Mission: It's for everybody

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO
Florida Catholic staff

DORAL | Sister Marilyn Welch's community, the Carmelite Community of the Word, has only 15 women religious in it — too small to start a missionary outreach.

But they wanted "to do something to expand our focus," said Sister Welch, the major superior of the Pennsylvania-based community. So they partnered with the Little Sisters of the Incarnation, a community with 36 women religious that is native to Haiti. That was 25 years ago. Now that partnership has turned into a sisterhood in every sense of the word.

"We really consider ourselves sisters, even though we are two separate communities," Sister Welch said during a break in the Oct. 26-30 conference of the U.S. Catholic Mission Association, held this year in Miami.

Her community's experience is a perfect reflection of the conference's theme, "Push Out into the Deep," said the keynote speaker Miguel Diaz, U.S. ambassador to the Vatican.

"The projects are to kind of keep the Americans busy," said Sister Welch, whose community makes one mission trip a year to Haiti with lay volunteers. "But in the meantime they're learning how the sisters live and how the Haitians live.

And that is where mission work becomes more than an idealistic helping out of those who are disadvantaged. It's been miraculous what has happened," Sister Welch said. "We come back with more than we can give. It really is a process of transformation."

A transformation that every Christian is called to experience, according to Father Steve Bevans of the Society of the Divine Word, one of the keynote speakers at the conference, which drew nearly 200 missionaries — both lay religious and clergy from abroad working in the U.S., as well as religious and clergy from the U.S. working abroad.

"Discipleship and mission are like two sides of a single coin," Father Bevans said during the opening talk. "Every disciple is a missionary. It's not enough to be a disciple. One has to be an active disciple."

Father Bevans served as a missionary himself in the Philippines and is now professor of mission and culture at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. His talk centered on the theological background of mission work, specifically its roots in the Trinity of God.

"God's deepest self is communion," Father Bevans said, and that communion is constantly "spilling out" into the universe, through creation itself, through the Spirit and through Jesus, who personified the "kin-dom of God."

"We are called to preach, serve and witness to the kin-dom of God," Father Bevans stressed. "We are called to act like God in the world."

That means mission cannot be an "add-on" to the life of a Christian, but at its very center. While being a Christian is a blessing, "God's blessings are never for their own sake. They always involve a challenge to mission," Father Bevans said. "The blessings that we have as Christians are really responsibilities."

He also cited what he called an 11th commandment. "Thou shalt not be comfortable."
‘Belemitas’ mark 50th in Miami

MARLENE QUARONI
Florida Catholic correspondent

MIAMI | Three generations of “Belemitas” were on hand Oct. 14 for the dedication of the newly renovated central plaza named in their family’s honor at Belen Jesuit Prep.

“I remember the school in Cuba,” said Jose Antonio Garrido Sr., class of 1944, at the dedication ceremony, one of many events marking the school’s golden jubilee year in Miami. “Originally, Belen was built to be a university. These were murals on the walls representing the discovery of America. It was a beautiful school.”

When Fidel Castro, a Belen alumnus (class of 1944), came into power, the Jesuits were expelled from Cuba. The school that was established in 1854 was re-established in Miami in 1961 in an empty warehouse on Southwest Eighth Street and Seventh Avenue. In 1981, the school was moved to its current location, a 30-acre site at Southwest 127th Avenue and Fifth Street.

“The central patio is the heart and soul of the school where important functions take place,” said Garrido Sr. “Masses are celebrated there occasionally.”

He said that he has seen his grandson, Jose Garrido III, graduate from Belen, and hopes to see his great-grandson also attend Belen. Father, son and grandson are members of the Belen Alumni Board of Directors. Jose Garrido Jr., a former president of the Cuban Bar Association, promised to continue the Helen tradition.

“Miami, papal, resiliency assured that this generation has taken up the torch,” said Garrido Jr.

Thanks to the Garridos, the school’s patio was transformed from a cement slab to a plaza with colorful brick pavers, four new oak trees for shade, and a raised area with steps at the front of the amphitheater-style plaza to stage events and Masses.

The Garridos run a family-owned business, Walton and Post Food Distributors. They say they learned the value of service to humanity through their Belen education and established the Garrido Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides scholarships to disadvantaged students. Jesus Father Pedro Suarez, Belen’s president, thanked the Garridos for their generosity.

“You have made this into a grandioso patio,” he said. “This plaza is a symbol of the past and also the future.”

Architect Jorge Harmandres, also a Belen graduate, designed the plaza. The graduate from Belen in 2002 and 2001.

The current enrollment at Belen is nearly 4,500 male students, grades six to 12, and the school counts more than 6,000 alumni from both its Cuba and Miami schools.

The 50-year celebration kicked off with a Mass at 6 a.m., Sept. 19 — the exact time when classes began in Miami, on the fourth floor of the former Gus Schoo building downtown. Members of the class of 1962 and the current senior class were active participants in the celebration.

Belen acquired its own building on Southwest Eighth Street in 1962. In October 2003, the school inaugurated the Ignatian Center for the Arts at its current location offering theatrical and music performances as well as art exhibits throughout the year.

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POSSING FOR A PICTURE BEFORE THE DEDICATION OF THE PLAZA NAMED IN THEIR HONOR ARE, FROM LEFT, THREE GENERATIONS: BELEN ALUMNI ALAN ALMOS, DEAN HAY and MARK HAY; AND THEIR SONS, JIM ALMOS, JIM HAY and JIM HAY. ON THE COVER PAGE, GEORGE YON, ALVIO GARRIDO AND HIS SON, JOSU GARRIDO.
**YOUR MIAMI COMMUNITY**

10 to be ordained deacons Dec. 17

**STAFF REPORT**

**MIAMI** | Following are brief biographies of the 10 men who will be ordained permanent deacons for the Archdiocese of Miami Dec. 17, 10 a.m., at St. Mary Cathedral. Archbishop Thomas Wenski will ordain and the cathedral is welcome to attend. The cathedral is located at 7525 NW 2nd Ave., Miami.

**JOSE ALEMÁN**

**Blessed Trinity Parish, Miami Springs**

Alemán is a 62-year-old native of Santa Clara, Cuba. He has been married for 37 years to Naida Torres. They have two children and a grandchildren. He is a chemical technician who works at Mercy Hospital.

**CARLOS ROBERTO CHAVARRÍA**

**Epiphany Parish, North Miami Beach**

Chavarria, 47, is a native of El Salvador. He works as the finance director of the family steel business. He has been married to Rosalin for 17 years and they have two teenage daughters.

**ERNESTO OSCAR DEL RIEGO**

**St. Agustín Parish, Key Biscayne**

Del Riego is a 55-year-old native of Cuba. He works in the field of freight forwarding, managing his own business. He has been married to Evi for 31 years and they have a daughter and a son.

**GUILLERMO DUTRA**

**Good Shepherd Parish, Miami**

Dutra is a 42-year-old native of Uruguay. He has been married to Sandra for 16 years and they have two daughters and a son. He is a public accountant and manages his own firm.

**GEORGE JOSEPH LABELLE**

**St. Louis Parish, Pines**

Labelle is 51. He has been married to Laurie for 22 years. They have two teenage sons. He works as an executive in information systems.

**GREGORY CHARLES MCLAUGHLIN**

**St. John the Baptist Parish, Fort Lauderdale**

McLaughlin is 50. He has been married to Kelly for 23 years. He obtained a doctorate in business administration and is a university professor.

**VALENTINE ONUGBO**

**Holy Family Parish, North Miami**

Onugbo is a 51-year-old native of Nigeria. He has been married to Philomena for 17 years. They have three children. He works as an engineer.

**ANTONIO PEREZ-NOY**

**St. Raymond Parish, Miami**

Perez-Noy, also known as Tony, is a 41-year-old native of Havana. He has been married to Mercedes for 34 years. They have two daughters and a granddaughter. He practices general medicine and is a psychologist.

**TIMOTHY JOSEPH SMITH**

**Harbor Parish, Hollywood**

Smith is 54. He has been married to Belinda for 16 years and they have four children. He works as a senior enforcement officer for the Department of the Treasury.

**JOSE VILLENA**

**St. Louis Parish, Pines**

Villena is a 42-year-old Cuban native. He has been married to Lenia for 23 years. They are parents of five children. He is an engineer.

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Advent nears: Wake up! Repent!

La temporada de Adviento llega como una llamada amigable de atención para todos nosotros. La Iluminación del Adviento de Dios es una invitación que nos dice que "despiertemos y estemos alertas". Necesitamos el adviento de Dios el tiempo que la Palabra se hace carne y que Cristo, el Hijo de Víctor María, nos hace sanas la piel, en la esperanza de redención y el final de los tiempos —cuando el Cordero de Dios nos alberga y ella nos ama en la Palabra y los sacramentos, porque vivimos en tiempos de sueños.

