
www.blessedtrinity.org
305-871-5780

Portuguese Groceries
Chourico Cheese Codfish and more!

HOLY WEEK Mass Schedules

MIA A5
Secure your future with a Gift Annuity through the Society of the Little Flower

For over 80 years, annuities through the Society of the Little Flower have been safe and secure. With our excellent rate of return, you can be assured knowing that you will receive income for the rest of your life.

Your annuity enables the formation and education of Carmelite seminarians and their worldwide ministries of faith, prayer, charity, and education. Your financial support continues St. Thérèse’s mission of “making God known and loved to the ends of the earth.”

One-Life Gift Annuity Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Rate of Return</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

☐ YES! Please send me my personalized annuity package.
☐ Yes, I am remembering the Society of the Little Flower in my will.

Name ________________________________________________________________
Address _____________________________________________________________
City__________________________ State______ ZIP____________________
Telephone _____________________ E-mail _______________________________

Birth Date (For Single Life Annuity) _______________________________________
Birth Date (For Joint/ Survivorship Annuity) ______________________________

Society of the Little Flower
Office of the Ambassador
1313 N. Frontage Road
Darien, Illinois 60561

Toll Free: 888-996-1212
www.littleflower.org/plannedgiving

Please call 888-996-1212 regarding rates for ages 50-69, or if you would like information about Two-Life or Deferred Gift Annuities.
In the Footsteps of Jesus and the Apostles


Pilgrimage to the Holy Land
May 1-10, 2010 • $2,893

Pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey
June 5-15, 2010 • $3,260

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Jordan and Mt. Sinai
June 19-30, 2010 • $3,640

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Egypt
August 2-14, 2010 • $3,174

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land
October 26-November 4, 2010 • $2,895

Visit our website: www.holylandpilgrimages.org
Call: 1-800-566-7499

Franciscan Monastery Pilgrimages
Bringing pilgrims to the Holy Land for over 100 years

The closing of St. Joseph and St. Elizabeth-St. Joseph schools this June will bring the total school closings in the archdiocese to 16 since the spring of 2008. For more than 15 years, the Archdiocese of Miami subsidized schools facing financial difficulties, despite steady declines in enrollment. Even with the archdiocese’s annual Archbishop’s Charities and Development (ACB) appeal, the money collected was not sufficient to sustain subsidized schools. And money had to be borrowed to cover the costs. After a two-year review involving several strategic planning meetings between archdiocesan officials and pastors, the archdiocese could no longer provide any subsidies to schools. The archdiocese asked the pastors to meet with their parish and finance councils to decide if their parishes would be able to completely support their schools without receiving archdiocesan subsidies.

Another pastor had come to the same conclusion at the end of the 2008-2009 school year, and another decided the same thing a little later in 2009. Those eight pastors were given permission to rent their school buildings to charter companies for the 2009-2010 school year. Charter schools are government-funded and cannot teach religion, but they are run by private boards, and may rent to the parishes where they operate — in many cases, making it possible for the parish to operate financially in the black.

Currently, Archbishop John C. O’Keefe has placed a moratorium on opening new charter schools until their effect on parishes and neighboring parish schools is evaluated. Without St. Joseph and St. Elizabeth-St. Joseph, the archdiocese will have a total of 48 Catholic elementary schools operating next fall, along with 13 secondary schools.

In January 2009, it was announced that six of the parish elementary schools in the archdiocese had determined they could not continue operating without subsidies. Another pastor had come to the same conclusion at the end of the 2008-2009 school year, and another decided the same thing a little later in 2009. Those eight pastors were given permission to rent their school buildings to charter companies for the 2009-2010 school year. Charter schools are government-funded and cannot teach religion, but they are run by private boards, and may rent to the parishes where they operate — in many cases, making it possible for the parish to operate financially in the black.

Currently, Archbishop John C. O’Keefe has placed a moratorium on opening new charter schools until their effect on parishes and neighboring parish schools is evaluated. Without St. Joseph and St. Elizabeth-St. Joseph, the archdiocese will have a total of 48 Catholic elementary schools operating next fall, along with 13 secondary schools.

Another pastor had come to the same conclusion at the end of the 2008-2009 school year, and another decided the same thing a little later in 2009. Those eight pastors were given permission to rent their school buildings to charter companies for the 2009-2010 school year. Charter schools are government-funded and cannot teach religion, but they are run by private boards, and may rent to the parishes where they operate — in many cases, making it possible for the parish to operate financially in the black.

Currently, Archbishop John C. O’Keefe has placed a moratorium on opening new charter schools until their effect on parishes and neighboring parish schools is evaluated. Without St. Joseph and St. Elizabeth-St. Joseph, the archdiocese will have a total of 48 Catholic elementary schools operating next fall, along with 13 secondary schools.

Another pastor had come to the same conclusion at the end of the 2008-2009 school year, and another decided the same thing a little later in 2009. Those eight pastors were given permission to rent their school buildings to charter companies for the 2009-2010 school year. Charter schools are government-funded and cannot teach religion, but they are run by private boards, and may rent to the parishes where they operate — in many cases, making it possible for the parish to operate financially in the black.

