Merry Christmas

¿Quién podría imaginarse que este pequeño bebé es el Hijo del Altísimo? Sólo ella: su madre. Ella sabe la verdad y guarda el misterio. La fiesta de la Navidad invita a cada uno de nosotros a participar de su mirada, y mirar a este niño a través de sus ojos — a través de los ojos de la fe sencilla y firme — para así reconocer en este niño el rostro humano de Dios ... Dios ha cumplido su promesa. Dios ha hablado. Él nos ha dado su Palabra. Su Palabra es nuestra paz. Su Palabra es nuestra esperanza. Su Palabra es la misericordia. Su Palabra es Jesús.

Arzobispo Thomas Wenski

Navidad de 2011

¿Quién podría imaginar que este pequeño bebé es el Hijo del Altísimo? Sólo ella: su madre. Ella sabe la verdad y guarda el misterio. La fiesta de la Navidad invita a cada uno de nosotros a participar de su mirada, y mirar a este niño a través de sus ojos — a través de los ojos de la fe sencilla y firme — para así reconocer en este niño el rostro humano de Dios ... Dios ha cumplido su promesa. Dios ha hablado. Él nos ha dado su Palabra. Su Palabra es nuestra paz. Su Palabra es nuestra esperanza. Su Palabra es la misericordia. Su Palabra es Jesús.

Arzobispo Thomas Wenski

Navidad de 2011

Who could imagine that this little baby is the Son of the Most High? Only she — his Mother — does. She knows the truth and guards the Mystery. The Christmas feast invites each of us to join in her gaze, and look on this child through her eyes — through those eyes of simple and unwavering faith — and so recognize in this child the human face of God ... God has kept his promise. God has spoken. He has given us his Word. His Word is our peace. His Word is our hope. His Word is mercy. His Word is Jesus.

Archbishop Thomas Wenski

Christmas 2011
St. Thomas University gets ‘supreme’ advice

Justice Antonin Scalia reflects on role of Catholic law school, chats with students

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO
Florida Catholic staff

MIAI.GARDENS | His first talk was formal. His second was a friendly open question-and-answer session. Either way, law students at St. Thomas University got an exceptional glimpse into the mind of a Supreme Court justice.

Associate Justice Antonin Scalia — outspoken, conservative and Catholic — visited St. Thomas Nov. 15 as part of its yearlong 50th anniversary celebration.

After receiving an honorary degree in the morning and the key to the city of Miami Gardens at lunch, he offered some plain-spoken advice to law school faculty and students, explaining his “originalist” views on the Constitution and offering guidance on how to present a case before a judge.

“We all dream about maybe arguing before a Supreme Court judge. It’s nice to hear what they’re looking for before you get there,” said Aretha Austin, a second-year law student at St. Thomas. “It was an incredible honor to actually have him here and actually ask him questions.”

Austin was one of about 400 law school students who attended the question-and-answer session moderated by Douglas Ray, dean of St. Thomas’ law school.

Earlier that morning, all of St. Thomas’ faculty and hundreds of students gathered for an academic convocation where Ray and Msgr. Franklin Casale, St. Thomas’ president, presented Scalia with an honorary doctorate degree.

Scalia is the Supreme Court’s senior associate justice, having been nominated by President Ronald Reagan and confirmed in 1986 by a 98-0 Senate vote. His prepared talk focused on the role of a Catholic law school, and he began by saying that there is no such thing as “Catholic law” other than canon law.

“My nature as a Catholic, my identity as a Catholic can have no impact on a judge’s textual reading of the law, he said. Even in matters such as abortion, “I do not champion their cause, not least from the bench. For one thing, any direct moral questioning of conscience, any matter such soul-wrenching, are to be decided by the people.”

Where Catholic law schools can make a difference, Scalia said, is in the writing of the law, by advocating for legislation that “furthers the Catholic worldview” and arguing against that which does not.

Catholic law schools can emphasize studies in certain aspects of law, such as separation of church and state, family law, education law, legal philosophy and laws governing medical research.

But the most important way they can expand their influence is by nurturing a “distinctively Catholic environment” on campus and fostering in their students “the dedication to living according to that faith,” Scalia said.

That Catholic environment begins with having a visible chapel for prayer and daily Mass, instilling “a community ethos that causes the chapel to get more frequent use,” and making it clear that “the here and now is less important when all is said and done, than the hereafter,” said Scalia, who is a graduate of Jesuit-run Xavier High School in Manhattan and Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

He quoted Cardinal John Henry Newman, who said “liberal educational marks on the Christian, not the Catholic but the gentleman,” Scalia said, and would substitute the word “liberal” for “legal,” and added that “mororal formation is a respectable goal for any educational institution, but an indispensable goal for a religious institution.”

Being arguably religious as an institution is “as American like apple pie,” Scalia noted. “Almost all of the great private universities founded in this country were founded and funded for religious reasons,” he said, citing Harvard, Princeton, the University of Chicago and more recently Pepperdine University in California.

Scalia also reminded St. Thomas’ students and faculty of the Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia reacts after receiving the key to the city from Shirley Gibson, mayor of Miami Gardens. She noted that she is the first mayor of Miami Gardens and he is the first Supreme Court justice to visit the city. At left is Msgr. Franklin Casale, president of St. Thomas University.

“arname and the law is ‘only a remedy for our human failings,’” Scalia said. “In heaven there will be no law, and the lion will lie down with the lamb,” Scalia said. “In hell, there will be nothing but law, and due process will be meticulously observed.”

Ray, the dean of St. Thomas’ law school, said he invited Scalia to visit because he knew from his days as law school dean at the University of Toledo, where Scalia also visited, that the associate justice likes to interact with law school students and serve as an “embassador of our justice system.”

“The (Supreme) Court is very busy in November, so it is extrano-

This painting by a Haitian artist was presented to Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia before his question-and-answer session with St. Thomas University law school students. The university support an artists project in Port-de-Paix in Haiti that he would come a share in the celebration with the students and artists, Ray said. "It was a part of the invitation. I told him about the 50th anniversary celebration and I think that made difference."
Farmworker organization honors founding member

TOM TRACY
Florida Catholic correspondent

MIAMI | It has been so long since the creation of the Catholic Migration Farmworker Network that Patricia Stockton almost forgot she was one of the directors.

The group celebrated its 25th anniversary at the end of October during a national gathering in Immaculate Conception Parish in Sacramento, Calif.

The Catholic Migrant Farmworker Network started as a membership organization for migrant to residence and pastoral outreach workers. Its purpose was to provide accommodations and political development for farmworkers and rural immigrants as they move from state to state.

Stockton, who worked for the Miami Archdiocese for many years in farmworker ministry and later campus ministry, attended the gathering in California, where she was connected with people involved in the past and current work of the farmworker network, along with farmworkers and pastoral leaders from across the country.

Stockton, who now works as a clinical social worker for a hospice in South Florida, spoke about Florida Catholic after her return from California. She talked about the difficulties that migrant workers face and also touched upon how the holidays season is a time for Catholics in particular to show gratitude to the people who help put food on everyone’s table.

What do you remember about the early years of the Catholic Migrant Farmworker Network?

As we were about eight people who thought it would be a good idea to create a little structure around the farmworkers’ lives, because they travel across state lines working with the various crops, they need support both in their Church communities but also that of other support. Religious women and men would meet with them to be different, towns and serve as pastoral agents, serving as a bridge to the communities they lived in.

Where is farmworker ministry and Catholic Migrant Farmworker Network today?

As far as I know, this has been accomplished. They no longer have clergy working with them and the organization has started focusing more on training the “receiving communities” by going to parishes to train people to do (many of) the same things. Another thing that is new is a farmworker immersion experience program for the students from Creighton University in Omaha. N.B.: This is an example of how students will be involved in farmworker groups directly in their future jobs; these experiences can change their lives. The students see how hard those people work and how difficult their lives are. That is a good no matter what field of study they pursue; they will engage their work in a different way because of these experiences.

What has happened since the founding of the farmworkers’ movement?

On the many things that have been accomplished, they no longer have clergy working with them and the organization has started focusing more on training the “receiving communities” by going to parishes to train people to do (many of) the same things. Another thing that is new is a farmworker immersion experience program for the students from Creighton University in Omaha. N.B.: This is an example of how students will be involved in farmworker groups directly in their future jobs; these experiences can change their lives. The students see how hard those people work and how difficult their lives are. That is a good no matter what field of study they pursue; they will engage their work in a different way because of these experiences.

Fiesta’ at St. Ann

Mission to farmworkers in South Dade celebrates 50 years

JONATHAN MARTINEZ
Florida Catholic correspondent

NARANJA | Parishioners of St. Ann Mission went into "Fiesta" mode to celebrate the church’s 50th anniversary.

"In a very special way I want to congratulate you, your pastor, all who have worked with you, especially the parents who provide the agricultural community in southern Miami-Dade County. In particular are the farmers who are the backbone of this community," said Bishop Agustín Román, Miami’s retired auxiliary bishop, during a Mass celebrated Nov. 6 at the church. "May the Lord bless you all and may this celebration mark the beginning of a holy year, a year of joy, a year of happiness, because it is a year in which we embrace Christ. May your patron St. Ann, who is the mother of the Virgin, pray for us so that we can reach our children as the taught the Virgin.

Founded by Archbishop Coleman Carroll, first archbishop of Miami, the small mission serves the agricultural community in southern Miami-Dade County. Its parishes are primarily Mexican, Guatemalan, Salvadoran and Cuban.

"Archbishop Carroll spoke of this work. This was for him something very special, because it was for the Mexican people, who have a tremendous reverence for faith, so that they might keep their faith and grow in faith," Bishop Román said during the homily.

Preceding the Mass was Msgr. Pedro Garcia, who served as administrative assistant for the mission for the past 30 years. "The people help us with food and many other things that we need help."

In July 2011, when Msgr. Garcia retired, Archbishop Thomas Wenski assigned Father Jesús Alberto Rovira as administrator of the mission.

"I’m very happy. It’s a very great blessing, after just four months of being here, to have such a significant event for the whole community," said Father Rovira. "The authenticity and humility of the people is something that makes me think, and also seeing the need of the people for the faith.

The Mass was celebrated in front of hundreds of parishioners with plenty of music and a festive spirit. "I’m very happy, so fortunate, 50 years for this parish," said Cecilia Guzman, a parishioner for the past 20 years. "Many of us are from another country and thank God for all the help and the church is a sacrifice of love and sacrifice."