Mientras que la sociedad secular ya celebra la "felicidad de lo vivido", la llegada del Adviento es sostenernos, nos llaman al arrepentimiento y la conversión. De hecho, todo el propósito del Adviento es el de despertarnos a los tiempos de la vida de Dios. En el Evangelio de hoy, el pontífice de los apóstoles (Marc. 13:31-27), el Evangelio recorda las palabras de Jesús a sus discípulos: "Pasen y acépren, porque ignoramos cuándo será el momento. Lo que que ustedes digan, aborde sus dudas (Ver. 17)"

El Adviento tiene como propósito que se sientan nosotros: tenemos el mismo malentendido de la redención. Al acercarse, el Adviento nos llamas a la conversión, para que el Señor, a su lado, nos abra nuestras esferas de conversión. Debido a este "aspecto presbiteriano" de los preparativos para el Adviento, los sabios nos dan sus alcances al destino de la Palabra, y nos mandan preparar nuestras mentes y corazones para darle la bienvenida en la Palabra y los sacramentos, porque vivimos en tiempos de sueños.

Una buena conversión puede ser que Cristo sea un mensaje de vida. Una buena conversión es decir que con Jesús nos dan sus alcances a lo que él nos da. Dios nos llama "el Señor" y nos ordena a los que estamos a él. Porque conocemos de nuestras vidas, sino que el acuerdo le con los estatutos de nuestras vidas. ¿Cómo podemos acoger a Aquel que viene a salvarnos, si no reconocemos nuestra necesidad y desesperación?

Lo que hay que hacer es seguir el consejo de la Palabra: "Te diré de la fe que se espera plenamente en la Inmaculada Virgen María, cuyo "al" a la siguiente misa permita que el Verbo habla en su mismo tiempo, siempre y donde, en la verdadera "mesa grande", el Señor de palabra está "en el ri
del Pueblo del Señor", en nuestra Iglesia. El mismo Sacerdote, en el ri
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Support of campaign helps people get out of poverty

MIAMI | For more than 45 million Americans, there is a thin line between eviction and home, between hunger and health, between unemployment and work, between anxiety and stability. This line is the poverty line, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, for a family of four that lives on $24,856 a year.

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty by funding community programs that encourage independence. The campaign is the domestic anti-poverty program of the U.S. Catholic bishops and works to break the cycle of poverty by helping low-income people participate in decisions that affect their lives, families and communities.

The campaign, which offers a hand up, not a hand out, is providing funding to three South Florida poverty fighting organizations:
- People Acting for Community Together (PACT) — $80,000
- We-Count — $45,000
- Broward Organized Leaders Doing Justice (BOLD Justice) — $50,000

"People Action and Education Fund" had major victories this year," said Rachel Ramjattan, special projects coordinator for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami. "We-Count did well too. These victories were in the area of unemployment, affordable housing, and human rights for undocumented immigrants."

The campaign's grants to local anti-poverty organizations require the explicit approval of the bishop of the diocese.

Archbishop Thomas Wenski is94 giving Catholics throughout the archdiocese to give to the annual collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, which will be taken up in parishes Nov. 20.

"Your generous donations will give those in poverty the support they need to make lasting change," Archbishop Wenski said. "Together, we can make a difference in families and communities. Please donate prayerfully and generously."

Since 1976, the campaign has contributed more than $880 million to more than 7,200 low-income-led, community-based projects that strengthen families, create jobs, build affordable housing, fight crime, and improve schools and neighborhoods.

The campaign requires that projects develop community leadership and participate so that their solutions to poverty will be long-lasting and effective, and so that the campaign's investment in people will help break the cycle of poverty. The campaign also educates Catholics about the causes of poverty and seeks to build solidarity between impoverished and affluent persons.

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Church still helping in Haiti

Catholic Relief Services has given $99 million for Haiti relief in past 18 months

STAFF REPORT

MIAMI | Bill Farrant, Catholic Relief Services’ relationship manager for the southeast region of the U.S., stopped by the Pastoral Center Oct. 31 to update Archbishop Thomas Wenski on the relief efforts. Included in that update was an account of Catholic Relief Services’ spending in Haiti over the past 18 months, since the Jan. 12, 2010, earthquake that devastated Port-au-Prince.

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of supporters in the United States, the agency has given $99 million in relief to the up-to-50% of the five-year plan to contribute more than $120 million.

So far, Catholic Relief Services has received $135 million for Haiti relief and rebuilding. Of this, $830 million came from private donors, including $60 million from special collections for Haiti in Catholic dioceses across the United States.

Following is the breakdown of how Catholic Relief Services spent the contributions: from Jan. 12 to June 30, 2011:

- Emergency response (first days): $78,472,087
- Health and support to hospitals: $7,432,558
- Food, water, and livelihoods: $41,610,847
- Shelter: $18,318,960
- Water and sanitation: $9,081,681
- Education and child protection: $3,437,082
- Church partnership: $2,772,053
- Supporting services: $13,675,454 (94 percent of the agency’s total operating expenses represent program service costs and 6 percent represent support costs)
- Total earthquake response: $99,504,927

NEWsbriefs

Retired archbishop marks anniversaries

Archbishop Thomas Wenski is celebrating South Florida Catholic’s 150th anniversary. The solemn Mass of thanksgiving will take place at St. Mary Cathedral, 7525 N.W. 36th Ave., Miami, on Saturday, Nov. 10. Parishioners, family members and guests are invited to attend the Mass and to celebrate the archbishop’s 150th anniversary.

Marriage prep goes online

The Archdiocese of Miami’s Office of Family Life has launched a website to provide information and resources for couples who wish to prepare for marriage. The site, www.azucar.org, offers resources and links to local resources for couples who are preparing for marriage.

Preparación matrimonial por Internet

La Oficina de Vida Familiar de la Arquidiócesis de Miami ha iniciado una colaboración con Catholic Marriage Preparation, Inc., que ofrece un curso de preparación para parejas cuyas circunstancias no les permiten realizar los cursos en persona.

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Retired religious need your help

The 21th annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious will be taken up Dec. 30-31 at the Archdiocese of Miami. Sponsored by the National Religious Retirement Office in Washington, D.C., the appeal asks Catholics to “Share in the Care” of more than 14,000 women and men religious past age 70.

Last year, Catholics in the archdiocese contributed more than $415,000 to this collection. Women and men religious who serve or have served in the archdiocese and whose congregations are based elsewhere benefit from the Retirement Fund for Religious.

“Those people are often overlooked by the narrative of Catholicism,” said Sister Roderic, Superior of the Institute of the Sacred Heart. “The people who work quietly in the background, they are often the people who make our congregations work.

This year, the collection will be held Nov. 29-30. The collection is sponsored by the National Religious Retirement Office of the Catholic Church in the U.S.

“Please support our retired religious sisters and brothers,” said Sister Roderic. “They have dedicated their lives to serving God and our communities.”

For more information, visit www.retriredreligious.org.
Florida bishops oppose gambling expansion

The following statement was delivered Nov. 1 by Dr. Michael McCarron, executive director of the Florida Catholic Conference, at a joint press conference of faith-based and other organizations concerned with the expansion of casino gambling in Florida. The organizations included the Florida Catholic Conference, which is the policy arm of Florida's bishops, the Florida Baptist Convention, Florida Family Policy Council and Florida Casino Watch.

The bishops of the Florida Catholic Conference are opposed to current efforts to expand casino gambling in Florida. Their concern about expansion of gambling in our state is not new.

As early as 1985, the bishops expressed opposition to the proposals which sought to legalize casino gambling in our state. They spoke then, as do on their behalf today, out of a sense of responsibility as religious leaders, and also out of their concern as Floridians over the long-range implications which casino gambling would have for the quality of life of all of the residents of our state.

In 1986, the bishops again expressed their opposition to proposals seeking legal recognition of casino gambling in our state. Citing the experience of casinos gambling in other parts of the United States, they alluded to concerns that casino gambling seems to be invariably accompanied by syndicated crime. They cited prostitution and loan-sharking as two of the many aspects of organized crime. Not the least consequence, they noted, was the possibility of improper influence on public officials.

Again in 1988, the bishops expressed opposition to efforts to expand gambling in Florida, noting that a new multi-million dollar facility being built with high-stakes games and a continual drive for more and more gambling revenues. There is historical and anecdotal evidence that casino gambling is accompanied by vice and sexual evils. They also observed the impact of casino gambling on low- and moderate-income families and individuals, and those for whom gambling becomes a compulsive behavior as well as on neighborhoods, housing patterns, the homeless and our public morality in general.