Currently, Archbishop John C. O’Keefe has placed a moratorium on opening new charter schools until their effect on parishes and neighboring parish schools is evaluated. Without St. Joseph and St. Elizabeth-St. Joseph, the archdiocese will have a total of 48 Catholic elementary schools operating next fall, along with 13 secondary schools.

Another pastor had come to the same conclusion at the end of the 2008-2009 school year, and another decided the same thing a little later in 2009. Those eight pastors were given permission to rent their school buildings to charter companies for the 2009-2010 school year. Charter schools are government-funded and cannot teach religion, but they are run by private boards, and may rent to the parishes where they operate — in many cases, making it possible for the parish to operate financially in the black.

Currently, Archbishop John C. O’Keefe has placed a moratorium on opening new charter schools until their effect on parishes and neighboring parish schools is evaluated. Without St. Joseph and St. Elizabeth-St. Joseph, the archdiocese will have a total of 48 Catholic elementary schools operating next fall, along with 13 secondary schools.

Another pastor had come to the same conclusion at the end of the 2008-2009 school year, and another decided the same thing a little later in 2009. Those eight pastors were given permission to rent their school buildings to charter companies for the 2009-2010 school year. Charter schools are government-funded and cannot teach religion, but they are run by private boards, and may rent to the parishes where they operate — in many cases, making it possible for the parish to operate financially in the black.

Currently, Archbishop John C. O’Keefe has placed a moratorium on opening new charter schools until their effect on parishes and neighboring parish schools is evaluated. Without St. Joseph and St. Elizabeth-St. Joseph, the archdiocese will have a total of 48 Catholic elementary schools operating next fall, along with 13 secondary schools.
No shortage of heroes in Haiti these days

TOM TRACY
Special to the Florida Catholic

WEST PALM BEACH — I am a sucker for heroes, and these days, while there seem to be so few back home, they are everywhere to be found in Haiti, as I discovered on a second trip to that shell-shocked island following the Jan. 12 earthquake.

Never having seen Port-au-Prince before the earthquake, I find myself agreeing with those who look around and compare the Haitian capital to a war zone that has just been carpet bombed. Streets are clogged with rubble that one assumes will not all easily be cleared away.

We are told the so-called “heroic phase” of following a catastrophe winds down after a few weeks as the search and rescue teams head home, but at the end of February, the U.S. bishops led a small delegation (including Boston’s Cardinal Sean O’Malley, San Antonio Archbishop Jose Gomez and others) to tour the damage and offer a message of solidarity. And there were plenty of heroes on display.

Those of us documenting the Church delegation met people like Deacon Patrick Moinihan, a former commodities trader from the Diocese of Providence, R.I., who showed the bishops his multifaceted Haitian Project. It features a school for gifted students who are taking on leadership roles in the recovery, including serving as translators for visiting medical staff at St. Francis de Sales Hospital, the oldest hospital in Haiti which is now 80 percent in ruins.

Deacon Moinihan lives in a humble residence in Haiti with his wife and several terrific children. These days the deacon is dedicating about a quarter of his time to helping the Archdiocese of Port-au-Prince solve some of its most pressing problems, including where to relocate the seminary and the old hospital.

Speaking of medicine, there are doctors from far and wide who have left their families for one or two weeks to sleep in tents, sleeping bags and guest houses while working long hours in unfamiliar circumstances. They roll up their sleeves and treat a myriad of secondary trauma situations and chronic illnesses, some of which are out of their areas of expertise, but which they nevertheless engage with a spirit of charity.

One such volunteer, a nurse serving with a Catholic organization, had a heart attack last week and had to be airlifted to the Cleveland Clinic in Broward County.

Then there are the local clergy, now without their Archbishop Joseph Serge Miot, described as a kindly and spiritual man who would have been leading the Church at this time and receiving the many delegations of visitors, but instead lies in a temporary grave outside of town.

In his place, the newly appointed archdiocesan administrator, Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Lafontant, is in charge now of securing the Church’s role during this critical time. Giving general assistance to the effort is the tireless and always cheerful padre general Henry Charles, who has also come to help, said he was Father Robés Charles, pastor of St. Clement Parish in Port Lauderdale, whom I had interviewed by phone a month before.

Father Charles was just wrapping up his fourth medical mission from Florida to his homeland.

A Bahamian priest at the airport, who had also come to help, said he was not at all hopeful about the situation in Port-au-Prince, but Father Charles was doggedly positive — even though one detects a hint of sadness at the overwhelming nature of the Haiti catastrophe. He said he saw signs everywhere that the Haitian people are getting on with their lives, making steady progress in their situations and staying active.

The fact that visitors and relief workers can finally fly directly in and out of Haiti is one small miracle. There are many more miracles going on every day in Haiti. I am certain no one will ever know them all.

Tracy is a freelance writer living in West Palm Beach.
ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS FOR EARTHQUAKE RELIEF IN HAITI

Complete details of the archdiocesan pastoral plan for Haiti are available at www.miamarch.org.

HAITI FROM A3

The medical teams, priests and religious will not stay in one particular parish in Haiti, but move from place to place to tend to as many people as possible during their stay. That care will include looking after their physical, spiritual and emotional needs.

“My concept of it is like a Christian-based type of therapy to help the people vent and to pray with them,” Msgr. Pierre said. “To give them a sense that everything is going to be OK and they are not alone.”