"I want to thank all the people and the support and the love of the people," said Father Rovira. "The people were here in front of the church and they were singing, and they were dancing, and they were happy."
God has spoken with his Word

En el día de Navidad, la Anunciación se cumple en el tiempo de la espera terrenal, y la Virgen da a luz en Belén. 

En el año de Navidad, Jesús nace para una humanidad que estaba en busca de libertad y paz. Nacía para todos los seres humanos abrumados por el pecado, necesitados de salvación y señores de la esperanza.

Aquella noche brilló un nuevo día, lleno de la luz de una esperanza auspiciante, que despejó las tinieblas impuestas a las gentes humanas por el pecado y la desesperanza.

A lo largo de los siglos, la gente ha cantado, Anunciación, Alvina, Dios ha escuchado, y respondiendo con una sola palabra, Señor eterno, Esta Palabra, dicha al principio de los tiempos, trajo consigo la creación de todas las cosas. 

Ahora, en esta Palabra, esta última Palabra, dicha en el tiempo de esta mañana, nuestra carne misteriosa y sensible para que en ella y en El, nos gloríe, con El, nos gloríe, con El, nos gloríe, con El, nos gloríe, con El, nos gloríe.

Dios ha hablado por medio de su Palabra.

Dios ha hablado por medio de su Palabra.
**Fiesta en Santa Ana**

**Misión a trabajadores agrícolas del sur de Miami-Dade celebra 50 años**

**JONATHAN MARTINEZ**
Miami Catholic Correspondent

**NARANJA** La Misión de Santa Ana se pone de fiesta a principios de noviembre para celebrar los 50 años.

"De una manera muy especial queremos festejar, a ustedes, a todos los que han trabajado con nosotros, sobre todo a los padres de familia que con los hijos guían, esa luz para que no se pierda el camino. Al mismo tiempo, celebramos el 50 aniversario de la Florida y está integrada principalmente por hispanos, guatemaltecos, salvadoreños y haitianos.

"El Archbishop Carroll ha hablado de esta obra, de esto que para él era algo muy especial, porque era para que el pueblo mexicano, que era una región tremenda en la Iglesia, pudiera escuchar su fe y celebrar su fe, dijo Mons. Lopez durante la homilía.

"En toda la misa estuvo Mons. Pedro Garcia, quien fue el administrador de la misión durante los últimos 15 años.

"Los niños son algo muy importante para la Iglesia Católica. Son una generación de evangelizadores", dijo el P. Garcia. "Estas misas en particular están destinadas a unir al pueblo en común para unir a los pueblos que trabajan en el campo. Nosotros los ayudaremos para que escuchen el evangelio y también ayude a los niños.

"La labor de la Misión Santa Ana se extiende a través de los campesinos migratorios del sur de Florida, el Sur de Miami-Dade, Redland y Everglades. Se estima que la misa atiende las necesidades de más de 1,000 familias en el área.

"Me siento feliz, llegado de mi país, fui primero a esta iglesia", dijo María Sánchez, feligresa de Santa Ana durante los últimos 15 años. "La parroquia nos ayuda con muchas cosas y con muchos beneficios a todos los que nos necesitamos de su ayuda.

"Desde julio del 2011, cuando se recibió el P. García, el P. José Alayo no le habló por las buenas que fue asignado por el P. Archbishop Thomas Wenke como administrador de la misión. "Me siento muy feliz, es una bendición grandiosa, tan solo con un par de meses tengo que estar aquí, tener el honor de sacar una misa importante para toda la comunidad", dijo el P. Alayo.

"La parroquia de Santa Ana se celebra hasta ciertos días de fiestas con música y espíritu de fiesta. "Me siento muy contento, que a decir, 50 años de esta iglesia está por llegar", dijo Antonio Guzmán, feligresa de la iglesia durante los últimos 25 años. "Muchos de nosotros estamos fuera de nuestro país y aquí es como tener un pedacito de nuestra patria. Todos tenemos nuestras tradiciones, nuestras creencias, nuestras costumbres y aquí nos podemos celebrar."

**FARMLAND FROM 3**

Q: You have expressed concern about the effect of the previous high-cost commodity prices on rural work in Florida. What has been happening in Homestead for a lot. The word is "green". It is plainly about how can we grow, how can we build, and how can we reach ecological balance? For example, what is happening in South Miami and Homestead, so I am passing through Homestead with a different function from my eyes are fixed on if you have been in this ministry you have never left.

Q: How do you feel the farmer's market is doing compared to recent years? It seems to me that it has never been busier than it is now. The food is fresh and the people are happy. As we move towards a more urban society, we need to have these things going, because they bring joy to the people. They are a bridge to the urban community so let them know that the farm workers exist."

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULES**

**MIAMI**

- **Miami Beach**
  - **Good Shepherd**
    - **1218 N.W. 22nd St.**
    - **www.goodepiscopal.org**
    - **305-294-8430**
    - **Reconciliation Dec. 18, 8 a.m. (Spanish)**
    - **Christmas Eve, 4 p.m. (English), 5 p.m. (English)**
    - **Christmas Day, 8 a.m. (Spanish)**
    - **St. Hugh**
    - **960 Royal Road**
    - **www.christians.org**
    - **305-434-4033**
    - **Reconciliation Dec. 24, 4-6 p.m. (Spanish)**
    - **Christmas Eve, 5 p.m. (Family Mass)**
    - **Christmas Day, 11 a.m. (Spanish)**
    - **Visitation**
    - **100 AVE. B**
    - **www.reciendoelamor.com**
    - **305-437-0702**
    - **Reconciliation Dec. 16, 7-9 p.m.**
    - **Christmas Eve, 5 p.m. (English)**
    - **Christmas Day, 5 p.m. (Spanish)**
    - **New Year's Eve, 5 p.m.**
    - **NEW YEAR'S DAY, noon**

**MIAMI SPRINGS**

- **Blessed Trinity**
  - **2300 NW 44th Ave.**
  - **www.blessedtrinity.org**
  - **305-393-3789**
  - **Reconciliation Dec. 24, 4-6 p.m. (Spanish)**
  - **Christmas Eve, 4 p.m. (Spanish), 5 p.m. (Spanish)**
  - **Christmas Day, 10 a.m. (Spanish)**
  - **New Year's Eve, 5 p.m. (Spanish)**

**PALMETTO BAY**

- **Holy Rosary-St. Richard**
  - **2000 SW 121st St.**
  - **www.holyrosaryst richard.org**
  - **305-233-7071**
  - **Christmas Eve, 6 p.m. (English)**
  - **Christmas Day, 8:30 a.m. (Spanish)**
  - **New Year's Eve, 6 p.m. (English)**
  - **New Year's Day, 10 a.m. (Spanish)**

**TAVERNIER**

- **San Pedro O.S.B.O**
  - **1000 O'Shaughnessy Highway**
  - **305-694-5727**
  - **Christmas Eve, 5 p.m. (Spanish)**
  - **Christmas Day, 11 a.m. (Spanish)**

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  - **OWINGS MILLS**
  - **Beverly Hills**
  - **Coral Gables**
  - **Forresdale**
  - **Winter Park/Baldwin Park**
  - **Delray Beach**
  - **West Palm Beach**
  - **Boynton Beach**
  - **Delray Beach**
  - **Palm Beach Gardens**
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Pedro Pan: Making history in slow motion

ANNA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO
Florida Catholic Staff

MIAMI BEACH — One problem with documenting the history of Pedro Pan is that it was not as much a plan as an ongoing series of responses to the desperate desire of Cuban parents to avoid Communist indoctrination of their children.

"I didn't know that there were 14,000 of us," said Carlos Eiro, a professor of history at Yale and a child of Pedrino Pan who has authored two books on his experience, "Waiting for Snow in Havana" and "Learning to Die in Miami."

"Nobody in Cuba called it Operation Pedro Pan," said Victor Andres Trías, a professor of history at Miami Dade Community College in Miami Beach, Cuba, and co-author of "Fleeing Castro: Operation Pedro Pan and the Cuban Children's Program." It was an extraordinary process. It happened against the backdrop of the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Berlin Wall, the Vietnam War and the Cultural Revolution in China.

"It was an evolutionary process," Trías said. Up until the Cuban revolution, the island's government had a program to recruit and train children for work in the Soviet Union. When the revolution swept through Cuba, it was kicked out.

"The Cuban side, the plan originally entailed getting 250 children out of the island whose parents were involved in Cuban activities. They were worried about what would happen to their children if they were killed or captured, so they approached James Baker, who had a history of children,

More on Pedro Pan — need a story on Leslie High School's connection to Pedro Pan. Page 56

At about the same time, in November 1960, a 15-year-old named Pedro who had been sent out of Cuba to live with relatives in Miami, arrived at the office of an Irish-born Miami lawyer, Edward J. Walsh. He directed the Catholic Welfare Bureau (now Catholic Charities), which was then primarily a child care and adoption agency with about 60 children under its care.

Walsh's relatives had been unable to take care of him, and he had been found living in the streets, out of food. Walsh was said to have agreed to take him in, and the boy's name was changed to Eiro.

"He was a pleasant young man," Walsh said. "I felt sorry for him. I gave him food and clothes and a place to stay."

"The silence that surrounds our history is disturbing," Eiro told an audience of Pedro Pan veterans gathered for a weekend-long academic conference and reunion marking the 50th anniversary of their exodus — an exodus that began in December 1960 and ended in December 1962, when the Cuban missile crisis shot down direct flights to Florida from Miami and Havana.

"The conference brought together about 250 Pedro Pan veterans from South Florida and parts of the U.S. It was co-sponsored by the University of Miami and Miami Dade Community College.

"We've never had this before," said Carmen Vendiola, former president of the Pedro Pan Alumni Association.
Pedro Pan: the legacy of two men

RELATIVES, Archbishop Thomas Wenski reflect on life, example of Msgr. Bryan Walsh and James Baker

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO
Herald Catholic Staff

MIA MBEACH — To Dermot O'Brien and Rosina Perry, Msgr. Bryan Walsh was simply "Uncle Bryan," who came to visit often and was always present for family weddings, baptisms and funerals. He helped raise Rosina's father, New York City school principal, who fled to Cuba. It was a family tradition to visit Cuba, and the impact he had on so many lives.

O'Brien is the chairman of the Cuban Aid Society, who helped to raise funds to help Cuban children. He said that Msgr. Walsh's legacy was one of compassion and dedication, and that he will be remembered for his tireless work on behalf of Cuban children.