And in 2004, the bishops once again expressed opposition to expansion of gambling. Many churches, schools, and other nonprofit organizations rely on games of chance for relatively small amounts of revenue. Most will recognize the difference between local fundraisers managed by volunteers and a multimillion dollar industry that exploits vulnerable members of the community for financial gain.

Our opposition today is based on our belief that expansion of casino gambling will victimize the poor and encourage destructive gambling. We are concerned that gambling revenue increases, whereas upon an unstable form of revenue would depend upon those who are addicted to gambling, many of whom are already among the poorest of the poor in the community. Needy individuals are particularly vulnerable to the lure of the casino and the promise of great fortune. For those who are struggling to make ends meet, casino gambling can provide an attractive means to relieve financial burdens, which ultimately only leads to increasing debt and personal crisis. We oppose the current proposals in view of the potential harm to the common good of the residents of our state.

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Cross International Catholic Outreach Supports Efforts Of Heroic Mission Team in Africa

The outreach had humble beginnings, serving about a hundred children, but it grew quickly as others discovered the importance of the work and joined in. In the infancy of its founding, one of these early sponsors was Cross International Catholic Outreach. Among other things, the Outreach provided medical care, housed children, and set up clinics and schools. Their work has expanded to support thousands of children across Africa and the world.

Cross International Catholic Outreach is a faith-based organization that helps children in need around the world. Their mission is to provide basic needs such as food, shelter, and education to children who are living in poverty. They believe that every child deserves a chance to live a healthy and happy life, and they work tirelessly to make that possible.

“Cross” Now Endorsed by More Than 50 U.S. Bishops, Archbishop

As Cross International Catholic Outreach (CICO) continues to expand its reach of relief and support for children in need, the organization is gaining the support of many U.S. bishops and archbishops. In 2022, more than 50 bishops and archbishops endorsed CICO, expressing their commitment to supporting the Outreach's mission. This endorsement reflects a growing recognition of the importance of CICO's work in providing essential services to children and families in need around the world.

CICO's mission is to provide children with the basic necessities of life, including food, shelter, education, and medical care. The Outreach operates in more than 40 countries, working with local partners to ensure that children have access to these critical needs. CICO's work is guided by a commitment to working alongside local communities to build sustainable solutions for long-term change.

Cross International Catholic Outreach's close collaboration with the Pontifical Council of Care of Creatures is a testimony to the importance of their work. The Archbishop and Pope Francis have recognized CICO's efforts to care for the environment and create a more sustainable future for children and their families. This partnership reflects a shared vision of creating a better world for future generations.
Modern Day Daniel Faces Own "Lion's Den" Of Hardships -- But Perseveres With Help From American Catholics

The biblical story of Daniel centers on one man's extraordinary faith in God during a horrifying ordeal: a night trapped in a den of hungry lions. Daniel trusted God to save him, and the Lord kept his unshaken faith unbroken. The biblical Daniel is considered one of the mightiest heroes of the Bible. The "saint" that threatened his life surrounded him every single day, allowing none to come near, but Daniel's fears were driven away, fear and despair. I like the biblical Daniel, all he can do is trust God.

When Daniel was 2, his mother died of AIDS. His father left him with his elderly grandmother. He later passed away from the same disease. Daniel has no siblings and no recollection of his parents -- or even a single photograph. Daniel's elderly grandmother and wife care for him is sick and can't protect him, let alone afford food, cloth and education. He is often hungry, mostly thirsty and almost continuously reliant on the few dollars he earns in the streets by selling odds and ends that make.

Millions of orphaned children in developing countries around the world, similar to Daniel. When their parents die as a result of preventable diseases, they have no relatives or neighbors to take care of them as they are in danger of dying. They are forced to drop out of school, and must work odd jobs to earn a few pennies to eat. Sadly, the number of young children who could tell their heart-breaking stories is vast -- literally measured in the billions.

"The plight of orphaned and vulnerable children in developing countries is extreme. In most situations, they live in poverty so intense they can't go to school, see a doctor when they're sick or grow up healthy."

The number of orphaned children around the world has reached a "critical mass," meaning there are thresholds more orphaned than potential caregivers.

"An entire generation of parents has been cut off," says Pope Francis, during a recent visit to Africa. "They simply aren't enough grandparents, aunts or neighbors who can care for these children." Cancer and "an inadequate number of social workers" are also a cause. Whatever the reason, orphans in Africa are left behind, and there's no place for them to turn.

To help solve this terrible problem, Cross International Catholic Outreach partners with local parishes and missions by caring for orphaned children in developing countries. As a result, some thousands of children worldwide have found new lives.

"The most important thing Cross Catholic Funds provide food when parents are hungry, medicine when they are sick, shelter when they are homeless, educational support when they can't afford an instant school and loving counseling when they are grieving. For orphans raised in poverty, the impact of this support is profound. Cross Catholic's assistance literally means the difference between a "normal" childhood and a life of despair. For those taken into the program, there is a much better chance of a prosperous adulthood too."

One of the key ministry partners involved in this Cross-sponsored outreach is called "Recensione." Recessione was launched by Catholic lay women who provide services for up to 7,000 poor orphaned and vulnerable children in Bolivia.

One of their many "success stories" is Marta Mazurh.

Marta was only 15 when her father died and left her, the oldest child in the family, to head the remaining household. She cooked meals, washed dishes and cleaned, sold old clothes and ground corn into flour with a morter and pestle. She and her younger siblings and relatives lived in a decrepit shack made of reeds left to them by their parents. At such a young age, she could barely squeeze together enough food for her siblings, let alone food for herself.

"That's only possible because we continue to have the help and support of American Catholics. Is it in their name we name our pledges of support," Cancer said. "I tell everyone our American gifts will continue to help us give children like Daniel the resources they need to become successful adults like myself. When God calls Catholic Outreach to help in my name, they always seem to answer -- even when help is needed from the other side of the globe."

For Daniel, receiving this help is extremely unusual. "Raising practical things like food, school and medical care -- but it will also mean new hope," Cancer said. "The volunteers who have become our mothers and who counsel them will show them what it means to have a family, to feel loved."

"Yes, they are my parents," Cancer said. "I feel happy when they come to visit me. I pray every day they will never leave me."

If Cross International Catholic Outreach has anything to say about it, Daniel will never feel like "lions" of his own again.

How to Help:

Your help is needed for Cross International Catholic Outreach to bring Christ's mercy to the poorest of the poor. To make a donation, use the enclosed postage-paid brochure or mail a gift to: Cross International Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC00893, 490 White Pond Drive, PO Box 93, Akron, OH 44309-0963.

Catholic support from the U.S. forever changed Daniel Mazurh's fate for the better.

Rccessione discovered Marta and immediately enrolled the family in Recessione's program. No longer struggling to survive, Marta now has a loving home, a graded education and a future.
The Creed: ‘consubstantial’

New word is more precise but still can hardly capture the mystery of the Trinity

We are never going to understand the Trinity. However, a more exact language shows greater humility and respect in the presence of the God who is much greater not only than our hearts, but also than our heads.

The Holy Father said that in designing his coat of arms he wanted to allude to the story of St. Augustine trying to compose his vision of heaven and taking a walk on the seashore. The saint saw a boy carrying water with a shell, who said that he planned to empty the sea into a hole he had dug in the sand. The great doctor of the Church concluded that he was trying to do something similar: capture the infinite mystery of God's being in the finite being of man. Pope Benedict, who is a theologian, knows the inadequacy of words with relation to the deepest mystery of the universe. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says that, "In order to articulate the doctrine of the Trinity, the Church has developed its own terminology with the help of certain notions of philosophical or theological origin, such as 'person', 'relation' and so on..." (CCC, No. 251). There is no technical vocabulary to guard against misinterpretations of divine mysteries. Thus we have the word "consubstantial".

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict, once said that it was very important for sacramental faith to "keep alive the question of being", especially in our time, which he called, "a philosophically impoverished era.

That is why I think it is right to insist that the more general "one in being" be replaced by the more technical "consubstantial."

We are never going to understand the Trinity. However, a more exact language shows greater humility and respect in the presence of the God who is much greater not only than our hearts, but also than our heads.

Graham Greene described how on his path of conversion his future wife told him that we Catholics did not "adorne" Mary, that there was a distinction between adoration and devotion. We offer our reverence, Hàn, to the saints, and to Mary hyperbolically, the highest of reverence. The agnostic Greene was so impressed by the articulation of the distinction that he began to study the faith and became a Catholic.

Our belief in the Trinity can likewise be a source of evangelization and edification to others around us. The cautious with which we speak about the mysteries of God is a demonstration of how important the articles of our faith are to us. Seriousness in language indicates respect for the divinity. The word "mythic" comes from the Greek word referring to a mytion about which there was no experience of the divinity. We are not clever about God, but we are very careful in describing him.