“We’ll bring doctors to see the patients, we’ll bring counselors to listen to them, we’ll feed them,” Father Jean-Mary said, emphasizing that priests and religious will be cooking the food and serving it to the people.

“We’re feeding the people with dignity.”

Local clergy also will be trading places with Haitian clergy for a couple of weeks at a time. Already, priests and religious from Haiti have come here to rest while Haitian priests from south Florida take their place in Haiti.

“It’s like solidarity between the churches,” Father Jean-Mary said. “It’s more pastoral than just social.” It also will require a lot more than $1 million to carry out.

Supplies of food are piling up at Notre Dame d’Haiti, but transporting them to Haiti is costly — nearly $3,000 per container.

“I need cash to send those things,” Father Jean-Mary said. “I’m just hoping that (people) will continue to help us trying to get more money to buy food. I’m praying and hoping that more people will donate.”

With help from the Rotary Club and Miami Mayor Tomás Regalado, he recently obtained two ambulances from the city of Chicago and shipped them to the Church in Haiti. One will go to St. Francis de Sales Hospital in Port-au-Prince in memory of Archbishop Serge Mirot, who died in the earthquake. The other will go to the main hospital in Gonaïves.

“We say we are there for the long haul, but we have to begin right now,” Msgr. Pierre said. “We are asking for donations of time, talent and treasure. To continue to support the mission we are going to need money.”

No one is under any illusions about the limitations of the archdiocese’s pastoral mission in Haiti, added Father Jean-Mary.

“We cannot solve Haiti’s problems. We are just trying to make a difference,” he said. “We are just responding from our calling and our mission to play our part in the symphony of life in Haiti.”

FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure Amount</th>
<th>HAITIAN CEREGY - $20,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• TMB- Rent $3,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• TMB Supplies and Equipment $108,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• TMB Security $10,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• TMB Auto Insurance $10,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Religious/ Liturgical Supplies $10,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Transportation for Miami $1,168,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Temporary Mission Base = TMB
*100 Youth Scholarships will be awarded for 2 years
*Financial assistance to each of the 10 Haitian dioceses
*Acquisition of land, construction, furnishings, supplies, etc. for permanent multi-purpose center

WHEN IT IS TIME TO COME TO MICHIGAN, COME BACK TO

Mendelson Home

Clausen Manor

Lourdes Rehabilitation

Fox Manor On The Lake

THE CATHOLIC CONTINUUM OF LIVING IN OAKLAND COUNTY

(248) 673-1720

2100 Wikimedia Road
Wixom, MI 48393-3639

www.lourdes-sc.org
Recession continues but so does your generosity

My dear friends:

I am pleased to present the financial report of the Archdiocese of Miami for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2009. This annual report reflects the financial stewardship in the Archdiocese of Miami.

We as an archdiocese, individuals, communities, states, and nation continue to struggle with financial challenges and hardships confronting all of us for the better part of two years now. Daily it seems like these financial challenges and hardships are on the forefront of our minds, and for good reason, because all of our lives are being affected in one way or another.

We would be remiss, however, if we did not bring our minds back to Jan. 12, and more recently Feb. 27, two dates in which at some point the financial challenges and hardships that we as organizations and individuals are faced with paled in comparison to the physical, emotional and spiritual challenges and hardships brought about by the catastrophic earthquakes in Haiti and Chile. I think it is safe to say that on those two dates we all, in our own way, stepped back and reflected on what is truly a challenge or hardship and what is a temporary inconvenience.