AN ELOY CEPERO was one of 700 Protestant children sent out of Cuba under Pedro Pan. He and his two brothers were placed in a foster home through a Protestant agency and the United Methodist Church of Christ in Coral Gables. The foster home was that of MacGregor Smith, then chairman of the Presbyterian Association in Coral Gables, "We had a maid, we had a chauffeur and we had a butler in Coral Gables," Cepero said, recalling the contrast with his life in Cuba. Smith treated the three Cepero boys as his own children and guided them through adolescence and early adulthood.

A young father Bryan O. Walsh is pictured above. His signed visa waivers were copied all over Cuba by parents desperate to get their children off the island to avoid Communist indoctrination after all private and religious schools were shut down.

Pictured is James Baker, headmaster of the Ruston Academy in Havana. His students' parents were worried about the fate of their children should they be jailed. Through contacts with Msgr. Bryan Walsh, he provided the way for minors to reach the U.S. and be cared for by the Catholic Church.

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Perez Group Inc., the organization formed in 1994 by the now-grown children of Pedro Pan, "This is a look back and to look ahead," said Perez, especially since the history is now being documented by some and "touched" by others. "We need to prevent situations such as the one that forced our parents to send us away.

Perez Pan are currently in the process of videotaping the oral histories of their parents, wherever their children are abroad, with the aim of gaining more than a visa waiver that allowed them to enter the U.S. and find faith in the Catholic Church. Eventually they hope to videotape their own stories, which some such as Perez have already written about.

But were it not for the saga of Eloy O'Brien in 2000, Eleny never have written his final memoir, "Waiting for Snow in Havana." For years, he said, he kept his story to himself, even when others in his academic circles would "know the tale of how wonderful the Cuban revolution was. It was so painful.

Eleny, the boy whose mother died at sea attempting to leave Cuba, and whose relatives in Miami subsequently faced custody with his father on the Island, "represented everything to me about our history," he said. "This boy was a symbol. He was me. He was every one of us. He wasboxing, boxing, boxing!"

As the story goes, the boxer, "the Cuban legend," was the son of a local Havana boxing club. He was a national hero of Cuba, and his story is told in the Cuban Boxing Club.

Among those who spoke at the ceremony were:

Armando Valderrama, who served 30 years as a political prisoner in Cuba during which he authored his first book, "Declaración de la Libertad," or "From My Wheelchair.", Valderrama was appointed by President Ronald Reagan as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations' Commission on Human Rights.

Dermot O'Brien and Rosina Perry, nephews and nieces, respectively, of Msgr. Bryan Walsh and Chris Baker, son of James Baker, who reflected on their relatives' legacy.

Jean Clark, professor emeritus of sociology at Miami-Dade College, who wrote the Pedro Pan exodus in the context of Cuban history before and after Fidel Castro.

PLEASE SEE PEDRO PAN, 27

Please see Legacy, 36

Marcos Kerbel is one of nearly 400 Jewish children who came to the U.S. via Operation Pedro Pan. Their care was entrusted to the Hebrew International Aid Society. He was reunited with his parents 17 months after his exodus, settled with his family in Atlanta, worked as an international banker and now teaches finance at Florida International University.

A young father Bryan O. Walsh is pictured above. His signed visa waivers were copied all over Cuba by parents desperate to get their children off the island to avoid Communist indoctrination after all private and religious schools were shut down.

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Advice to media: First, do no harm

Advocates want human trafficking story told, but not at any cost

TOM TRACY
Florida Catholic correspondent

MIAMI GARDENS — Human trafficking watchdogs concede they have probably lost ground against the growing number of modern-day enslavement, so they encourage the media to tell the victims' stories — especially in Florida, the state with the third-largest human trafficking problem nationwide.

But the public awareness and media campaigns against human trafficking should not come at the expense of victims' overall well-being and of criminal prosecutorial considerations.

That was the message a panel of media and legal experts gave to journalists, attorneys, law students and others at St. Thomas University's School of Law Nov. 18. The event was part of the university's ongoing special project to provide leadership on the human trafficking problem both regionally and on an international level.

Whether it's agricultural workers held in servitude, domestics or resort and hotel staff working without real freedom, or sex workers and prostitution rings ensnared in suburban homes, human trafficking can be found in all cities and towns of Florida, even in seemingly safe areas for each operation.

"It's important for victims to discuss details of their story to the media with eyes wide open because it could have an effect on prosecution — even in cases that are no longer active," said Tamara Larson, criminal law professor at St. Thomas and a former deputy district attorney in Las Vegas.

"The same care we bring to protecting the identity of children in child abuse cases applies to all human trafficking cases," Larson said, adding that there is often a public bias against the persons being trafficked.

With a grant from the U.S. Justice Department, St. Thomas University has been assisting in a number of community events and workshops through its Human Trafficking Initiative, a kind of virtual educational effort that brings to bear Catholic Church principles on the dignity of the human being to the trafficking issue.

The need to work more carefully with the local media in covering the story comes after a series of mistakes with the victims who are either re-traumatized by recalling their stories or who jeopardize their privacy in one way or another, or who compromise law enforcement's efforts to bring the trafficking criminal to justice.

Inconsistencies in a victim's story as told to the media have often compromised the attempts to throw out otherwise valid cases of human trafficking.

Some of the problems have been blamed on novice journalists, naive victims who feel compelled to speak too freely about their experience, or poor handling by the attorneys and social workers who accompany human trafficking victims in their media interviews.

"Victims sometimes feel compelled to talk, but we aren't sure who's involved or lawyers have to be careful not to take advantage of that by asking them to talk to the media," said Mercedes Ludwig, an attorney and co-director of VIDA Legal Assistance. (TOM TRACY, Florida Catholic)

University plays leadership role on human trafficking

TOM TRACY
Florida Catholic correspondent

MIAMI GARDENS — Situated in an area ripe for human trafficking activity, St. Thomas University will host a forum Tuesday to develop a stronger community response.

"We are seeing an increase in awareness with more investigations and prosecutions moving forward," said Ana Isabel Vallejo, project coordinator of the Human Trafficking Initiative at St. Thomas University School of Law.

The law school hosted a panel discussion last year to help local care providers and law enforcement bring greater media attention to human trafficking without harming the victims in the process.

St. Thomas faculty and administration have been involved in the issue through a meeting of the Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking. Earlier this year, in collaboration with the Department of State's embassy to the Holy See, St. Thomas participated in a conference in Rome called "Building Bridges of Freedom: Public-Private Partnerships to End Modern Day Slavery."

The Vatican conference was the first of many that will take place over the next two years with specific funding from a grant managed by the U.S. Department of Justice. The grant aims to raise human trafficking awareness and to promote further public-private collaboration.

In 2009, Congress passed the Trafficking and Violence Protection Act, which established the penalties against perpetrators of human trafficking and provided more funding to combat trafficking and assist its victims.

Through its Human Trafficking Initiative, St. Thomas will host a symposium Jan. 27, 2012, called "Justice at the Door," to address household domestic violence under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

The event will promote research, outreach, training and networking for practitioners and community leaders.

The event will also promote education and awareness, as well as a much-needed policy and research agenda for combating human trafficking in the South Florida region and beyond.

Rosa Pati, director of the Human Trafficking Initiative and a professor of law at St. Thomas University, speaks at a conference in Rome earlier this year called "Building Bridges of Freedom: Public-Private Partnerships to End Modern Day Slavery." (COURTESY)

For more information on St. Thomas University's Human Trafficking Initiative, call 305-474-2467.
Christ the King marks 50th

‘Little church in the pines’ is all grown up, raising funds for new church building

MARLENE QUARONI
Saint Catholic correspondent

PERKIN | When it was founded in 1919, Christ the King became the fourth predominantly African-American Catholic parish in Miami-Dade County.

Today, its parishioners represent several different races, languages and cultures—so much so that the parish motto is “Where love is international.”

“Christ the King started in 1919 as a mission of Holy Redeemer,” said Leon Sharpe, a parishioner since 1970 who helped celebrate for a 50th anniversary Mass at the church on Nov. 29, the feast day of Christ the King. “A Jesuit priest from Holy Redeemer would make the Sunday visit to Perkino where he would celebrate Mass at St. Frank C. Martin Elementary School.”

In 1962, Archbishop Coleman Carroll dedicated a new 400-seat church, the King church building and rectory on a 36-acre archdiocesan site in Perkino for a congregation of 750. Before the rectory was built the first pastor, Josephine Father Donald Butler, lived at the December 2011 www.thefloridacatholic.org

YOur MIAMI COMMUNITY 9

ministry Retreat House in Kendall where he organized the parish and supervised the construction of the new facility.

By 1917 the congregation of the Little church in the pines grew to 1,000 and 565 students were in the CCD program and a parish hall with classrooms was dedicated,” said Sharpe. “In 1977, the archdiocese took over the administration of the parish from the Jesuits.”

Hurricane Andrew destroyed most of the parish in August 1992 and badly damaged the church. The National Board set up a relief center and several church facilities were used for the CDR program, and a parish hall with classrooms was dedicated.”

In 1977, the archdiocese took over the administration of the parish from the Jesuits.”

Archbishop Thomas Wenski greets Christ the King parishioner Lisa Jones at the end of the 90th anniversary Mass celebrated on the feast day of the same name. Historically, Christ the King was one of four predominantly African-American parishes, but it is now the spiritual home of a variety of ethnic and cultural groups.

Blessing of the new church was done by the old church, hall and rectory were repaired with a new roof and windows. In order to accommodate the growing congregation, the hall, separated from the church by a concrete floor, was used as part of

Please see Parish, 39

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Local Catholics promote ‘La Ultima Cima’

TOM TRACY
South Florida correspondent

MIAMI | South Florida Catholics have organized local screenings of a religious documentary film, celebrating the life of a priest who was killed in a mountaineering accident. The story of Father Dominguez, who died in Madrid, is depicted in a dynamic, narrative film about the priest and his life as a missionary and seminary instructor. The film’s story, titled ‘La Ultima Cima’ (‘The Last Summit’), was presented largely by word of mouth and eventually made its way into theaters around Spain and internationally.

Organizers in Miami-based film screenings for clergy, seminarians, educators, Pastoral Center staff and others Dec. 14 at Belen Jesuit Preparatory School in Miami and Dec. 15 at the Miracle Theater in Coral Gables. The film is expected to be available to talk about his movie and other works during question-and-answer sessions following the preview screenings.