Our faith in a trinity God is not something easy to understand. There is a whole history of misunderstandings of the essence of God. There were times when there was a real danger of great numbers of Christians losing faith in the Trinity. On a recent trip to Rome in Italy, I was reminded how at a certain point of time there was a real threat that Christians in the West would succumb to the heresy that the second person of the Trinity was not equally divine. The Gnostics who confronted the western part of the Roman Empire were Arians and believed that the Son of God was less divine than God the Father. An Arian hagiographer still stands in coffins and the Cappadocians were originally built for that sect, which had converted the barbarians who had conquered Rome.

The Nicene Creed still has the traces of the controversy with the Arians. That is why we insist, "God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God. Respect for our tradition should make it easy to say a special word like "consubstantial" without complaining. A priest friend said that he objected to the change of wording because "how is my mother going to understand that?" She might do better than he thinks. The change of language can actually provide us with a propitious moment for catechesis.

In fact, the word "consubstantial" can open up for us the second great mystery of faith: the Incarnation. Last year, Pope Benedict published an apostolic exhortation to give expression to the reflection of the Synod of Bishops on the word of God. In "Verbum Domini" ("The Word of the Lord"), the pope points out this relation of the mysteries. "As the Prologue of John clearly shows, the Logos refers to the first place to the eternal Word, the only Son, Begotten of the Father, before all ages and consubstantial with him. The word was with God, and the word was God. But this same Word, John tells us, "became flesh. (In 5:1), hence Jesus Christ, his Virgin Mary, is truly the Son of God who becomes consubstantial with us" (No. 7).

The great English writer Chesterton wrote in "Orth" that our Christian civilisation depended at times on a deep need to describe God, grace working in the world, the message of a transforming the new, guiding a great ship. The Christian sensitivity to words is not new, but perhaps more so than ever in our age of ambiguity. We tend to fear keeping language vague. We need more words for our lives, and that can start our language about God. Therefore we rejoice in the translation of the Creed, its will make our missae busier and harder, and perhaps our too.

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In the footsteps of St. Paul

Miami religious will travel the American South on evangelization missions to Hispanic immigrants

TOM TRACY
Miami Catholic correspondent

MIA MI | Scripture tells us that the prolific St. Paul the Apostle made three missionary journeys into the regions of what became the Holy Land and beyond. In that same spirit, three Miami religious women will, for the next three years, go out into Florida and the American South to connect with Spanish-speaking immigrant communities.

“Our founder used to tell us that we could be St. Paul living today,” said Sister Maria Elizabeth Boroña, a member of the Daughters of St. Paul, who recently relocated from Boston to Miami. “Paul really is for us a model for announcing the good news in the world today: he wasn’t afraid to go beyond the comfortable boundaries of his time, among the gentiles. His whole life changed and he went through an inner transformation, spending his whole life making the risen Christ known to the whole world. He’s for us definitely a model for going out.”

The Daughters of St. Paul in America, in concert with the U.S. bishops, are beginning evangelization missions to Hispanic refugees and immigrants in the American South. The Daughters say they are responding to a church-wide appeal to reach out in prayer and service to Catholic Hispanics, who, according to a recent Pew Research Center study, make up 50% of Hispanic Catholics in the United States.

Members of the Paulinas Evangelization Team, plus a sister who works in the worldwide Spanish Radio Apostolate (which has programs on Radio Pax), pose for a picture. From left are Sister Maria Elizabeth Boroña (Miami), Sister Maria Yolanda Melparéjo (Miami), Sister Martha Ruth Reyes (Radio Apostolate), Sister Hortencia Raymundo (Miami), Sister Natividad Pereira (Boston), Sister Lilia Grade (Boston), and Sister Mary Emmanuel Alves (Boston). (COURTESY PHOTO)
Chick Chat combats teen bullying

TONI PALLATTO
Florida Catholic correspondent

MIAMI - With teen bullying on the rise, one group at St. Brendan High School seeks to teach teen girls to respect one another and channel their energy into positive activities that make a difference in the world. The group is called Chick Chat, and it grew out of a desire to bring positive change to the school.

"A few years ago, I attended the Mean Girls National Conference," said Jeanette Gonzales-Hoes, psychology and education teacher at St. Brendan High School. "Bullying in our schools is epidemic, and I came back inspired and charged up to do something positive about it."

Brainstorming with her colleague Tayla Ichino, an English and religion teacher at St. Brendan, the concept of Chick Chat was born.

"We wanted to develop a series that would engage our young ladies to think highly of themselves and to improve their self-image," said Ichino. "We thought that involving our students in everyday issues as well as providing role models from the outside world would help develop respect and dignity, for themselves and each other."

According to statistics from Family First Aid, approximately 30 percent of teens in the United States have been involved with bullying, either as the bully or as the victim. Female bullying is just as common as bullying among males, especially when it comes to cyberbullying - attacking peers verbally online with harsh words, lies, and rumors - which can be equally as devastating as physical abuse.

"Relational aggression" is being recognized by educators, mental health workers and professionals who work with young people as a growing concern. The effects of this and other kinds of bullying on teens and adolescents can result in low self-esteem, suicidal thought, self-injury, violence and difficulty in personally relating with people.

Girls who bully others a need insightful intervention will help them learn other, more productive ways to feel empowered. These girls, as well as the victims and bystanders of relational aggression, need to learn appropriate conflict resolution, empathy, self-awareness and other personal and social insights and skills.

The first meeting of Chick Chat drew the attention of many women at St. Brendan. With girls at the school, the group quickly grew to more than 150 members.

"Our main objective is to empower young girls through education and friendship, giving them the voice, helping them realize they are not alone," said Gonzalez-Hoes.

"We wanted to build the esteem and to see their self-worth grow," Ichino added.

Part of the challenge was to get the young women to realize that they had unique gifts that could help others, and to help them to think outside of the box.

Members of Chick Chat, a club at St. Brendan High School in Miami, participate in a Breast Cancer Walkathon October 2010. (COURTESY PHOTO)

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St. Brendan celebrates renewal

TONI PALLATTO  
Florida Catholic correspondent

MIAMI — Oct. 21 was a picture-perfect South Florida fall evening, with a slight breeze and no humidity.

"This weather is a blessing," said Sylvia Camarasa, a parishioner of more than 30 years at St. Brendan Parish in Miami-Dade County's Westchester neighborhood. "It's not like the day when Hurricane Katrina came through, that caused all the damage in the first place. It's time to celebrate our blessings."

In September 2005, Katrina damaged all of the buildings at St. Brendan Parish. The main church and the chapel had to have all their stained glass replaced with hydrogen glass. All of the framing was removed and replaced with tile. The pews were restored. The altar and the ambo in the chapel had to be replaced. New chairs made of only fique made from hibiscus that matched the existing marble were placed at the main altar. Five different colored pieces from the original stained glass were embedded in the presider's chair in the form of the cross. The side altars in the main church was widened to cater to the needs of the handicapped.

Even though all the old stained glass had been in danger of falling apart, all of the panels were saved, restored and repositioned on the property as a part of the heritage of St. Brendan Parish. All the stained glass in the nave window panels are a part of the stained glass window depicting Our Lady of Charity that now adorns St. Brendan Church in Miami.

"It's very important that everyone is made to feel at home because it is their home," said Father Fernando Heria, pastor. "When I arrived at St. Brendan eight years ago, I was in a wheel chair." He continued, "It gave me a unique, inclusive perspective, particularly when we began the renovation."

As the parishioners filled the chapel and church, there were feelings of excitement and anticipation.

"This renovation was done with great care and attention to the many parishioners who have given over the years for the good of St. Brendan," said Miguel Mancera.

"Today this parish community celebrates the solemn consecration of the new altar in the chapel where Mass is held," said Archbishop Thomas Wenski in his homily. "It is here at this altar, despite the differences in language, culture or political preferences, we Catholics are united as brothers and sisters in Christ, in the same bread and the same cup that we share."

He recalled the story of Cardinal Van Thuan, who after the fall of Vietnam, was arrested and put into solitary confinement for 13 years. "His friends imagined brand and water to him, and he offered the holy Mass using the palm of his hand as an altar, worthy of the sacrifice of the Lord, without remission, without rancor or hatred toward those who imprisoned and persecuted him. Like St. Paul, he converted many of those who hated him. When Christ was sacrificed at Calvary, sin was defeated. At this altar, the same sacrifice is made present to us every day so that his victory over sin, death and evil is also ours," concluded Archbishop Wenski.

With that, the new altar and ambo in the chapel were consecrated with the role of St. Marcelin Champagnat, the founder of the Marist Order, embedded in the altar.