Archdiocese of Miami: Combining Balance Sheet at June 30, 2009, and 2008 (dollars in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>Pastoral Center</th>
<th>Churches</th>
<th>Elementary</th>
<th>Secondary</th>
<th>Colleges/Universities</th>
<th>Cemeteries</th>
<th>Catholic Charities</th>
<th>Catholic Health Services</th>
<th>TOTALS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$1,927</td>
<td>$63,667</td>
<td>$49,991</td>
<td>$15,768</td>
<td>$9,304</td>
<td>$2,076</td>
<td>$55</td>
<td>$4,717</td>
<td>$10,754</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketable securities</td>
<td>109,632</td>
<td>15,223</td>
<td>14,190</td>
<td>6,234</td>
<td>15,029</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10,838</td>
<td>171,146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables, net</td>
<td>12,130</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>8,124</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>7,269</td>
<td>34,280</td>
<td>486</td>
<td>3,916</td>
<td>11,965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventory and other assets</td>
<td>9,343</td>
<td></td>
<td>907</td>
<td>11,028</td>
<td>2,002</td>
<td>466</td>
<td>9,730</td>
<td>33,476</td>
<td>50,824</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land, buildings and equipment, net</td>
<td>42,879</td>
<td>524,290</td>
<td>70,690</td>
<td>115,674</td>
<td>50,339</td>
<td>5,043</td>
<td>11,756</td>
<td>103,602</td>
<td>926,777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total assets</td>
<td>$175,911</td>
<td>603,312</td>
<td>142,995</td>
<td>137,701</td>
<td>82,848</td>
<td>52,427</td>
<td>5,047</td>
<td>20,855</td>
<td>146,889</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</th>
<th>Pastoral Center</th>
<th>Churches</th>
<th>Elementary</th>
<th>Secondary</th>
<th>Colleges/Universities</th>
<th>Cemeteries</th>
<th>Catholic Charities</th>
<th>Catholic Health Services</th>
<th>TOTALS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Notes payable</td>
<td>$16,993</td>
<td>$172,090</td>
<td>$1,107</td>
<td>$26,675</td>
<td>$33,711</td>
<td>$815</td>
<td>$7,885</td>
<td>$4,032</td>
<td>$111,275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advances and assessments due to Pastoral Center</td>
<td>6,568</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>1,263</td>
<td>8,193</td>
<td>59,508</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>3,210</td>
<td>2,506</td>
<td>1,233</td>
<td>4,755</td>
<td>2,016</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>13,072</td>
<td>28,008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savings deposits payable to parishes and agencies</td>
<td>82,083</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>82,083</td>
<td>82,450</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-insurance reserves</td>
<td>27,275</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>27,275</td>
<td>26,829</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust accounts</td>
<td>8,467</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>2,354</td>
<td>826</td>
<td>11,784</td>
<td>13,339</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred revenues</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>13,258</td>
<td>6,143</td>
<td>759</td>
<td>13,957</td>
<td>4,523</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>34,832</td>
<td>51,404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other liabilities</td>
<td>9,318</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>4,007</td>
<td>8,076</td>
<td>913</td>
<td>24,007</td>
<td>31,734</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total liabilities</td>
<td>144,136</td>
<td>81,396</td>
<td>17,199</td>
<td>36,545</td>
<td>44,495</td>
<td>24,864</td>
<td>9,191</td>
<td>5,580</td>
<td>126,759</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| NET ASSETS (DEFICIT) | $31,775 | $421,316 | $125,796 | $101,156 | $38,353 | $27,563 | (4,144) | $15,275 | $777,220 | 746,697 |
| Total liabilities and net assets | $175,911 | 603,312 | 142,995 | 137,701 | 82,848 | 52,427 | 5,047 | 20,855 | 146,889 | 1,367,985 | 1,360,412 |

See accompanying notes to combined financial statements.
Archdiocese of Miami: Combining Support and Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Net Assets
Twelve Months Ended June 30, 2009, and 2008 (dollars in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUPPORT AND REVENUES:</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parish Offertory</td>
<td>$62,382</td>
<td>$61,784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School ordinary revenues</td>
<td>$110,807</td>
<td>$70,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charity, development and debt reduction drives</td>
<td>$7,573</td>
<td>$8,077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cemetery income, less cost of sales</td>
<td>$16,252</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social services, health services, fees and rentals</td>
<td>$562</td>
<td>$125,149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government grants and assistance</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way grants</td>
<td>1,386</td>
<td>1,588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bequests and donations</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>1,865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bingo, bazaars, fundraising, ancillary revenues</td>
<td>10,291</td>
<td>4,685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest and investment income</td>
<td>7,654</td>
<td>1,711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributed facilities, goods and services</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>4,219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other revenues</td>
<td>1,116</td>
<td>1,865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal assessments and subsidies:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and liability self-insurance</td>
<td>26,641</td>
<td>25,167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health care self-insurance</td>
<td>47,609</td>
<td>46,196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish subsidies to/from schools</td>
<td>(11,052)</td>
<td>(11,052)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General assessment from parishes</td>
<td>8,840</td>
<td>7,132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subsidies from Pastoral Center</td>
<td>6,716</td>
<td>10,614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total support and revenues</td>
<td>84,414</td>
<td>82,617</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURES:</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pastoral services</td>
<td>11,132</td>
<td>9,974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons (clergy and lay ministry development)</td>
<td>5,480</td>
<td>4,388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian formation (education)</td>
<td>4,315</td>
<td>115,048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social and health services</td>
<td>894</td>
<td>4,853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cemeteries</td>
<td>14,473</td>
<td>14,473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health plan cost</td>
<td>46,828</td>
<td>46,899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and liability self-insurance</td>
<td>32,875</td>
<td>24,179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archdiocesan administration</td>
<td>8,110</td>
<td>8,110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation and amortization</td>
<td>1,187</td>
<td>2,952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest expense</td>
<td>3,235</td>
<td>2,125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for uncollectible receivables</td>
<td>4,821</td>
<td>522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property administration</td>
<td>1,144</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenditures</td>
<td>120,621</td>
<td>100,746</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXCESS (DEFICIT) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(36,207)</td>
<td>(5,689)</td>
<td>(22,510)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OTHER CHANGES IN NET ASSETS:</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Debt refinancing gain</td>
<td>52,501</td>
<td>52,501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building fund additions</td>
<td>6,095</td>
<td>1,520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes in restricted net assets</td>
<td>(2,126)</td>
<td>(1,100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase (decrease) in net assets</td>
<td>14,168</td>
<td>(12,613)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NET ASSETS (DEFICIT), BEGINNING</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17,607</td>
<td>433,929</td>
<td>105,916</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NET ASSETS (DEFICIT), ENDING</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31,775</td>
<td>$421,316</td>
<td>$125,796</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See accompanying notes to combined financial statements.
FINANCIAL: Archdiocese of Miami financial statement continued