“The effect a priest can have on a life is just incredible,” said investment manager Francisco Alarcon, an active member of the Emanu Emanuel retreat team and parishioner at St. Agnes in Key Biscayne.

Alarcon met the filmmaker Conde while in Spain last year and invited him to attend the local preview event for “The Last Summit” as part of an effort to generate interest in the project. Alarcon said he had another area Catholic, Jose Felix Rivas, a member of St. Hugh Parish in Coconut Grove, write a letter to Conde and to invest their time and personal resources to bring “The Last Summit” to Miami.

“You will see the life of an incredibly inspiring priest, who was happy, gifted, who worked with young people, who was incredibly smart and who attributed all his skills and gifts as coming from God to bring to the community,” Alarcon said. “Through his life we learn about the priesthood and the beauty of the priesthood.”

A native of Venezuela and a graduate of Belen Jesuit schools there, Alarcon said “The Last Summit” does a good job of showing not only the good of the priest and his impact on his community. The priest was considered an experienced mountaineer and had reached the top of Elba’s peaks with heights of more than two miles, and peaks in the Alps more than four miles high, along with other climbing experiences in the Americas and Asia. Father Dominguez also celebrated Mass at the summit.

He left to his death on Feb. 15, 2009, during a climb on Montoya Peak in northern Spain.

Through one priest we get to see the priesthood with new eyes, in a film that shows us that priests are human beings, that there are incredibly good people who work long hours, who often live alone, who many times have no one to look after them, and yet they devote their lives to the world’s most important roles,” Alarcon said.

He credits the filmmaker’s experience for giving him a sense of community and a sense of what it means to be Catholic.

PLEASE SEE SUMMIT

Francisco Alarcon, left, of St. Agnes Parish in Key Biscayne, poses with Juan Manuel Conde, center, director of the film “The Last Summit,” and fellow Emanu Emanuel alumni Jose Felix Rivas, a member of St. Hugh’s in Coconut Grove, who has been instrumental in promoting the movie in South Florida. (COURTESY Florida Catholic, December 2012)
The Florida Catholic celebrates Archbishop Emeritus John C. Favalora on the occasion marking the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood and the 35th anniversary of his becoming a bishop.

Clockwise from top left, well-wishers congratulate Archbishop Favalora after a Dec. 6 Mass marking his milestone anniversaries, Archbishop Favalora smiles during the celebration of his 75th birthday in 2005; a photo of Then-Bishop Favalora of Alexandria, La.; Archbishop Favalora during his Miami installation in 1994; at his installation as bishop of St. Petersburg, then-Bishop Favalora celebrates Mass with Archbishop Edward McCarthy of Miami, center, and Bishop Emeritus W. Thomas Larkin of St. Petersburg; and Archbishop Favalora shares a smile with girls of Indian descent in 1996.
ARCHBISHOP JOHN CLEMENT FAVALORA

Your intelligent, wise, gentle and personal shepherding of the Dioceses of Alexandria, St. Petersburg and the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Miami has enriched us in so many wonderful ways. On behalf of the Diocese of St. Augustine, we rejoice with you for your faithful service to the Church.

Bishop Felipe J. Estévez
Thanks for being ‘a faithful servant’

Retired Archbishop John C. Favalora celebrates 50 years of priesthood and 25 years as a bishop

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO
Florida Catholic staff

MIAMI — For about an hour on the evening of Dec. 5, Miami’s Archbishop Emeritus John C. Favalora carried a circular, the staff that symbolizes the bishop’s responsibility as shepherd of the faithful, and sat in the cathedra, the bishop’s chair in the cathedral, which also symbolizes his authority.

It was a generous gesture of respect from his successor in Miami, Archbishop Thomas Wenski, which Archbishop Favalora graciously acknowledged.

“Thank you for inviting me to use your staff,” he said at the end of a Mass marking the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood and the 25th anniversary of his becoming a bishop.

On hand were Florida’s bishops — nearly all of whom Archbishop Favalora either consecrated or installed — plus about 150 archdiocesan priests, seminarians, men and women religious, and others who worked with the retired archbishop throughout his 15-year tenure in South Florida.

“I’m sure you could not imagine, archbishop, the road ahead — on that ordination day in 1961, Archbishop Wenski told his predecessor at the end of the Mass, ‘So many changes, so much turmoil, so many exciting times and challenging times,’ including the changes that would result from the Second Vatican Council which started a few months later.

Yet through all that, “you remained a faithful servant” of the Lord, Archbishop Wenski said. “We are grateful for that. We are grateful for the years you spent shepherdling this sometimes tumultuous flock,” and for having said “yes” to the “great mystery” that is the vocation to the priesthood.

The good thing about retirement, Archbishop Wenski added, is that “you can be as occupied as you want to be without being preoccupied. You have to be the one who’s preoccupied.”

“For all those things, I am happy to vacate this seat,” Archbishop Favalora replied in reply, looking rested and happy to retire.

Miami’s archbishop emeritus now divides his time between his native New Orleans and his adopted Miami. When in South Florida, he spends his days volunteering at the Missionaries of Charity shelter and Catholic House.

He was ordained, as he put it, on a “very cold, very rainy” Dec. 5, 1961, in St. Peter’s Basilica, along with his classmate Msgr. William Hennessey, former vicar general of the archdiocese, who also consecrated the archdiocesan Mass.

He and Msgr. Hennessey will be traveling back to Rome this month to mark that anniversary with their other classmates — including Cardinal Seán P. O’Malley.
God did provide

The following is a reprint of an article that appeared in the May 2006 issue of the Miami Catholic.

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO

MIAMI — In April 1995, just a few months after being installed as Archbishop of Miami, Archbishop John C. Cardinal O’Connor began the practice of sitting down each Monday morning to record “Conversations With the Archbishop.”

He explained that was “his idea,” and it remained so for the next 15 years, interrupted only by travel, funerals or summer vacation.

The program consists of the segments, ideally no longer than 10 minutes each, which aired weeks days on Radio Peace 710 AM and later 1060 AM. Since spring of last year, the program can be heard online at www.miamichurch.org.

On April 26, Archbishop Favalora sat down once more to record “Conversations.” This time, he looked back on his tenure in Miami and his plans for retirement. Following is an edited version of those recordings.

Q: Last week at this time it was being announced that your retirement had been accepted by the Holy Father and that Bishop Thomas Wenski of Orlando is going to be Miami’s new Archbishop. He’s returning to the place where he was ordained a priest, where he was auxiliary bishop, So we want the inside scoop on the new archbishop. Now, tell us how this whole process came about.

A: At the age of 75, every bishop has to turn in a letter of resignation to the Pope. The Pope accepts or rejects it. Sometimes it can take weeks or months for him to accept it. So it’s decided that it’s been here for the archbishop that I did something on the front end instead of waiting for someone to be appointed for a year or so later, because of the complications of this disease and the international complexities that are involved here.

Number two, because of the financial situation that we have been going through for the past two or three years, it would be important for the person who was going to come in to have time to understand that. That’s the reason why I asked for a conclave. A conclave is your successor being appointed ahead of time – usually not more than a year. Then he has the time to understand things and to get an idea of what is going on before he has to take over and make decisions. It’s also desirable because someone in your last year as bishop you have to make decisions that will affect his future, and it would be better to have him in the room to be able to discuss things before you make the decision.

So I began a year and a half ago or so, I began to prepare a complete report on the state of the diocese, and I gave several presentations of recommendations of candidate to the Pope. All of these were sent in late January of 2009.

My understanding was that by May they actually began their investigation. They probably sent out 50 or 60 letters to people in the archdiocese – lay people, religious, priests – to bishops of the province, and I don’t know to whom else.

I discovered this February who the successor was going to be. When I discovered, the man who had worked here 25 years and knew the place, spent more time here than I did, there didn’t seem to be much sense in having him appointed as a coadjutor. He knew the place very well. There was no reason to delay the transition, no reason for me to stay on until December. So I proceeded with the papal nuncio to check the possibility of my presenting my resignation and leaving him appointed as archbishop of the place.

So then I had to request permission to send a letter of resignation.

In April 1995, just a few months after being installed as archbishop, Archbishop John C. Favalora began the practice of sitting down each Monday morning to record “Conversations With the Archbishop.” He explained that was his idea, and it remained so for the next 15 years, interrupted only by travel, funerals or summer vacation.

A: I will be moving into a house that Archbishop O’Connor used to live in which is a gift. That has been moved into a residence with some kids. Auxiliary Bishop Hiebert helped me and Mike, William, Crispin, the vicar general, lived here with them.

Q: So you’re going to stay in Miami. You’re not going to go to Orlando?

A: I have my family there, so I’ll go back and I suppose they haven’t decided exactly how I’ll spend time, or how the winter is going to work. So it’s in the summer in the same town, it’s in Orlando. It’s too humid in New Orleans. The heat here is a lot cooler and it will give me a little more winter – not that there’s any snow in New Orleans.

Q: What are your plans?

A: Well, the first and I think the strength is knowing that plans have been made, and you have time to be a pastor, as director of the Hispanic Apostolate. He’s been the one to really develop the theme to the Hispanic community at the church on the way which leadership positions that it has over the years, not only in the church in the community, but also was director of Catholic Church of a number of years in and the Hispanic community as part of the leadership positions that it has and has had as much experience as it would want. It’s rare that one comes in with such much understanding and appreciation of the diocese and the workings of the diocese he has.

Number two, he has always been involved in the Hispanic community. He’s been chairman U.S. bishops’ Latin American mission, and the Vatican’s International Relations Committee.
REFLECTIONS: Archbishop Favalora reflects on the joys and disappointments of his time in Miami

FROM AM

the Immigration Committee. He has a master's degree in sociology, which he believes is critical for understanding contemporary issues and is working to bring faith communities together to combat social issues.

Number three, he has excellent linguistic skills. He is fluent in Creole — I mean, he speaks Creole better than some Haitians do. And he's also extremely well-traveled. He's been all over the United States. He's been to Portugal. He's been to Spain. He has a lot of qualifications and a lot of experience in the administration of a large diocese like Orlando.

He's also known as a people person. He's dealt with the flock, the community, for example, so he doesn't have to start finding a new location to go to.

Q: Do you have a been member of the Miami area? What will you miss about him?

A: Well, I always remember the funerals things are great, and everyone one of the joys that I enjoyed, of course the funerals and the processions and the ceremony, and the beauty, but also the beauty on a daily basis, the beauty on a daily basis.

Q: Do you have any advice to the community? What will you miss about him?