"We selected this relic as a sign of fraternity with our Marist Brethren," said Father Heria, whose parish is next door to the Marist-run Cristo Rey Cristo Rey Colombia High School. At the altar was rubbed with the holy chrism and the incense in the three combined choirs of Divina Vida, the children's choir from St. Brendan Elementary, directed by Grace Kyi, and the adult choir San Misael. The choir sang "Savior, Quem Puedes Entender" ("Lord, who can enter").

"As a choir, we were so pleased how the songs related directly to the liturgy," said Maria Perez-Rudisoli, music director at St. Brendan. "The music nurtured our spirituality and complemented the prayer."

"It was very important to produce music that integrated into the entire ceremony because of the beautiful work that was done for our church and chapel. We were not just moving furniture; we were consecrating the altar and ambo and blessing the church," Perez-Rudisoli said.

The placement of the new stained glass windows tells a beautiful story. The Holy Spirit is above the canopy of the altar. The seven sacraments of the Catholic faith are on the left and right side of the main altar. The doors that face 87th Avenue portray the figures of St. Peter and St. Paul, with St. Brendan magnificently portrayed above them.

"We tried very diligently to keep continuity with the past, as well as with our Catholic traditions," Father Heria said. "Many people over the years and currently have made many sacrifices and contributions. I believe they are looking down from heaven and they are pleased with the work that has been done, and with the promise of our future."

Archbishop Thomas Wenski celebrated Mass and the consecration of the new altar in the chapel of St. Brendan Church. The church was refurbished and the stained glass was restored after damage from Hurricane Katrina in 2005. (PHOTOS BY MONICA LAVUZU/MEDICAL PC)
KOREAN ARCHBISHOP VISITS

Archbishop Thomas Wenski welcomes South Korean Archdiocese of Miami to visit with members of the Korean Apostolate. (MARLENE QUARONI | FC)

NEWSbriefs

Workshop topic: RCIA and children

The Archdiocese of Miami will host an Institute of the North American Forum on the Catechumenate Jan. 20-21, 2012, at St. Mark Parish, 6601 S. Flamingo Road, Southwest Ranches. The topic of this Institute will be "Focus on Initiation: Children and Christian Initiation."

The Institute will present the vision of "Christian initiation of children who have reached catechetical age" as contained in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. It will explore the real world of today's children and families as well as issues that arise concerning evangelization, conversion, ritual and pastoral formation. It will also present principles and skills for local implementation.

"I believe the expectation of the archdiocese is that at least one person from each parish will go to the Institute as this will be a new policy that we are implementing," said Cheryl Whigham, director of the archdiocesan Office of Lay Ministry and Adult Faith Formation.

Parish RCIA coordinators and anyone involved in the catechisis of children are encouraged to register early to get a price break. Registration after Nov. 20 is more expensive. For more information, contact archdiocesancatholicfamilies@gmail.com.

Pedro Pans' honor

Mgr. Bryan Walsh

Members of Operation Pedro Pan Group will mark the 50th anniversary of the airlift that brought 14,000 unaccompanied minors from Cuba to the U.S. with a Mass of thanksgiving Sunday, Nov. 20, at 3 p.m. at Immaculata-La Salle High School in Miami.

The Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Thomas Wenski and will be followed by the dedication of the original La Salle building in honor of Mgr. Bryan Walsh, the Catholic priest whom the Pedro Pans consider their "father." The building will be renamed the Mgr. Bryan O. Walsh Humanities Pavilion.

The Mass and rededication ceremony are part of three days of Pedro Pan-related activities Nov. 19-20. Archbishop Wenski also spoke at a daylong conference on "Pedro Pan: A 50-year Perspective," held at the Miami Beach Convention Center. The Pedro Pans also gathered Saturday evening for their annual Thanksgiving gala and dinner dance.

A reception will follow the Sunday Mass and building rededication. Immaculata-La Salle High School is located at 3681 S. Miami Ave., on the edge of Biscayne Bay and next door to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Charity. For more information, contact members@pedropan.org.

Knights help keep 'Christ in Christmas'

The Knights of Columbus, through their "Keep Christ in Christmas" campaign, seek to keep Catholics and others focused on the "greatest gift of the season. They have "Keep Christ in Christmas" banners, magnets and materials available for distribution to parishes and schools. Contact a local Knights of Columbus council for more information. The list of councils is at www.kofc.org, under "Find a council."

Youths invited to Marian vigil

Youths from throughout the archdiocese are invited to collaborate with Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in celebrating the feast of the Immaculate Conception. The parish is planning an all-night vigil beginning at 6 p.m. Dec. 8 and concluding at 8 a.m. Dec. 10. The vigil will feature prayer, talks, talks, praise, worship, rosary, Bible study, eucharistic adoration and a Mass. Our Lady of Lourdes is located at 11281 N.W. 142 Ave., Miami. Any youth group interested in attending or participating in the event should contact Frank Brennan at 305-493-7763 or Frank@ololourdes.org.

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"The question involves our congregation in the whole continent but there are only a few priests in our congregation who are fluent in the languages and can offer a pastoral help to the groups around the United States," Sister Borobia said.

Joining her in the initiative will be two other Miami-based Paulines: Sister Maria Violanda Melgar, a native of Argentina, and Sister Yolanda Hernandez, originally from Mexico.

The mission will focus initially on South Florida with periodic forays into the rest of Florida and the southeastern U.S. through parish missions, Bible missions, family and intergenerational retreats, family and children communion efforts, youth projects and volunteerism awareness. A separate team of altar servers Paulines sisters based in Boston will focus on the northeastern U.S. region.

"We are a sleeping giant," Sister Borobia said. "And I think there is potential to serve people who have not been served. We have the ability to reach people who need us."
Hispanic leaders eye the future

SEPI's biennial 'encuentro' focuses on youths, immigration, cultural understanding

GARY LEDMAN
Senior to the Miami Catholic

ST. AUGUSTINE | More than 120 Hispanic ministry leaders from throughout the Southwest gathered in St. Augustine Oct. 20-23 for the biennial Regional Encuentro, or encuentro, of the Southeast Pastoral Institute (SEPI), the educational branch of the Southeast Regional Office for Hispanic Ministry.

Leaders who assist bishops in 39 dioceses of the nine-state region attended workshops on topics including immigration, technology, intercultural ministries and pastoral challenges. Sixteen dioceses were represented from as far away as Memphis and Knoxville, Tenn., and Raleigh, N.C., and including the dioceses of Miami, Palm Beach, St. Augustine, St. Petersburg and Venice.

Bishop Felipe J. Estevez of the Diocese of St. Augustine celebrated the opening Mass at the foot of the historic altar of Mission Nombre de Dios in St. Augustine for the opening of the biennial Regional Encuentro, or encuentro, of the Southeast Pastoral Institute (SEPI). At night is Bishop Ronald Herzog of the Diocese of Asheville, N.C., and between them is Fr. Maro Valenzuela, director and longtime director of SEPI. The encuentro, held Oct. 20-23, brought together more than 190 Hispanic ministry leaders from throughout the Southeast. (ZACK THOMAS | FC)

Bishop Felipe Estevez celebrates Mass at the rustic altar of Mission Nombre de Dios in St. Augustine for the opening of the biennial Regional Encuentro, or encuentro, of the Southeast Pastoral Institute (SEPI). At night is Bishop Ronald Herzog of the Diocese of Asheville, N.C., and between them is Fr. Maro Valenzuela, director and longtime director of SEPI. The encuentro, held Oct. 20-23, brought together more than 190 Hispanic ministry leaders from throughout the Southeast. (ZACK THOMAS | FC)

Rafael Capo, who officially became the leader of the ministry on Oct. 1, He and Father Valenzuela, as well as Bishops Estevez and Ronald Herzog of the Diocese of Asheville, N.C., served as directors of SEPI in the encuentro.

Father Capo said the two top priorities for SEPI were to foster the growth of youth ministry and formation for lay leaders to reach the rapidly growing Hispanic community. He said some estimates, going beyond the registration rolls, put the number of Hispanics at 10 percent of the U.S. Catholic population and doubled growth rates at 8 percent in the coming years.

We cannot be 10 percent of the population and aspire to be 50 percent of the Catholic Church in the next five years, as well as minister to the 50 percent of the population that speaks English. Capo said.

Youths, Father Capo said, are the largest bloc of that burgeoning population in the Southeast and the U.S. He cited a recent news report that estimated churches were appealing to young Hispanics who may be inclined to turn away from their Catholic upbringing. He emphasized the need to focus on education and culture.

The theme of the encuentro was "The Third Wave," an Allison Thompson film based on the idea of working in the days after the tsunami that hit counties bordering the Indian Ocean. It inspired me and a whole bunch of other girls to help others because we were amazed at what they did," Adrian said.