Archdiocese of Miami 2009 statistical data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personnel</th>
<th>Archbishops .................................................</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Auxiliary Bishops ...........................................</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Retired Bishops .............................................</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priests:</td>
<td>Diocesan Active in Diocese ................................</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diocesan Active Outside Diocese ..........................</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diocesan in Foreign Missions ................................</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Retired, Sick or absent ....................................</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of Diocesan Priests ................................</td>
<td>268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Religious Priests in Diocese ................................</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Priests in Diocese ..................................</td>
<td>362</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extrem Priests in Diocese ..................................</td>
<td>60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ordinations:</td>
<td>Diocesan Priests ...........................................</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Transitional Deacons ......................................</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Permanent Deacons in Diocese ................................</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Brothers ...........................................</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Sisters .............................................</td>
<td>289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parishes:</td>
<td>Parishes ................................................................</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>With Resident Pastor ......................................</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Resident Diocesan Priests ..................................</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Resident Religious Priests ..................................</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Missions ................................................................</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pastoral Centers ...........................................</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Professional Ministry Personnel: Brothers ...............</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sisters ..................................................................</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lay Ministers ................................................</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Welfare | Catholic Hospitals .............................................| 2 |
|         | Total Assisted ..................................................| 956,621 |
|         | Health Care Centers ...........................................| 9 |
|         | Total Assisted ..................................................| 7,291 |
|         | Homes for Aged ..................................................| 5 |
|         | Total Assisted ..................................................| 3,478 |
|         | Residential Care of Children ..................................| 2 |
|         | Total Assisted ..................................................| 332 |
|         | Day Care Centers ...............................................| 9 |
|         | Total Assisted ..................................................| 3,104 |
|         | Specialized Homes .............................................| 2 |
|         | Total Assisted ..................................................| 385 |
|         | Special Centers for Social Services ........................| 17 |
|         | Total Assisted ..................................................| 32,995 |

| Vital Statistics | Receptions into the Church: | Infant Baptism Totals ........................................ | 13,720 |
|                  |                               | Adult Baptism Totals ........................................ | 655 |
|                  |                               | Received into Full Communion ................................| 1,009 |
|                  |                               | First Communions ...............................................| 12,290 |
|                  |                               | Confirmations ....................................................| 6,478 |
|                  | Marriages:                    | Catholic .........................................................| 2,358 |
|                  |                               | Interfaith .......................................................| 275 |
|                  |                               | Total Marriages ................................................| 2,633 |
|                  |                               | Deaths .............................................................| 4,376 |
|                  |                               | Total Catholic Population .....................................| 736,089 |
|                  |                               | Total Population ................................................| 4,264,581 |

Source: 2009 Official Catholic Directory

Notes to Combined Financial Statements

1. The statements for churches, elementary schools and secondary schools are unaudited.
2. Intercompany accounts and transactions have not been eliminated.
3. The Catholic Health Services statements include the combined statements of:
   - Archbishop Hurley Hall, Inc. 06/30/09
   - Archbishop McCarthy Residence, Inc. 06/30/09
   - Carroll Manor, Inc. 06/30/09
   - Catholic Health Services, Inc. 09/30/09
   - Catholic Housing for the Elderly and Handicapped, Inc. 09/30/09
   - Marian Center Services for Developmentally Handicapped and Mentally Retarded, Inc. 06/30/09
   - Marian Towers, Inc. 06/30/09
   - Palmer House Inc. 06/30/09
   - St. Andrew Towers, Inc. 06/30/09
   - St. Anne’s Gardens, Inc. 06/30/09
   - St. Anne’s Nursing, St. Anne’s Residence, Inc. 06/30/09
   - St. Boniface Gardens, Inc. 06/30/09
   - St. Dominic Gardens, Inc. 06/30/09
   - St. Elizabeth Gardens, Inc. 06/30/09
   - St. Joseph’s Rehabilitation Hospital and Nursing Center, Inc. 09/30/09
   - St. Joseph Residence, Inc. 09/30/09
   - St. Joseph Towers, Inc. 06/30/09
   - St. Mary Towers, Inc. 06/30/09
   - Stella Maris House, Inc. 06/30/09
   - Villa Maria Health Care Services, Inc. 09/30/09
   - Villa Maria Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Inc. 09/30/09