A: I would say that the community is so important. It's so important to the community and to the people, and it's so important to the people, and the community is so important, and the community is so important.

Q: What is the most difficult thing about being a priest?

A: I think the most difficult thing about being a priest is to be present in the most challenging times, to be present in the most challenging times, to be present in the most challenging times.

Q: What are your most difficult challenges, your most difficult moments?

A: I think the most difficult challenges are the challenges of being a priest, the challenges of being a priest, the challenges of being a priest.

Q: What is the greatest accomplishment of your time in Miami?

A: I think the greatest accomplishment is being able to lead this wonderful diocese, to lead this wonderful diocese, to lead this wonderful diocese.

ARCHBISHOP FAVALORA

Archbishop Favalora closes out his tenure as Archbishop with a tearful farewell to Miami, where he has served for nearly a decade. He thanks the diocese and the people of Miami for their support and hospitality during his time here. He reflects on the challenges and accomplishments of his time, and expresses his gratitude for the opportunities and experiences that have shaped his ministry. He looks forward to the future and wishes the diocese continued success in serving the needs of the community.

ARCHBISHOP FAVALORA

We thank and congratulate Most Reverend Archbishop Favalora on the occasion of his 25th anniversary of episcopal ordination and 50th anniversary of his priesthood with respect and gratitude

OUR LADY OF HEALTH SYROMALABAR

Catholic Church, Coral Springs, Pastor and Parishioners

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Mother of Our Redeemer

CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Congratulate

 Archbishop John C. Favalora

Our continued thoughts and prayers are with you as you celebrate your 25th anniversary of episcopal ordination and 50th anniversary of priesthood ordination.
Best Wishes

to Archbishop Favalora

On the 25th Anniversary

of his Episcopacy and

50th Anniversary

of his Priesthood.

Congratulations

Archbishop Favalora!

May the Lord continue to bless you as

you celebrate two milestones in your ministry.

25th Anniversary of your episcopacy

and

50th Anniversary of your priesthood.

With respect and gratitude,

The Community of Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church and School

Miami, Florida
Parting words

Archbishop John C. Favalora's takes on some hot-button issues

The following is a report of an article that appeared in the May 2010 issue of the Florida Catholic. Most of the following quotes come from the press conference held April 20, 2010, announcing the appointment of Archbishop Thomas Wenski as the fourth archbishop of Miami.

ON IMMIGRATION

"It was precisely our new archbishop (Archbishop Wenski) who taught me the complexities of immigration law. It is a Jarret, even though I was his mentor, he was my mentor in this."

"All of us are immigrants. It's totally unacceptable that we don't address the immigration problems we have in this country. While we need better enforcement and control of our borders, we don't solve those problems in the back of families that are here, whether they're legal or illegal."

ON THE CLERGY SEXUAL ABUSE SCANDAL

"The Church is the leading organization in the U.S. that has taken steps to ensure children are safe from abuse. The Church has been challenged. The Church has come forth. Others could very well learn from the way the Church has taken in the United States."

ON RETIREMENT

"I believe that it's time for me to go off the stage. I think it's time for me to move on. And I think that's a bit of wisdom that God has given me."

ON HIS LEGACY AS ARCHBISHOP

"I try to judge that no matter what I say, I was given the mission to sanctify, to govern and to teach. I think I have done that. In the time I've been here, I've kept the ship afloat."

ON THE NEED FOR PRAYER

"His last words to the Miami Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women, gathered for their annual convention May 2, said: "He recalled that he had always asked the women to pray "for me by name" rather than in a general way. Now, he said, "Pray for your Archbishop Favalora is shown during the Chrism Mass in 2009. Liturgical celebrations such as that one with his priests are among the archbishop's fondest memories of his time in Miami. (ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO | FG)

new archbishop by name. Because as chief shepherd, he will need your prayers, just as I needed your prayers."

ON THE FUTURE

Referring to the first reading at the Mass he celebrated with Archbishop Wenski on the day of the announcement, which told of the importance of St. Stephen, "In trying to figure out whether that's a providential reflection on my tenure as a prophet as a voice for the people," he said, "I think the truth is the matter is both."

Archbishop John C. Favalora: By the numbers

- 61 total number of priests Archbishop Favalora has ordained during his tenure in the Archdiocese of Miami.
- 6 the number of archdiocesan priests who have been named bishops during Archbishop Favalora's tenure in Miami. In addition to his successor, Archbishop Thomas Wenski, they are: Bishop Robert Lynch of St. Petersburg, Auxiliary Bishop Gilberto Fernandez, Auxiliary Bishop W. John Boland and Auxiliary Bishop Thomas Johnko of sixteen.
- 11 the total number of archdiocesan priests who have been named bishops since the archdiocese was reestablished. They include: Bishop John H._APPENDING

 Archbishop Emeritus of Miami on the occasion of his faithful and exemplary 50 years of priestly service and 25 years of Episcopal service. We have been blessed by your ministry and leadership. Ad Multos Anno

Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito and the Family of the Diocese of Palm Beach offer their prayerful congratulations and best wishes to our good friend and neighbor

His Excellency

Most Reverend John C. Favalora

Archbishop Emeritus of Miami

on the occasion of his faithful and exemplary 50 years of priestly service and 25 years of Episcopal service. We have been blessed by your ministry and leadership.
BUILDING THE CITY OF GOD

What he did before becoming a priest:
He entered the seminary right after high school.

When he knew he wanted to be a priest:
As a high school senior, he seriously considered joining the Jesuits, but decided against it for fear that he would spend more time teaching than doing parish work. Ironically, he spent 17 years of his priesthood working as a teacher and considers teaching the primary role of a bishop.

Event that triggered his vocation:
The example of his Jesuit teachers and his own attendance at daily Mass.

On teaching:
"I was teaching high school (boys). It absolutely is tough. ... But I enjoyed my teaching years very, very much. I would say there's probably nothing that I did that prepared me better to be a bishop than that. Because my chief role as bishop is a teacher."

What he would do if he had not become a priest:
"I thought of medicine, but didn't like science. I thought of law, I thought of architecture, but couldn't draw. Probably the architecture is what I still like to dabble in."

"I guess I've never perceived myself as a worrier."

Favorite aspect of the priesthood:
Preaching and hearing confessions. "Preaching and teaching are very much united. My vision, my image there, is Jesus preaching to the crowds. It's the teacher's challenge of whetting someone's appetite so that their mind gets moving or their heart gets moving in the right direction."

Confession is similar, except the experience is one on one. "It's the dialogue between Jesus and one other person. It's that challenge that you have as an instrument of God's grace to choose the right words, to pray for the enlightenment to say the right thing that will dispose that person to be as open to God's grace as possible."

Most difficult aspect of being a priest:
"Being misunderstood. ... In an instance when the Church might be delivering a teaching that is very hard to hear, you very much feel as Jesus did in the Gospel, when he preached about the Eucharist and many of his close disciples walked away and never returned. ... I guess that's where I have the most difficulty, embracing the cross lovingly. I think, rather naturally speaking, you want to run away from the cross. You want to dissociate yourself from the cross. Yet you know that to do that would be to deny the Lord."

What he does on his day off:
He loves to cook and tend to his herb garden or sit in the sun and read.

Favorite TV series:
"The Hoosiers" (he has the complete series) and "Everybody Loves Raymond."

Favorite type of music:
Classical

Thing he most fears:
Not much. His episcopal motto is "God will provide." "I guess I've never perceived myself as a worrier. I try to deal with whatever comes," make a decision and move on. "You may find out tomorrow or next month or next year that the decision was wrong. But my answer is, we'll change our position. If it indeed is wrong, I don't have any problem saying that."
Offer their prayers and best wishes to

Archbishop John C. Favalora

on the

25th anniversary of his episcopacy

and the

50th anniversary of his priesthood.

May God bless him abundantly.

Remembering before our God and Father
your work of faith and labor of love.

Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory,
Bishop Luis R. Zarama,
and the faithful of
the Archdiocese of Atlanta
offer our congratulations
to Archbishop-emeritus

John C. Favalora

as he celebrates
the 50th anniversary
of his priesthood
and the 25th anniversary
of his episcopacy.
Congratulations to Archbishop John C. Favalora

On the 50th Anniversary of His Ordination to the Priesthood and for 25 years of His Episcopacy

May God Continue to Bless You

Bishop Frank J. Dewane and the Clergy, Religious and Laity of the Diocese of Venice in Florida

Mother Adelia Galindo, left, founder of the Servants of the Priests of Jesus and Mary, and her fellow religious, Sister Margarita Lanzas, pray during the Mass.

MASS: "He was like a St. Joseph in my life."

FROM 13

Archbishop William Levada, now prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith — by celebrating Mass at the same altar of St. Peter's Basilica where he was ordained.

"Today, I give thanks to God for 50 years of priests ministry," Archbishop Favalora said in his homily. "Despite my own unworthiness and sinfulness, I am so grateful to have been chosen to be a priest, and for 50 years to have been selected to share the apostolic office as bishop of Alexandria, bishop of St. Petersburg and as metropolitan archbishop of Miami. I count those many blessings tonight.

Among those in attendance to congratulate him was Rabbi Solomon Schiff, executive vice president emeritus of the Rabbinical Association of Greater Miami.

"We had a snowball fight in Jerusalem," Rabbi Schiff said, recalling the trip that he, Miami's second archbishop, Edward McCarthy, and Archbishop Wenski, then a Miami auxiliary bishop, made to Israel in January 2003. "I've known Archbishop Favalora from the day he came," said Rabbi Schiff, who has worked closely with all of Miami's archbishops, beginning with Archbishop Coleman F. Carroll.

"I'm grateful for all the wonderful steps of progress that our community has made over the years," Rabbi Schiff said. "We have a lot to do, but we've come a tremendous way.

"I believe that we must be here," said Sister Lucia Leercott, a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph Benedict Canisius, who for five decades have staffed the Marian Center, a school for children and adults with Down syndrome.

"We are very grateful for what he did, especially for the Marian Center," Sister Cecelia said of Archbishop Favalora. "He was the one, when we went to him to speak, he was listening very intensely, with intensity and respect. I never will forget how he was such a good priest.

"I was going to come anyway this is a special treat," said Saunders, who served as a reader of the Mass at the cathedral and said several years ago that he would come to the Mass at St. Peter's Basilica if he moved to Rome. "I am so happy to be here to celebrate with you and the Servants of the Priests of Jesus and Mary, a diocesan community that continues to grow after its establishment.