She now gives it time weekly to her children. She has 20 to 30 other people, prepping 100 bag lunches per week and delivering them to the homeless.

"I've grown to love their eyes," said Adrian. "I talk to them and it is sad, but it opens my eyes to something I wouldn't normally consider, and I see how I can make a difference.""Gonzales Rojas and Rojas put together a robust schedule of activities for Youth Link, engaging their members in monthly activities with topics that include women's health, self-image and healthy lifestyles family, friendship and bullying, sexual dating and violence awareness, making a difference through community service and celebrating inspirational women.

"I got involved last year because of the fact that I could relate to the topics and the problems discussed," said Stephanie Rodgers, a sophomore at St. Brendan. "I want to be a mother-daughter event that taught us how to deal with bullying, based on Rosalind Wise's book, 'Queen Bee and Wannabes.' I became super close with mom and learned I wasn't the only one going through these problems.""

This past summer, Gonzalez said she was invited to participate in a summer camp for youth from all over the country at the national Conference on Human Rights and Reconciliation Agencies in Las Vegas. This group is helping them to look at their initiatives be implementes in many different schools across the country. As their work grows, they are finding out what they are.

"I'm excited," said Gonzalez. "I'm in love with my job, and I feel like I'm helping others who have had a difficult time in their lives.""To advertise in this directory, please call Missy 1-888-275-9953.

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A ‘rebirth’ underway at St. Anthony

Church celebrates 90 years of community in downtown Fort Lauderdale

TOM TRACY
Torres Catholic correspondent

FORT LAUDERDALE | St. Anthony Church has a rich history as a center for faith and community in the heart of downtown Fort Lauderdale. The church marks its 90th anniversary this year, and the community is celebrating with a series of events and activities.

The church was founded in 1923, and its first Mass was celebrated in a small frame building located at the corner of Northeast Third Street and Northeast Ninth Avenue. Over the years, the church has grown and prospered, with a current membership of over 2,000 families.

The church has been a vital part of the community, providing a space for prayer, fellowship, and service. It has been a center for many important events, including the civil rights movement and the fight against discrimination.

A highlight of the church’s history is the work of Father Jerry Singleton, who served as pastor from 1965 to 1972. Under his leadership, the church became a leader in the fight against segregation and discrimination.

In recent years, the church has continued to be a beacon of hope and faith in the community. It has been a strong advocate for social justice, working to address issues such as poverty, hunger, and homelessness.

The church is currently led by Father Robert L. Thibeault, who has been pastor since 2017. Under his leadership, the church is continuing its legacy of service and faith.
The seeds we plant will someday grow

Parish nurtures faith formation for nearly 1,000 Broward youngsters

TOM TRACY
Florida Catholic Correspondent

CORAL SPRINGS | Faith formation volunteers at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish know they don’t have to be perfectly religious education teachers to impact lives. They just have to care about youth and young adults. The religious education program at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Coral Springs is among the largest in BrowardCounty, with nearly 1,000 youngsters enrolled.

Above, religious education student Caroline Wurster does some work along with fellow student Sebastian Gabriel, teacher Jen Fox and student Grace Brandon (in background). Right, Teacher Lissett Hernandez surrounded by students, from left, Angelina Zafino, Michael Rainero, Payton Schum and Christopher Solas. The religious education program at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Coral Springs is among the largest in BrowardCounty, with nearly 1,000 youngsters enrolled. (PHOTOS BY TOM TRACY)

Every year we tell parents that they are the primary teachers of the faith,” Ganim said. “What makes us unique is the involvement of post-confirmation youth and high schoolers — they are kids formed with their formal faith formation — who have been confirmed and they have chosen to stay on in religious education as role models and examples for the younger students.”

Established in 1997 between Broward County schools during a period as Bartholomew Church, 26 years ago, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish has no on-site school, but it does have a religious education and classroom facility that has served as the archdiocese for the 3,000-parish faiths.

Many parents chose to come here to help their children learn and grow, and they want to be with them when they grow up,” Ganim said.

The parish supports community outreach and charitable giving programs, including local charities and assistance to the poor in Haiti. Through its annual Christmas giving tree program, the parish collects the students in the first grade and school St. James in North Miami.

Ganim’s core staff of three full-time and two part-time workers are supplemented by a contingent of volunteer teachers, about 80 percent of whom return year after year.

Once they come in they don’t want to leave,” Ganim said. “We say they get more out of this than the kids do. It is rewarding for them to see their students in church and that they are truly making a difference in the lives of the kids.”

Ganim said that sometimes students may wonder if the faith training in class is relevant to their lives. “One-on-one teaching is really learning and appreciating the material, if they are absorbing the faith traditions and Catholic Church teachings.”

“Every parish has a generous heart,” Ganim said. “We accept each other the way we are and have faith that the seeds we plant will someday grow.”

Every Day is the staff member at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton who coordinates the parish’s Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program. There are 36 adults currently in a one-year program that will result in their full membership in the Catholic Church.

This year, there are two new groups who were just at the church for faith enrichment programs for five weeks and now they have approached me about becoming a Catholic,” de Malo said, adding that since they approach the church, the ministry by saying they want to learn about the Catholic faith.”

“For everyone we work with, we try to make the connection between home, family and faith in helping form the foundation for religious education for the full range of ages, which spans from age 4 and includes volunteers who are 94,” Ganim said.

For everyone, the seeds we plant will someday grow.”
BUILDING THE

City of God

What he did before becoming a priest:
"I went to school. I worked for the University of Florida as an attorney. I also worked for
Reisman & Skry, a law firm that is no longer
in existence, and I handled immigration matters
for the Archdiocese of Miami."

Person most surprised by his vocation:
"My friends because they thought I could do
good things as a lawyer. They did not see a need
for me to be a priest. It seemed radical to them at
the time. They are still my friends."

What the seminary did not prepare him for:
"Nothing prepares you for everything. The
seminary gave me the tools I needed."

What he would be doing if he had not become a priest:
"It would probably be an attorney, working in legal
aid or government work."

Favorite priestly assignment:
"Being the pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes. It is the
universal Church in miniature. There are so
many cultures. It is such an active community.
There are always more things to respond to and
develop. I never wake up bored. And the spirit of
our community is extraordinarily positive."

The most difficult aspect of being a priest:
"It is seeing the suffering for those who do not
respond to Christ. It is knowing that if they gave
their life to Christ, it would change their lives.
I know the stories of people intimately, and the
desperation, hurt and struggle people face. If they
would give their life to Christ and believe, it would
change everything."

"If (people) would give their life
to Christ and believe, it would
change everything."

His description of the ideal priest:
"He loves God and loves his people."

A priestly stereotype he feels should be discarded:
"The things about stereotypes is that they are
partial truths. They are incomplete. Priests are as
different as there are people in the world. People
need to realize that."

What he does on his day off:
"I walk. If I have the whole day off, I walk a
15-mile circuit. I have walked El Camino de
Santiago three times, and I have been on it a
total of eight times. I also visit friends."

MSGR. KENNETH SCHWANGER
 Pastor, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Miami

MSGR. Kenneth Schwanger is shown here on one of his
pilgrimages through El Camino de Santiago (The Way of
St. James) in Spain. He has walked the ancient pilgrimage
road in its entirety three times and been on some parts of it a
total of eight times.

Favorite movie:
"The Lion in Winter" because of its artful use of
the English language in the dialog. The recent
movie I have seen is "The Way," written and
directed by Emilio Estevez and starring his father,
Martin Sheen. I really enjoyed the movie. It is a
good portrayal of the human stories that get inter-
twined and grow along the Way of St. James and
the cinematography is great. It is more challenging
physically than the movie lets on. It helped me
relive my experiences and remember the people I
have met over those years."

Favorite TV series:
"Gator football."

Last book read:
"El Sueño del Celta: The Celtic Dream."

Favorite type of music:
Classical.

Person he most admires:
"My mom and dad. They were good souls and
normal people."

His greatest disappointment:
"There is not enough time to do all that I want to
do and experience it all."

His greatest joy:
"A Mass where everyone is connected and you
feel the Spirit."

His greatest accomplishment:
"Being an authentic person."

His hardest critic:
"I don't know that person and I would rather not."

Thing he most fears:
"Lack of authenticity."

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ARCHBISHOP VISITS FOOD BANK

SEPI FROM 16

country," said Julia Castro, director of immigration and legalization for the Catholic Charities Bureau in Jacksonville, who led the immigration issues update with her assistant, Isrella Martin. The presentation and a question-and-answer session exceeded its allotted 90 minutes, and Castro said she thought they were able to clear up a lot of confusion.

"I did not have good news for them, but I was able to give them tools to face the hard ship," she said. "It was very rewarding."