4. The Archdiocese is a participant in the defined benefit pension plan for all employees of the Archdiocese of Miami, Diocese of St. Petersburg and Diocese of Venice.
5. Colleges and Universities include the combined statements of St. Thomas University and St. John Vianney Seminary.
6. The following is the disposition of the Archdiocese’s Charities and Development Drive Funds:
   - Catholic Charities $ 250,000
   - Education — inner city children 1,938,000
   - Parishes 3,487,000
   - Maintenance and repair facilities 536,000
   - Mass-media evangelization 342,000
   - Ministries and pastoral services 1,020,000
   - Total $ 7,573,000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LETER</th>
<th>FROM A10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|       | Economies and recessions are cyclical and measurable most often in one- or two-year periods with a defined beginning and end. While we know when the challenges and hardships began for the Haitian and Chilean people as a result of the earthquakes, we will never know the end of the physical, emotional, and spiritual damage that has been done, as it will undoubtedly span generations.
|       | In geographic terms, the Archdiocese of Miami is comprised of Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties, but the reach of this archdiocese and the beneficence of its faithful extends beyond those geopolitical demarcations. Because of our large Hispanic community in south Florida and our local ties to this nation and its people, you have unsungly demonstrated, as you have many times in the past, the love that Jesus taught us to have for one another.
|       | In measurable terms, your benevolence has raised in excess of $1 million which is now being used to render direct aid to the 10 Catholic dioceses in Haiti in support of the many pastoral and ministerial needs of its faithful. In immeasurable terms, I know that your continued prayers for both the people of Haiti and Chile will far surpass any economic relief that we can offer and will live within your souls for eternity.
|       | In what Pope Benedict XVI has called a “Year for Priests,” I am especially grateful to the clergy during this time of great need as more and more of the faithful turn to them in these difficult and troubling times. The good work of our priests in the Archdiocese of Miami is tireless and endless. I am also particularly grateful to the religious and laity for their sacrificial contributions not only to provide for the Church today, but also to ensure the continuation of the mission of the Church well into the future. It is my prayer that our providential Father who sees all things will repay each of you for your generosity and sacrifice.
|       | May the Lord continue to bless you and your loved ones abundantly.
|       | With personal good wishes, I am
|       | Sincerely in the Lord,
|       | John C. Favalora
|       | Archbishop of Miami

HOSPICE PROVIDERS OF FLORIDA

... offers the special caring and services needed by patients and families facing life limiting illness. Any age. Any illness.

... enables patients and families to live at home, in nursing homes, assisted living center, wherever home is ... with comfort, dignity and self-esteem.

... provides pain management as symptom control expertise. And offers relief from emotional, spiritual, financial and personal concerns, both before and after loss. While others may claim to offer “hospice-like” services, only hospice organizations are certified and licensed to provide hospice.

To learn more, contact your community hospice. Or ask your doctor. Here she is an integral part of the hospice team.

To advertise in the Hospice Directory please call Missy 1-888-275-9953

Florida Catholic March 2010
Chile: Una escuela misionera

Mons. Agustín Román recuerda su experiencia inolvidable en Chile

To read this column in English, go to the archdiocesan Web site, www.thefloridacatholic.org

AGUSTÍN A. ROMÁN Obispo Auxiliar Emerito

El pasado mes de febrero, el Santo Padre Benedicto XVI nos invitaba a orar por la intención de las misiones con estas palabras: “Para que la Iglesia, consciente de su identidad misionera, se esfuerce en seguir fielmente a Cristo y en proclamar su Evangelio a todos los pueblos.”

Las palabras del Papa me hicieron recordar mi juventud y el medio siglo de sacerdocio que he vivido. Mi vocación nació, como a los 16 años, dentro del ambiente misionero de entonces en la Acción Católica. Recuerdo que un día, en una conferencia, el Sr. Roberto Suárez, mi padre, me dijo: “El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.”

Mi vocación nació como a los 16 años, dentro del ambiente misionero de aquel centro en Maracay. Recuerdo ese ambiente lleno de prisa y de presión, de perdurar y de perseverar en un ambiente que no es fácil de manejar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.

El ambiente misionero es una experiencia que no se puede olvidar.
COMMUNITY EVENTS

Andy Hurst memorial fish fry, Friday, March 26, 5:30 p.m., St. Sebastian, 2000 S.E. 25 Ave., Miramar. $5 for adults; $10 for children under 12. Reserved tables for eight: $225, with two bottles of wine. 954-524-9344, stsebastian@aol.com.

Lenten supper, March 26, 6:30-7:30 p.m., St. Andrew, 9950 N.W. 29 St., Coral Springs. $7 for pasta or fish; $5 for pizza pocket, all served with accompaniments. 954-752-3950.

Soup and Stations, Friday, March 26, 7 p.m., Our Lady of the Lakes, 15801 N.W. 67 Ave., Miami Lakes. Come to church for the Stations of the Cross, then join us in the parish hall for soup. Share. 305-558-2202.


“A Taste of Asia,” Saturday, March 27, 6 p.m., McCarthy High School Performing Arts Center, 4541 S. Flamingo Road, Southwest Ranches. An evening of entertainment, dinner and music. $45 per person, includes silent and live auctions. www.mccarthyhigh.org.

“Gerard,” a film in American Sign Language, Saturday, April 2, 10 p.m., Schott Communities for Persons who are Deaf or Disabled, 6591 S. Flamingo Road, Cooper City. Captioned for the hearing impaired. $10 per person.

MASSES / PRAYER SESSIONS

Living Stations of the Cross, Friday, March 26, 8 a.m., St. Andrew, 9950 N.W. 29 St., Coral Springs, in parking lot in front of parish office. 954-752-3950.

National Mass for “Terri’s Day,” Wednesday, March 31, 5 p.m., Ave Maria University, 5050 Ave Maria Blvd., Ave Maria, Fla. Hosted by Terri’s Foundation and Priests for Life, in memory of Terri Schiavo. 718-980-4400, schindler@schott.org.