"From the very beginning supported, he believed, he was an apostolic letter. He opens the path," Mother Galindo said. "That Archbishop Favalora we one who gave her community mission to wear the habit in p"
Priestly mission: To make Jesus present

Archbishop Favalora reflects on priests’ role at his golden jubilee

"The great missionaries ... understood the mission. They preached Jesus in word and deed and they brought their people to know and love Jesus. If we aren't accomplishing that, then all the rest is waste and vanity."

— Archbishop John C. Favalora

Through him and with him and in him, O God, Almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all glory and honor is yours, forever and ever. Amen.

At the conclusion of the eucharistic prayer in a few minutes, the bishops and priests will join me in singing that beautiful doxology. It proclaims at each eucharistic celebration the climax of our worship. Very simply put, it proclaims that Jesus is the source of all our praise of God. Through him and his life we once again gained access to the Father. In him we are reborn, and with him we received pardon, forgiveness, mercy and salvation. In union with the Holy Spirit, Jesus makes us children of God once and for all.

It is the priest at Mass who daily in this doxology reminds God's people of what Jesus means to us and to the whole world. When the Son of God became flesh, it was through his obedient life among us that satisfaction for the original sin and all of our personal sins was achieved and "man is once again made whole."

Through the sacrament of the priesthood, our eucharistic thanksgiving forever echoes our gratitude to the Father over since that first Holy Thursday night. There is no greater act that we humans can perform on earth than to celebrate, each in our own manner, the eucharistic banquet. Jesus left this memorial of his passion.

Bishops pictured at the Mass for Archbishop Emeritus John C. Favalora Dec. 6 are, from left, Bishop Fernando Teran of Pueblo, Colo.; Bishop John Noonan of Orlando; Bishop Felipe Estévez of St. Augustine; Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice; Bishop Robert Lynch of St. Petersburg; and Bishop Gerald Barbarito of Palm Beach. PHOTOS BY ANA RODRIGUEZ SOTO | FC

I will appoint for you shepherds after my own heart, who will shepherd you wisely and prudently.

JEREMIAH 3:15

May God bless you always!

Archbishop Emeritus John C. Favalora waits in the sanctuary of St. Mary Cathedral after his golden jubilee Mass. (TOM TRACY | FC)

Bishop John Noonan, Bishop Emeritus Norbert Dorsey, clergy, religious and all of Christ’s faithful from the Diocese of Orlando thank Archbishop Favalora for serving as a shepherd to God’s people these 25 years as a bishop and 50 years as a priest.

Father Gabriel O’Reilly, left, and Mcgr. William Dever, pastors of St. David and St. Helen, respectively, applaud after Archbishop Emeritus John C. Favalora delivers his homily at the Dec. 6 Mass marking the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood and the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the episcopacy. The pastors were two of about 150 archdiocesan priests who attended the Mass.
OUR LADY QUEEN OF HEAVEN CEMETERY
&
OUR LADY OF MERCY CEMETERY
JOIN THE
Catholic Community of the Archdiocese of Miami
IN CONGRATULATING ARCHBISHOP FAVALORA
ON HIS 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRIESTHOOD AND
25TH ANNIVERSARY OF EPISCOPACY

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Church and School

Rev. Fr. Rolando G. Garcia
Pastor

The Priests, Deacons and Parishioners of St. Agatha
Parish and School say continued blessings to
Archbishop Emeritus John Clement Favalora
in celebrating his 50th Anniversary as a priest
and 25th Anniversary of episcopacy.
HOMILY: ‘We all are instruments of God’s grace to make Jesus better known and loved in the world’

and death with us as his gift to the Law that not only to remember us.
the Son of God and one of the
the first priests of the
The priest is the one
designated to speak and act in
and act in the name of
that is what we
duplicate, everyday. And it’s
so easy for us to let it become
comumplace. And the
the distribution of all kinds can allow us
to forget that we are acting in
holy Christ. Yet, we make the
the infinite act of satisfaction and redemption of the world present here and
now. And so, I’d like to quote Fr.
I am so privileged to do this and
I have to express the gratitude.
the priest is to be present to the
the Sacrament of the Eucharist.
and to renew the face of the earth.
the Eucharist.
the other sacraments, the works
in peace, the works of community building; these too live among the sublime acts of our
Jesus Christ. Our salvation is all
about Jesus, from the promise of
the holy who is coming in glory.
Jesus is truly the Alpha and the
Jesus: Divine revelation is all about
the Father’s love made visible in
the Word made flesh, who dwelled
among us.
As the theology proclaims, it
is really all about Jesus. Life is all
about Jesus. Through him, with
him and in him, everything the
Father wants for us and everything
the world has not been the Church?
This is the mission of the Church.
This is the mission of the Church
and Jesus is living in him.
This is the mission of the Church
and Jesus is living in him.
What a privilege it is to be
blessed Priest of God.”

Bishop Tod D. Brown
Along with Auxiliary Bishops: Cirilo Flores &
Domingo Luong, with the clergy, religious and
talents of the Diocese of Orange.

CONGRATULATES

from the Pastor, Deacon,
Staff and Parishioners
of St. Joseph Catholic Church
Miami Beach, Florida.
The teacher

Archbishop John C. Favalora on his role: "It's my office as bishop to teach."

Editor's note: This article is adapted from the book, "History of the Archdiocese of Miami, 1968-2009," which was published to mark the golden jubilees of the establishment of the archdiocese.

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO
Miami Catholic staff

MIAMI - The Jesuits might view Archbishop John C. Favalora as one who got away.

As a high school senior, the New Orleans native was seriously considered joining the order of priests who taught him at Jesuit High School. He decided against it for fear that he would spend more time teaching than doing pastoral work.

Ironically, since being named a bishop, he has considered himself first and foremost a teacher.

"It is my office as bishop to teach," he said during an interview with the Florida Catholic in the 40th anniversary of his ordination, which took place Dec. 30, 1961 in St. Peter's Basilica, Rome.

The only child of an Italian-American grocer and a Cajun homemaker, Archbishop Favalora remembers what motivated him to become a priest: not only the example of his four teachers, but his own attendance at daily Mass.

Despite his preference for parish work, Archbishop Favalora would spend seven years as teacher and principal at St. John Preparatory and five more as rector of his alma mater, Notre Dame Seminary, both in New Orleans. Those assignments, he said, prepared him well for his responsibilities as archbishop of Miami, the chief minister of South Florida's Catholics in matters of faith and morals.

The job is not easy, he admitted, for many people misunderstand and some of those difficult teachings on morality, on abortion, on social justice - at a lack of compassion on the part of the Church.

Yet in the cross of the priesthood that Jesus also bore, the archbishop said in a 2004 interview, "Being misunderstood ... in an instance when the Church might be delivering a teaching that is very hard to hear, you very much feel as Jesus did in the Gospel, when he preached about the Eucharist and many of his close disciples walked away and never returned."

Archbishop Favalora always has strived for this up to his episcopal mantle, "God will provide." Although he certainly dealt with his share of problems in this ever-changing metropolis, he did not agonize over decisions.

"I guess I've never perceived myself as a savior," he said. "I try to deal with whatever comes, make a decision and move on. You may find out tomorrow or next month or next year that the decision was wrong. Then, my answer is, we'll change our position. If it's indeed wrong, I don't have any problem saying that, really."

He did just that when he canceled a planned pilgrimage to Cuba for Pope John Paul II."It was 1988 visit.

The original plan was to charter a cruise ship and stay several days. After the priest's visit to the Cuban community, the archbishop decided to charter a yacht and stay only long enough to attend the pope's Mass in Havana.

His tenure in Miami was marked by highs and lows:

- He established four new parishes and one mission.
- He opened two new high schools - Archbishop Edward McCarthy in Fort Lauderdale and Archbishop Coleman Carroll in Miami - the first high schools to be built for the archdiocese in 52 years.
- He brought the first chartered order of men to South Florida, the Discalced Carmelites from Guadalajara, Mexico.
- He also was forced, for financial reasons, to close or merge eight parishes and one mission in 2003, as well as to close the Youth Ministry office. During his tenure, shrinking enrollments also forced the closing of three parish schools.

Although he published a weekly column in the Miami edition of the Florida Catholic, Archbishop Favalora was not as prolific as walking pastoral letters as his predecessor, Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy. He wrote two - The Great Jubilee Year and The Spirit of the Church - to coincide with the beginning and the end of the Holy Year 2000, and two more - "We Remember, We Celebrate, We Believe" and "The Rosary - A Prayer for the Family" - to coincide with the beginning and the end of the archdiocese's 50th anniversary celebration.

Education, Catholic Charities and vocations have been priorities for Archbishop Favalora.

In the fall of 2006, he premeditated "Fountain of Grace," a 50-page booklet containing a basic introduction to the teachings of the Catholic Church. The booklet was created at his request, to make sure that anybody engaged in ministry in the archdiocese has a fundamental understanding of the basics of the Catholic faith. "The Church is required by law for anyone seeking to teach, sing, distribute the Eucharist or engage in any other type of parish service in this Archdiocese of Miami. You can't presume to minister in the Church unless you know what the Church teaches and believes," the archbishop said. "We need the instruction."

During his 1994-2008 tenure in Miami, Archbishop Favalora has spoken out on behalf of the rights of immigrants, especially Haitians. He committed more than $1 million to immediate and long-term relief for Haiti after the January 12, 2010 earthquake.

He also has had to deal with the consequences of a clergy sexual abuse scandal which began to make headlines in January 2002. In 1998, the archdiocese had upped its policies for dealing with this issue, so Miami was already in compliance with most of the requirements of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young Adults which was adopted by the U.S. Bishops in June 2002.

Vision training - to spot signs of abuse and abuses - is now mandatory for all archdiocesan employees and volunteers who have access to children or vulnerable adults. Children are being taught to tell others what they observe through "Teaching Children Safety," an age-appropriate training presented in archdiocesan elementary and high school.

All archdiocesan employees and volunteers also must be fingerprinted and undergo a criminal background check.

All these efforts are aimed, the archbishop said, at contributing "to the continued pontifical and South Florida Catholic's contribution to our efforts in addressing this problem."

Archbishop Favalora seems to refer to the Bible passage where Jesus said to his disciples, "When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

"The Lord will judge whatever he asks for. He is asking for discernment," the archbishop said. "The ability, the discernment, in discerning between right and wrong, leading his people. That's the basic my prayer is, that the Lord will give me the insight to do what I have to do relative to responsibility to know that I do have to do all of this alone."