One of the resources distributed to participants was a pamphlet by Archbishop Thomas Wenski of Miami titled, "Immigration: What the Church teaches." It reads in part: "The Church has taken a position on immigration because it is affecting an economic, social, and legal issue. The Church has taken a position on immigration because it affects a human person and his or her dignity. It is a concern of the Church."

Another workshop, on "Building Inter-Cultural Competence for Volunteers," was presented in two parts over two days of the conference by Alejandro Aguilar, Titus, assistant director of the Secretariat for Hispanic Affairs of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Attendees broke into smaller groups for part of the time devoted to this topic. Among the lessons were an appreciation for the challenges of non-Hispanic cultures and "how to listen and let someone finish" describing a problem before proposing a solution, said Castro, who was attending her fourth encuentro.

Participants enjoyed a "反思 on Saturday evening, and Mass was celebrated by Father Capó the following morning in esp the weekend.

It is traditional for the encuentro to be held in St. Augustine. Bishop Galveston said, because "the first evangelization in the U.S. east was done by Hispanics out of St. Augustine. So in a way it's like a return to the beginning."}

Catechists praised, encouraged

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO

MIAMIHERALD | The Mass was
standing room only and the coffee
ran out. But that was good news for
the Office of Catechesis, as the
900 volunteer catechists and Catho-
lic school teachers joined Our
Lady of the Lakes Parish on Nov. 5
for the annual Catechetical Day.

"I'm so proud of you," Archbishop
Thomas Wenski said at the start of the Mass that kicked off a daylong series of conferences and workshops aimed at renewing, informing and inspiring the faith of thousands of school children in the archdiocese and Catholic schools and children and teens in public schools who enroll in religious education programs or catechists.

The number of people in attendance was "more than we expected," said Peter Ductram, newly appointed director of the Office of Catechesis. "It tells us that next year we need to move to a bigger place."

The catechists heard from keynote speaker Sandra Kennedy, who speaks in English, and Miguel Arias, who speaks in Spanish. They are leaders in the Hispanic and immersion education communities.

Kennedy, a key note speaker Saundra Kennedy addresses the catechists, nearly 900 catechists and school teachers gathered for the annual Catechetical Day held Nov. 5 at Our Lady of the Lakes Parish in Miami Lakes. Archbishop Thomas Wenski celebrated the opening Mass.

Rondarita Rivera, right, director of religious education at St. Michael Parish, chats with one of her catechists, Andrea Amador.

Peter Ductram, director of the Office of Catechesis, addresses the catechists at the start of the day.

"If you feel overwhelmed, sit in prayer, listen to music. Let the Spirit of God inspire you again because we need you. The Church needs you."

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Christmas fair/bazaar, Sunday, Nov. 20, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. St. Gabriel's Catholic Church, 115 Pompano Beach Blvd., Pompano Beach. Sponsored by Council of Catholic Women. Christmas Heirloom Treasures, food, raffles, toys. 954-765-2551.


Festival, through Nov. 21. Immaculate Conception, 4497 W. 27th Ave., Miami. Annual carnival and fundraising event to benefit our parish and school operations. 305-822-4411.

AIDS awareness fair, Saturday, Dec. 4, 7-10 p.m. St. Bartholomew, 8000 NW 20th Ave., Miami. Free aids HIV testing, literature, food & drinks. 788-5549.

"Grandma's Attic" arts/crafts, Saturday, Dec. 4, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. 128 NE 29th St., Miami. Bazaar for gifts. 305-771-3181.

Work of Human hands bazaar, Saturday, Dec. 11, 9-1 p.m. 3755 20th St., North Bay Village. After each Mass, near the bell tower, St. Rose of Lima, 3755 20th St., North Bay Village. 305-851-7322.

Christmas bazaar, Sunday, Dec. 12, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Agnes Academy, 122 Harbor Drive, Key Biscayne. Shopping for entertainment for the entire family. Vendors available. St. AgnesBazaar@gmail.com.

Nature pageant, Friday, Dec. 9, 8:15 p.m. St. Dominic, 3026 W. 16th St., Miami. Features members of all parish ministries. Free Admission. Hot donations accepted. Tofita66@gmail.com. Christmas bazaar, Friday, Dec. 10, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. St. Brendan Flagler Church, 8755 SW 32 St., Miami, Jewelry, clothing, religious gifts, homemade items, art, candles, hair accessories, and food from the famous food trucks all weekend. Free. Vendor applications available. 305-221-2876.

St. Clement fundraising dine & drink, Saturday, Dec. 11, 5 p.m., Broward Convocation Center, 1500 Eisenhower Blvd., Fort Lauderdale. Fort Lauderdale is a full-service dinner, three hours of entertainment and dance with Harmonie Band. 954-738-6666. Tre's Kitchen, Saturday, Dec. 17, 7-9:30 p.m., St. Stephen's, 8001 S State Road 2, Miramar. $60 per table, can be rented at the church office. 305-747-1609.

FAITH EDUCATION

Extraordinary ministers of holy eucharist training seminar, Saturday, Dec. 3, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. St. Paul's, 2800 N.W. 6 St., Miami. 305-592-3731. stpaulcatholic@gmail.com.

Marriage preparation course that teaches the de jure portion of archdiocesan requirements by exploring helpful relevant topics such as expectations, family of origin, faith practice, and marriage more. All Encounters are individually scheduled and run by the parish.

Camino del matrimonio, Saturday, Dec. 3, 8:45 a.m.-5 p.m. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, 1401 Coral Ridge Drive, Coral Springs. Spanish is available. Saturday, Dec. 10, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. St. Cloud's Little Flower, 2711 Indian Mound Trail, Key Biscayne.

Camino del Matrimonio, 10 y 11 de diciembre, San Martin de Porres Parroquia, 7700 S.W. 56 St., Miami. Camino es el programa de preparación matrimonial en español que ofrece la Parroquia de San Martin de Porres en Miami a las parejas que desean casarse en el matrimonio en la iglesia católica. Puedes registrar en www.caminodealmatrimonio.org.

Sacramentality Day, Sunday, Dec. 4, 11 a.m.-12 noon. Archdiocese of Miami Pastoral Institute, 9041 Biscayne Blvd., Miami Shores. Part 1 of 2 of the series of talks that is intended for couples getting married in the Archdiocese of Miami. This program lays the foundation by diving deeper into the sacramentality of marriage, its special significance, and the expectations through God's teachings and grace—lived in a truly joyful-filled marriage. God's plan for every marriage. 305-752-7270, faminedethomos@gmail.com.

Post-Camino del Matrimonio, 13 de diciembre, Southwest Pastoral Institute, 7700 S.W. 56 St., Miami. Programa de preparación para el matrimonio. 305-216-4654, wwww.miamicatholic.org. Movimiento Familiar Cristiano

MASESS/PRAYER SESSIONS

Mass/eucharistic procession, Sunday, Nov. 20, following the 3:30 p.m. Mass, St. Andrea, 19950 N.W. 24 St., Coral Springs. The procession will proceed 1 mile through the city of Coral Springs and return to the church. 954-467-5000.

Señora de Guadalupe, viernes, 2 de diciembre, 7:30 p.m. Iglesia St. Patrick, 3776 Garden Ave., Miami Beach. Requiem Mass in honor of the Virgen de Guadalupe. 305-571-7193.

Centering prayer, Mondays, 5:45 p.m. St. Thomas University Chapel, 14001 N.W. 37 Ave, Miami Gardens. A method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer, in which we experience God's presence within us. This method of prayer is both a relationship with God and a discipline to transform our awareness. 305-628-6765.

RETREATS/DAYS OF REFLECTION

MorningStar Renewal Center, 7275 S.W. 124 St., Miami. One-day retreats are available for all programs. 305-238-4777, morningstarrenewal.org.

"A Novice Look at Advent: Gregorian Chant," Dec. 6, 7-9 p.m. Reflection on Advent as a time of preparation for Advent prayers for a breathing. $15 per person, includes coffee and materials.

"All of Life is Advent," Dec. 7, 14 and 21, 6:30-11:30 a.m. A journey of reflections by Boston College's Father Michael Horan, followed by small group discussions. $15 per person, includes coffee and materials.

"More of Mary," Thursday, Dec. 8, 9 a.m.-11 p.m. Time to pray, reflect and be touched by the life of Mary, with Father Gary Weinmann, retreat director. $10 per person, includes lunch.

Day of reflection, Thursday, Dec. 15, 7-10:30 a.m. Dirt, prayer and time had together. $5 per couple.