Life in the Spirit seminar, Tuesdays, April 18, 7-9 p.m., St. Maurice, 2851 Sterling Road, Dania Beach. 954-987-2922.

FAITH EDUCATION


SEPI (Southeast Pastoral Institute), received in Ministry Pastoral Hispano, y cursos para ampliar conocimientos sobre pastoral hispana, 3770 S.W. 56 St., Miami. 305-279-2333, sepiam@aol.com or www.sepiam.org. • La Acción de los Laicos en la fe, 10 de abril a 7 de junio, dirigida por Rafael De Araujo and Elizabeth De Arazoza. • “Jesús Liberador y Su Comunidad de Fe,” 5 de abril al 7 de junio, dirigida por Padre Pablo Laguna and Padre Mario Vizcaino.

CONCERTS


• Wednesday, March 31, 7:30 p.m.

Spanish immersion course offered by SEPI: May 30-June 17, Southeast Pastoral Institute, 7700 S.W. 56 St., Miami. Provides skills necessary to communicate in Spanish, knowledge of Hispanic environment. 305-279-2333 or SEPIam@aol.com.

PRAYER GROUPS

Songs and prayer in the spirit of Taizé, Tuesday, April 13, 7:30 p.m., Barry University, Cor Jesu Chapel, 13000 N.E. Second Ave., Miami Shores. Chant, Scripture, silent reflection, intercessary prayer. 305-989-3650 or 305-458-9919.

RETREATS / DAYS OF REFLECTION

Encuentro Familiar, 27 y 28 de marzo, Ignatian Spiritual Center, 12190 S.W. 56 St., Miami. Retiro de dos días extraír ¡opción para enriquecer la relación entre padres e hijos entre las edades de 12 a 21 años. 305-596-0001.

MorningStar Renewal Center, 7275 S.W. 124 St, Pinecrest. Registration is required for all programs. 305-238-4367, ext. 102; or visit www.morningstarrenewal.org: Mini retreat for families preparing for first Communion, Monday, March 29, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. $20 per adult; free for religious education students.

Emmaus for women, English, April 9-11, Our Lady of Lourdes, 11219 S.W. 142 Ave., Miami. 305-382-6798 or carolina@sepiam.org. Matrimonios en Victoria, 10 y 11 de abril, para los que quieren vivir más profundamente su fe y que el amor crezca en su matrimonio; regresan a dormir en casa el sábado después de la cena. 305-667-3746, 305-773-1435 o www.matrimoniosenvictoria.org.

Marriages in Victory, April 16-18, St. Stephen Parish’s Marriage Encounter offers a Catholic enrichment experience that teaches couples the skills they need to renew their commitment and rekindle their romance. Information, reservations: 305-963-1170, www.vvme.org. Men’s Emmaus retreat, April 16-18, St. Stephen Parish’s St. Eugene de Mazenod Spiritual Center, 6081 S.W. 21 St., Miramar. For men 21 and older. You will have the opportunity to increase your life. Space is limited. 954-553-2355, 305-879-4617.

Engaged Encounter: life skills day, Saturday, April 17, Little Flower, 2711 Indian Mound Trail, Coral Gables. Engaged couples can explore life skills as they apply to married life. Registration: 305-762-1140 or info@engaged.org.

Cursillo in English, for men, April 22-25, for women, May 6-9, Good Shepherd, 1817 S.W. 72 St., Miami. 305-778-7962 or 305-305-0286.

God’s Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage, Saturday, April 24, Good Shepherd, 14187 S.W. 2 St., Miami; marriage preparation supplement based on Pope John Paul II’s Theology of the Body, sponsored by Family Life Ministry. $175 per couple, preregistration required: joyfilledmarriage@gmail.com or 305-762-1140.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Virtual workshops: To help parents, teachers and anyone who works with children recognize signs of sexual abuse and spot abusers. Free. 305-762-1250 or joyburn@theadm.org.

• Saturday, March 20, 9 a.m., St. Louis, Pinecrest.

• Saturday, March 27, 9 a.m., St. John Neumann Parish, Miami.

• Wednesday, April 21, 6 p.m., Archbishop McCarthy High School, Southwest Ranches.

SCHOOL EVENTS

St. Michael open house, Sunday, March 30, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., N.W. 28 Ave., Miami. Observe school while in session. St. Michael offers pullout program for students with difficulties in math, reading, acceptance of applications for pre-K through seventh grade until May 31. Fully accredited by the Florida Catholic Conference; religious education based on Catholic principles; after-school program available. Now accepting Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship program. 305-858-3722.

Sts. Peter and Paul School, accepting applications for pre-K to seventh grade until May 31. Fully accredited by the Florida Catholic Conference; religious education based on Catholic principles; after-school program available. Now accepting Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship program. 305-858-3722.

For People Ages 40 to 80, We’ve Got the Right Choice for Final Expense Life Insurance

Don’t be a burden on your family! Plan for your final expenses with $5,000-$25,000 of life insurance coverage.

Mike Bagwin: 1-888-799-4098 
Henry Jontiff: 800-273-8163

CATHOLIC LIFE INSURANCE

Securing Families Lives Since 1901

For more information call 1-800-224-0330
What he did before becoming a priest:
“Many things, but the last two careers were flight attendant for Eastern Airlines for 10 years, and just before it went on strike I began studying cardiovascular technology. I was a cardiovascular technologist for three or four years.”