One thing that has changed is Archbishop Favalora since his retirement is his level of "teaching." He has gone from someone who had considered "a challenge" to use a computer to someone who uses email, "Googles," and is learning to keep up with his friends via Skype.

For his 50th anniversary, the members of the priests' class of 1961 gathered in an iPad as a gift - got the hang of it in just a few days and now likes to refer to it as the "high-tech eminence" to bishop.
**NEWSbriefs**

Filipinos celebrate Simbang Gabi

Filipinos in the Archdiocese of Miami observed Simbang Gabi, their traditional Mass celebrated December 18-24 in parishes throughout the archdiocese.

Archbishop Thomas Wenski will celebrate the first Simbang Gabi Mass with the Filipino community Friday, Dec. 21, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Gregory Parish in Plantation. Each Mass focuses on a different theme aimed at helping participation prepare spiritually for Christmas.

The schedule is as follows:

- **Sunday, Dec. 18, 5 p.m.** St. Bonaventure, North Bay Village: “What is God Doing in Our Lives?”

- **Monday, Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m.** St. Joseph, North Miami: “Praying to God’s Plan in Our Lives.”

- **Tuesday, Dec. 20, 6:30 p.m.** St. Michael, Hollywood: “Resisting God’s Will.”

- **Wednesday, Dec. 21, 7:30 p.m.** St. Joseph, North Miami: “Remembering God’s Love.”

- **Thursday, Dec. 22, 7:30 p.m.** St. Peter, North Miami Beach: “Picking Up the Cross.”

- **Friday, Dec. 23, 6:30 p.m.** St. Mary Star of the Sea, Hialeah: “God’s Healing Power.”

For more information, contact Janet Macmanus, 954-897-6298.

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**Leonard and Marilyn Kaminski**

**The Diocese of Alexandria**

**Most Reverend Ronald P. Herzog, Bishop and the clergy, religious and lay of the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana**

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**Walks for Life**

Set for January

Saturday, Jan. 22, 2012, St. Vincent de Paul Parish will host the Archdiocese of Miami’s “Walks for Life” event in cooperation with the archdiocese’s Respect Life Ministry. The walks will take place from 9 a.m. to noon at the following locations. For information, call 954-897-9202.

- **Saturday, Jan. 14:** St. John Vianney Seminary, 6000 S.W. 87 Ave., Miami, and Archdiocese of Miami McArthur High School, 5041 S.W. 87th St., Miami
- **Saturday, Jan. 21, St. Clement Parish, 2975 N. Andrews Ave., Fort Lauderdale, St. Stephen Parish, 6044 S.W. 19 St., Miramar, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, 1601 Coral Ridge Drive, Coral Springs.

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**Honor**

Archbishop John C. Favalora, D.D.

Congratulations on your 50th Anniversary and thank you for your years of service to the people and clergy of The Archdiocese of Miami

V. Rev. Michael J. Gorea, V.F.

and the Community of Faith of Assumption Catholic Church

Landovale By-The-Sea, Florida
Blessing and Congratulations

On celebrating 25 years of Episcopacy and 50 Years of Priesthood. "You are a Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." -Psalm 110:4
   Ad multos annos!

~Rev. Brendan Dalton and Principal Richard P. Jean

Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy High School
A College Preparatory School
5451 S. Flamingo Road
Southwest Ranches, Florida

www.mccarthyhigh.org
PEDRO PAN: ‘I give thanks to God every day for giving me the experience’

From The Florida Catholic, December 2011

PEOPLE

Several of the self-named Pedro Sin Pan (Pedro Without Pan, also known as "Steal"), children who obtained visas without the help of parents, fled from their homes and traveled to the United States from Mexico to prevent them from being sent to the United States, where they face deportation. The "Pedro Pan" experience is one example of how children are fleeing from the United States to avoid being separated from their parents.

A woman who has been a Pedran since infancy, Ana Rodriguez, was among those who fled to Miami in 1962. She said, "I give thanks to God every day for giving me the experience." She left with her parents and siblings when she was a child.

A MOTHER’S CHOICE

Martina Ortega was separated from her children when she was 12 years old. She said, "I want to come with my children and stay with them. This is our last chance to stay together."

Nerida Almazan, a member of Our Lady of Mercy, said, "It’s not just about saving children. It’s about saving families." She added, "I want to come with my children and stay with them. This is our last chance to stay together."

Desperation

"We cannot really understand the conditions in which these children were forced to leave their homes," said Fr. Clark. "The conditions were unbearable."

One of the children’s stories is that of a 12-year-old boy named Edmundo Robles, who fled to the United States with his family. He said, "I want to come with my children and stay with them. This is our last chance to stay together."

A CHILD’S PLEA

"I was not the CIA who came to my house and told my mother to pack her bags," said Maria de la Milena, who was 12 when she fled from Cuba with her family. She added, "I want to come with my children and stay with them. This is our last chance to stay together."

The family spent three years

To Archbishop Favalora from the parish community of St. Malachy Church, we congratulate you and extend our gratitude and best wishes for 50 years of faithful service.

Congratulations and Many blessings on your many years of Service

The Parish Family of St. Maximilian Kolbe
Catholics invited to lobby legislators

Catholics from across Florida are invited to gather at Tallahassee Feb. 7-8, 2012, for Catholic Days at the Capitol. This annual event provides an opportunity for the faithful to put their faith in the public square and give Catholics a voice in shaping Florida's future laws.

The program includes a legislative briefing on issues affecting human life and dignity followed by scheduled meetings with elected officials. A luncheon is held for Catholic Day's participants. Florida's bishops and legislators. The two days of activities culminate with the Red Mass of the Holy Spirit celebrated by the bishops of Florida to pray for those working in the legislative, judicial and executive branches of government.

Registration forms and contact information are available on the website of the Florida Catholic Conference at www.flcatholic.org. Pre-registration is required.

Salesians prepare for Bosco bicentennial

The Salesian family invites all devotees of St. John Bosco to begin the preparation for the bicentennial of his birth (1815-2015) by taking part in a Mass to be celebrated Sunday, Jan. 29, 2012, 12:30 p.m., at immaculate Conception Parish, 4925 W. First Ave., Hillsborough. The Mass will be celebrated in Spanish and followed by a luncheon in the parish hall. Proceedings from the luncheon will benefit Obus Salesianos (Salesian Works). For more information, call 305-598-5185.

Funding granted for elderly housing

Catholic Health Services of the Archdiocese of Miami has received a grant for more than $6 million to build a new 82-unit apartment complex for the elderly on the site of St. Joseph's Mission in Pompano Beach.

The grant was awarded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in November. It is part of an award of $30.5 million in funding for very low-income seniors and persons with disabilities in the state of Florida.

The amount given to the archdiocese under the Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly grant round $3,800,000-$5,475,650 represents the Section 202 Capital Advance for the planning and construction of the development, and the balance — $41,800 — represents a Three-Year Section 202 Rental subsidy allowing qualifying residents to pay only 30 percent of their adjusted incomes for rent.

This will be the 16th elderly housing apartment community built by the archdiocese and operated by Catholic Health Services. These apartments are for active independent seniors (62 or older) with limited financial resources or for mobility-impaired individuals younger than 62. For more information, call 305-227-3564 or go to www.catholichealthservices.org.

Center tapped for national project

One of Catholic Health Services' flagship nursing centers has been selected to participate in a national demonstration project to assess the model and improve the quality and outcomes in nursing homes.

St. John's Nursing Center in Medford Lakes is one of 40 sites selected by the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research to help assess the impact of a new national quality assurance program. The Center will receive assistance from the American Health Care Association (AHCA) and the National Center for Health Care Quality to implement the quality assurance tools and resources the program offers.

Bishop Roger P. Morin, with the priests, deacons, religious and lay faithful of the Diocese of Biloxi, Mississippi, sends congratulations and prayerful best wishes to

The Most Reverend John C. Favalora, Archbishop Emeritus of Miami on the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the Episcopacy and the 50th anniversary of his priestly ordination.

Ad Multos Annois!

Prayerful Best Wishes to Archbishop John C. Favalora on the fiftieth anniversary of ordination to priesthood and the twenty-fifth anniversary of ordination as a bishop

Archbishop John G. Vlazny
Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon
We, the Diocese of Baton Rouge, congratulate Archbishop Emeritus John C. Favalora, a native son of Louisiana, 50 years in the priesthood of Jesus Christ 25 years in sacerdotal service in the Archdiocese of New Orleans 25 years in combined episcopal service in the Diocese of Alexandria, Diocese of St. Petersburg and in the Archdiocese of Miami. “Well done, good and faithful servant.” Ad multos annos!

Bishop Robert W. Muench
Diocese of Baton Rouge

Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church and School
Congratulates
Archbishop Favalora
for 50 years of Service to God and Community
The Most Reverend Robert N. Lynch
and the
Priests, Deacons, Religious and Laity of the
Diocese of St. Petersburg

Congratulate

The Most Reverend John C. Favalora

Upon the occasion of his 25th Anniversary of Episcopacy
and 50th Anniversary of Priesthood

Wishing you continued good health and much happiness in your ministry!
With our gratitude and prayers!

Ad multos annos!
Thrift store needs help

Shoppers, donors needed to keep St. Vincent de Paul store open in Hialeah

ANNE DIBERNARDO

Hialeah correspondent

HALLEAH | Cleaning out your closets could help keep open a thrift shop on the verge of closing. Members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, a worldwide organization that provides assistance to those in need, hope more donations will help save their Hialeah thrift store, which is on the verge of closing.

"We need help if bills aren't paid," said Frank Cover, Hialeah branch store president and member of the society's Northwest District Council. "If we don't help the poor, then who will?"

The Hialeah store is the only one in Miami-Dade County — the county has only one in Broward — and is centrally located along the south border of Hialeah at 1870 S.W. 1st Ave. Its large navy blue and white canopy is a landmark for customers who travel along Overseas Highway, and it is easily spotted from shops and restaurants just across the river in Miami Springs.

By selling previously owned items such as clothing, shoes, housewares and furniture, the thrift shop is able to assist those in need. But now, the Hialeah branch is operating on a deficit. Hialeah officials say it will be unable to meet the growing inventory of operating expenses and must be forced to close soon.

Aside from the monthly expenses of rent, utilities, insurance and fuel, the store also is in dire need of a 100-style cargo van. According to Cover, the van they have used for 20 years has finally broken down beyond repair. He emphasized the van is important because the store cannot pick up large donations, such as sofas, beds and microwaves.