"Silently, How little the Wordless Girt Is Given," December, 20, 9, 15 a.m.-1 p.m. Silent retreat, presentations and plenty of time for quiet prayer and reflection. $5 per person, includes lunch.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Virtual workshops help parents, teachers and anyone who works with children to help prevent abuse and stop abusers. Sessions are free, around three hours long, and required for all employees and is mandatory for employees in the Archdiocese of Miami. Due to the subject matter, children are not allowed to attend. To register, log in to www.virtualline.org, click on the yellow word "registration" located on the left-hand side of the page. Click on "get started," then enter your "organization," view list of available sessions, fill out the information, e-mail pryerod@miamiarch.org or call the host entity.


VOCACTIONS

Discernment meetings, Dec. 3 and Dec. 17, St. Mary Cathedral, main office. 7255 N.W. Second Ave., Miami. For men interested in learning more about the priesthood and meeting others who are similarly discerning the Lord's call to a vocation. Spiritual prayer, discussion of topics related to discernment, vocation experiences of a priest and a parish pastor/diocesan Vocation Coordinator.

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

Youth vigil for the Immaculate Conception Confirmation celebration, St. Barnabas, Saturday, Dec. 10, 8 p.m., Our Lady of Lebanon, 11215 S.W. 107 Ave., Miami. All night event with music, dancing, food, prizes and worship, rosary, Bible study, eucharistic adoration and prayer. 305-783-0378 or Fr. Frank's office.

CORRECTIONS

COCANO coffee cooperative. It should be Belize Coffee Cooperative. In the story "Making water safe to drink," the amount of water treated by a Haitian family in their home was misstated. It should have been 25 gallons of water (not 25 buckets, which was the correct amount). In the story "New beginning for St. Philip Neri," what was written by Marcella Quin-
Faith and diplomacy linked

Miguel Diaz, theologian and Vatican ambassador, calls missionaries "indispensable ... agents of positive change!"

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO
Florida Catholic staff

BOSTON — Miguel Diaz, the U.S. ambassador to the Holy See, began his keynote talk at the annual meeting of the Catholic Mission Association by saying that he felt he was "among family." He was referring to the many theologians among the missionaries, as Diaz is the first Hispanic and the first theologian to hold the ambassadorship.

But Diaz was speaking more than figuratively. He was raised in Miami, attended St. Thomas University and St. John Viannay Seminary here, and taught at Barry University. Also, his parents were in the audience.

Diaz brought them along to make a point. "It is oh so very meaningful for me to be addressing you as the American ambassador in the place where my father worked since he arrived from Cuba," he said.

Felix Diaz retired from the Dorfl Benton and Spa, where the conference took place, after working as a waiter there for 25 years.

Miguel Diaz described his life as a Miami Cuban-American at "a time in which the purpose of the mission and cultural experiences are a life "both painful and grace-filled."""''

Diaz said the "discomfort of exile" and the "discomfort of mission" were both painful; "It is oh so very meaningful for me to be addressing you as the American ambassador in the place where my father worked since he arrived from Cuba," he said.

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Diaz pointed out the link between diplomacy and faith, which he maintained has been maintained from ancient times. In fact, he said, the early Christians used ecclesiastical terms to describe their missionary mandate.

Finding common ground between religion and diplomacy is once again of primary importance, Diaz said, because "the world is changing." The world has changed. This is not just state to state diplomacy any more. This is a new age that we're in. Globalization is changing everything."

Diaz said he could imagine diplomatic efforts that teens on Maryland Missionaries to bring justice and peace to parts of the world that governments cannot reach; that tapped the resources

MISSION
FROM 1

That is the challenging part of missionary work — going beyond one's comfort zone in dealing with people of different languages, cultures and traditions — and at the same time acknowledging, as Archbishop Thomas Wenski said in his Oct. 29 homily to the missionaries, that they are not only "guests" in someone else's house and therefore have no right to figuratively help themselves to the food in the refrigerator or change the living room furniture. But Father Benaud issued his audience that those who take on that challenge that discomfort of mission, "will be amply blessed."

The Mass celebrated by Archbishop Wenski at Notre Dame d'Haiti Church in the heart of Miami's Little Haiti district and the dedication celebration that followed were among the highlights of this year's mission conference.

The association also gave its Mission Award 2012 to the Miami-based group AmerasAction, "in recognition for their commitment to mission and global solidarity."

AmerasAction's director, Teresita Gonzalez, has been a famous director of the Archdiocese of Miami's Mission Office and also serves as president of the executive committee of the U.S. Catholic Mission Association.

This year marks the group's 30th anniversary, and in this conference "is really pretty special," said Father Michael Montoya, executive director of the group.

Father Montoya is a native of the Philippines and a member of the Missionaries of Jesus who was sent as a missionary to the U.S. He said mission work is a two-way street, the U.S. right now, as this country is "being seeded and receiving missioners." Among the association's members are missionaries from Bangladesh, India, Haiti, Latin America and the Philippines.

The goal of the conference is to gather all the missionaries and those whose hearts are in mission to deepen their mission perspectives, network with each other, and also to inspire one another," Father Montoya said.

The other keynote speakers at the conference were Sister Madge Karched of the Sisters of St. Joseph Third Order of St. Francis, who directs the Office for Mission Education and Animation for the Archdiocese of Chicago and Miguel Diaz, a Miami-raised theologian who serves as U.S. archbishop to the Holy See, (See accompanying story, this page).

And since his diplomatic mission is "the most specifically religious," he added, "I have been helping our government better understand the role of religious ideas and people in public and foreign policy."
‘Tropical paradise’

Parish gardens provide haven for a variety of species and help kids appreciate God’s creation

MARLENE QUARONI
Florida Catholic correspondent

MIAMI | Crows, ducks, geese, pheasants, swans, shorebirds, doves, self-killed birds, finches, turkeys, chickens, an iguana, rabbits and deer are among the animals living on the grounds of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish.

“I always wanted to be a farmer prior, and I am,” said Father Danielle Kubala, the church’s pastor and a member of the American Pheasant and Waterfowl Society whose members visited the parish as part of their annual convention.

“It’s an incredible privilege to have you choose our church, school and gardens for a visit on this year’s 75th anniversary,” Father Kubala told them. About 50 members of the society rode a tour bus from their convention hotel in Palm Beach Gardens to the 23-acre parish site in South Miami. They toured St. Barto Center, St. Francis of Assisi Gardens, Divine Mercy Gardens and Blessed John Paul II Lake. They ate breakfast and lunch with a Latin flavor, took photographs and watched eighth-grade students perform an interpretative dance about the emu, a small spotted cuscus of Costa Rica, an endangered species.

“Our association advocates wildlife conservation and promotes the breeding of endangered birds and waterfowl species,” said Terry Smith of Bueyrus, Kan., president of the American Pheasant and Waterfowl Society. “I don’t know how we were so lucky to have found this place. We were transported to a tropical paradise. As a former teacher, I am impressed by the students’ involvement with nature.”

Father Kubala and Father Larry Jean, parochial vicar, led members of the association through the gardens. At the lake, society members walked on paths laid with paving stones amid lush tropical landscaping and waterfalls. They crossed wooden bridges where they watched the birds paddle across the lake or take flight. The sound of trumpets swans created the only noise in the gardens.

Four eighth-graders dressed as umbrellas, and two others whose faces were made up to look like endangered birds, wandered among the conventioners.

“Our eighth-graders have won first place in the Faithful Tropical Gardens Challenge,” said Lisa Figueredo, school principal. “The challenge promotes environmental awareness in students who must learn about endangered species.”

Animals in Father Kubala’s collection come from friends, the Internet and Zoo Miami. The landscaping was mostly donated, he said. There are no animals in the garden. For that Father Kubala has a full-time keeper and two part-timers.

“My father taught me to care for God’s creatures,” said Father Kubala. “I’m so happy to turn upWordPress Central City, Pa., into a farm, with a vegetable garden, chickens, ducks, dogs and sheep. It’s been a great part of my philosophy to pass that love of animals and nature on to the young.”

In addition to the animals, students at St. Thomas the Apostle planted an organic vegetable garden, named "Blessed Teresa’s Garden for the Poor." The vegetables grown in the garden are given to the Missionaries of Charity in downtown Miami where homeless men and women are fed. During the year, some of the homeless are taken to St. Thomas the Apostle to visit the gardens and animals.

Gardener Nicholas Villar supervises the school students who plant and harvest the vegetables. He has planted bananas, lemon, lime, papaya, mango and star fruit trees around the grounds. As many as 50 different crops might be growing at one time in the vegetable garden.

“Our school students have been given the opportunity to study alongside some beautiful and rare species of birds as well as simple poultry,” said Father Kubala. “They learn about the incredible imagination of God. Only he could have thought to give us the mind to learn technology and create the beauty and uniqueness of many of the species of birds we have here in this sanctuary.”

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