When he knew he wanted to be a priest:
At the age of 6, when he watched a movie about the life of St. Francis of Assisi.

Person or event that triggered his vocation:
When he was much older, the death of a friend. “His faith in God was so evident that at the moment of his death, I started wanting what he had – a personal relationship with God. As I began my journey to finding God … the desire to be a priest returned, so I had to act on it. Thank God I did!”

What the seminary did not prepare him for:
“If I had to pick one, I’d say administration. The rest has been an ‘on-the-job training’; it prepares you to learn on the job. The seminary did help me to become a better person and to listen to God, to trust his will and follow his lead.”

What he would be doing if he had not become a priest:
“I would be a cardiovascular technologist or be in a profession where I have to serve the public. All my life I’ve been geared toward people.”

Favorite priestly duty:
“As a priest, what I enjoy the most, besides celebrating the Eucharist, is funerals. It is a moment when you bring hope, comfort and healing to the person who mourns the loss of a loved one. Sometimes it even triggers a conversion in members of the family.”

Most difficult aspect of being a priest:
“Accepting and loving everyone just as Jesus does.”

His description of the ideal priest:
“One who is down-to-earth, who recognizes his brokenness and offers it to God; one who is as loving and merciful to (God’s) people as he is able to be, with the grace of God.”

A priestly stereotype that should be discarded:
“That we are perfect and should never make a mistake.”

What he does on his days off:
“Read a book. I may go out to lunch with friends, but mostly I stay home and rest.”

Favorite TV series:
“‘Battlestar Galactica’: I never watched it while it was being broadcast, but I’ve been watching it on DVD whenever I get a chance. It’s better than the one from the ’70s.”

Last book read:
“Come Be My Light: The Private Writings of the Saint of Calcutta.”

Favorite type of music:
“My music taste is kind of eclectic; it depends on the mood. I like classical, especially piano concertos, jazz, movie soundtracks, R & B.”

What he collects:
“Many things, but mainly icons – and monkeys.”

Person he most admires:
“My parents, a great example of what true love and good marriage should be.”

His greatest disappointment:
“Maybe giving so much heartache to my folks because of my aversion to anything that had to do with studies. I was a lousy student!”

His greatest joy:
“Being who I am, a priest!”

Thing he most fears:
“Fear itself. It can paralyze you and prevent you from doing the will of God.”

Regrets:
“None. I have come to understand that everything that I have done in my life has brought me to where I am now. And God has been with me all the time.”

About a year ago, Father Jaime Acevedo switched to driving a Smart Car convertible. He says he has no regrets. It is a lot easier to get around in traffic, and it’s savings on fuel are great on the pocketbook and the environment.
Seeing the faith through new eyes

Touching is seeing for blind and vision-impaired at St. Gabriel Parish

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO of the Florida Catholic staff

MIAMI — It is something those of us who see take for granted. The priest sometimes sits during Mass. But people who are blind from birth would not know that.

Neither would they know what a tabernacle actually looks like, or who rings the bells during the consecration, or that the priest’s host is consecrated, or that the priest’s host is the place where the priest elevates it during Mass.

McDiarmid arranged for the group — not all of them Catholics — to listen to a presentation by St. Gabriel’s pastor, Father Anthony Mulderry, who shared the story of his own vocation as well as the history of how Mass has been celebrated since the early days of the Church.

Participants then got to touch each of the items used in worship, including chalices, cruets, the altar, the tabernacle and even the bells rung by the altar servers during the consecration. As participants touched the items, St. Gabriel’s religious education instructor Rachelle Arsenault explained how each is used during Mass.

“It was the first time I actually was able to touch the chalice and the altar and the tabernacle, and actually feel the items that are used in the liturgy,” said Christopher Palano, who along with his twin brother, Joseph, is a lifelong Catholic and member of St. Gabriel’s. Both have been blind from birth.

Palano said he knew what the tabernacle was — the place where consecrated hosts are kept — but had no clear idea of what it might look like or how big it might be until he felt it with his hands.

“Eighty percent of one’s perceptions are gained through sight,” he noted, recalling how one time he asked a friend if Humphrey Bogart smoked.

“How would I really know that without seeing it?” Palano said. “It’s hard for (sighted) people to imagine.”

“One person stated that she did not know that the priest sat down during the Mass. She thought he stood the entire time,” McDiarmid said. “Many people learned the significance of the bells. One person thought it was one tiny bell being rung. Another person thought someone was pulling a rope to ring the bells.”

One non-Catholic woman even told her “that when she touched the tabernacle she could feel the sacredness. She learned why Catholics make the sign of the cross, why they genuflect, and learned about the size of the priest’s host compared to the size of the host that the congregation receives.”

“I actually learned a bit of Church history,” said Palano.

McDiarmid said she is willing to help other parishes arrange similar tours for people who are blind and visually impaired.

Palano noted that it might not be a bad idea for even those who see well to take such tours.

“This has been a criticism of Catholics, that they just go by rote,” he said. “Education is good for those people who want to know why we do what we do and what it means. It’s always good.”