While some of the store's items are consigned and cannot be sold, individuals in need, there are also National treasures for anyone hunting for a bargain. Local customers browse the Hialeah shop on a regular basis. Customers have purchased lamps, sofas and dining room sets and even set up kitchens for a fraction of what they would pay in a retail store. Many customers have furnished first homes and second places with unique pieces that have been donated.

"You would be surprised what you can find when you're dropping something off," said Roseline Figueroa, a customer at the store.

The store has four districts in Miami-Dade County — Northwest, Northeast, Miami-West and South — and three in Broward — North Central and South. Although not every Catholic Church holds a St. Vincent de Paul center, they are available in select locations throughout the world.

Members are laymen and women, all volunteers, who are guided by the Gospel message, "May your love and mercy, and your grace fill me of yours grace fill me your home."

They take their cue to help people from that in insomia, St. Vincent de Paul, the 17th century French priest who founded the Congregation of Charity and its Vincentian congre- gation of priests.

The society has four districts in Miami-Dade County — Northwest, Northeast, Miami-West and South. It is calling on the community to help keep the store open.

"They do what they can to keep the store moving. It is because of their love for the poor that the store is still alive," said Cover.

"We prefer to have documentation from the authority of the church but will not turn anyone away," Cover said.

Among the store's regular clients are patients from a nearby home who are in need of clothing or people who have connected with the society through the Switchboard of Miami.

"When someone comes in and needs a wheelchair and they can't afford to buy it, we will give it away," said Cover, who added financial gifts are critical to help fill needs.

According to Cover, the store's newest clients are unemployed people. "You need fuel for them. They are driving under the bridges. When they come in, we tell them that they can't have clothes, shoes and whatever they need."}

ABOUT THE SOCIETY

• Founded in Paris in 1833, the St. Vincent de Paul Society has been working with the poor ever since, now serving in 158 countries.

• Members are laymen and women, all volunteers, who are guided by the Gospel message: "May your love and mercy, and your grace fill me of yours grace fill me your home."

• They take their cue to help people from that in insomia, St. Vincent de Paul, the 17th century French priest who founded the Congregation of Charity and its Vincentian congregations of priests.

• The society has four districts in Miami-Dade County — Northwest, Northeast, Miami-West and South — and three in Broward — North Central and South. Although not every Catholic Church holds a St. Vincent de Paul center, those that do are always willing to help the poor. The society also operates three thrift shops — one in Broward and one in Miami-Dade.

• Many Catholic parishes have a "canon area" in the back of the church for donations to the society. These donations are designated strictly for people in need. It does not cover thrift store expenses. Taxes paid by the society and church are strictly maintained and all annual reports are filed at the end of the year.

• All donations to the St. Vincent de Paul Society are tax deductible and tax forms are provided to customers who make donations. To arrange for a pickup of gently used merchandise, call St. Vincent de Paul Hialeah thrift store at 305-935-2180.

CALL TODAY!

Contact Jane Radetsky
407-373-0085

 Thief store needs help

Frank Cover

The blue-and-white-lettered canopy of the St. Vincent de Paul Society's thrift store is visible at the south end of Hialeah, just across the River from Miami Springs. The shop is in danger of closing, with needs donations of "gently used" items as well as cash and bargain-hunting shoppers. (PHOTO BY ANNE DIBERNARDO)
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SUMMIT
FROM 10

After his first retreat 10 years ago, he became an extraordinary minister of holy Communion, a religious education teacher for confirmation-age children, and active in the famous retreat ministry.

Organizers said they expected several independent theaters to carry "The Last Summit" from Dec. 20 through Dec. 30. From there, they hope other local movie theaters and outlets will pick up the film early next year.

"Hopefully when we show that people are responding to the movie and that we are building momentum, the distributors will want to be part of," Alcaino said.

This movie works by building up the audience and they go out and tell other people. I am convinced and certain that the Catholic Church here in Miami could do the same."

For more information about the film see: www.acheklastsummit.com. Or contact Francisco. Alcaino @ alcaino@usa.net or 561-326-5024.

SISTERS OF ST. PHILIP NERI VISIT ARCHDIOCESE

Mother Maria de Jesus Alonso Leon, third from left, superior general of the Sisters of St. Philip Neri worldwide, is visiting members of the order’s community who serve at St. Jerome Parish in Fort Lauderdale. She stopped by the Pastoral Center Nov. 22 to visit with Archbishop Thomas Wenski. Also pictured are Sister Editha Rojas, left, a religious and physician who worked for many years in AIDS ministry in the archdiocese; Sister Vivian Bissey, second from right, principal of St. Jerome School; and Father Michael Grady, right, administrator of St. Jerome Parish. (ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO/TFO)

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**Christmas at St. Mary Cathedral**

Archbishop to celebrate Masses Christmas Eve, Christmas Day

MIAMI — Archbishop Thomas Wenski will celebrate two Masses at St. Mary Cathedral this year to mark the feast of Christmas.

He will also celebrate the annual Migration Mass for all the cultural groups in the archdiocese on Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2012, the feast of the Epiphany.

On Saturday, Dec. 24, at 10 p.m., the archbishop will celebrate the Christmas Mass during the Night. It will be preceded at 9 p.m. by a performance of Christmas Lessons and Carols by the cathedral choir. On Sunday, Dec. 25, at 6:30 a.m., the archbishop will celebrate the Latin Mass at Dawn (Ordinary Rite).

Following is the complete schedule of Christmas, New Year's Day and Epiphany Masses and confessions at the cathedral, followed by Advent and Christmas Masses and events at several other parishes. For a more updated list, visit www.miamichurch.org, click on the News tab and then on the Events calendar.

**St. Mary Cathedral**, 705 N.W. Second Ave., Miami, 33135-7553, www.catholicfaith.org;

- Christmas Eve Masses: Dec. 24, 6:30 p.m. confessio; 5:30 p.m. vigil Mass; 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass in English; 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass in Spanish.

- Christmas Day Masses: Dec. 25, 8 a.m. English Mass; 10 a.m. English Mass; 12:30 p.m. Spanish Mass.

- Christmas Eve Masses: Dec. 24, 5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass (in English or bilingual).

- Christmas Day Masses: Dec. 25, 8 a.m. English Mass; 10 a.m. English Mass; 12:30 p.m. Spanish Mass.

**St. Agatha Parish**, 1111 N.W. 107th Ave., Miami, 33176, 305-222-1500;

- Christmas Masses: Dec. 24, 8 p.m. Mass in English; 9 p.m. Mass in Spanish; 10 p.m. Midnight Mass.

**St. Joseph Residence**, 1450 N.W. 9th Ave., Miami, 33136, 305-576-6467;

- Advent Masses: Dec. 24, 5:30 p.m. Confession; 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass in English; 8 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass in Spanish.

- Christmas Day Masses: Dec. 25, 8 a.m. English Mass; 9 a.m. English Mass; 12:30 p.m. English Mass; 7 p.m. Spanish Mass.

**Seminarians of the Archdiocese of Miami**;

- Confessions: Dec. 24, 25, 8 a.m. English Mass; 10 a.m. English Mass; 12:30 p.m. English Mass; 7 p.m. Spanish Mass.

**Mother of Our Redeemer**, 8445 N.W. 186th St., Hialeah, 33015-2745;


**Florida Catholic**

**HISTORY:** At the time nobody could imagine what it would turn into.

"Everything the parents predicted was going to happen happened. And maybe even worse than they could have imagined. They didn't have to send children to Russia. The Soviet Union was brought to Cuba for them."

*Vitor Andrey Fray*
"My sacrifice and yours"

New words can help us personally encounter Christ in the Eucharist.

**Such in a series
MSOR, RICHARD ANTALL
Special to the Catholic Navigator**

Another of the professional of the Latin Mass into English has to do with the invitation the priest makes to pray "that this my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father." The response that remained the same, "May the Lord accept the sacrifice of your hands, and give grace to all your people." The celebrant's words have changed, however.

**Why the change from "our sacrifi- ce" to "my sacrifice and yours"? Is this merely a question of a more literal translation? Do we not already, in the Mass itself, do not make any reference to the sacrifice being the priest's own? The people, or the body of the people, only asks that it be "for our good and the good of all your holy Church.

The original prayer, in Latin, makes the distinction between "sine me est anima" and "sine me est anima". I think the change can prove to us all who have been told, "we are one body..." if any why, internally, that is not the case. The Mass is the renewal of the grace of the sacrifice of the Son of God, the Eucharistic sacrifice of the Son of God. It is the redemption of those who come to the sacrifice of the Mass, not the celebration of the Mass itself. The Mass itself is the renewal of the grace of the sacrifice of the Son of God, and the Eucharistic sacrifice of the Son of God. It is the redemption of those who come to the sacrifice of the Mass, not the celebration of the Mass itself.

In one of the most harrowing tales of the Old Testament - the sacrifice of Isaac - Abraham is taking his beloved son up the mountain to offer him to God. The boy notices that something is missing. He is carrying the wood (in the same way Jesus carried the cross upon another mountain) but there is no animal to sacrifice. Abraham, whose heart must have been breaking, says, "God will provide the sacrifice." God provides us at Mass with the sacrifice, his own Son. But he asks us as an interior sacrifice so that we can worship him completely. It is a woeful spirituality that is dependent on the beauty of the Mass, the flowers or the interior decoration - however, important all these may be - to make the worship meaningful. If someone is bored at Mass what is he or she offering to the Lord?

If you came to offer yourself to the Lord in communion with the greatest sacrifice of all time - that of Jesus on the cross - how can you say, "I didn't get anything out of it." Maybe you did not put anything in, but you did not put anything in. God has made it possible for you to put anything in, to let his Son be formed in you and, by his grace, offer him a sacrifice acceptable to God.
La Salle High marks 50th

Rededicated building honors Msgr. Walsh, school’s link to Pedro Pan

FLORIDA CATHOLIC STAFF

MIAMI | La Salle High School’s 50th anniversary celebration marked a fitting conclusion to the 50th anniversary gathering of the new generation of Pedro Pan. The link between the two events was a single person: Msgr. Bryan O. Walsh.

He was the only one who facilitated a meeting between six students of Christian Brothers’ De La Salle schools in Cuba and Miami’s then-Bishop Coleman F. Carroll. The students, all boys, were in their last year of high school when Bishop Carroll’s government shut down all religious and private schools and expelled the priests, sisters and brothers who operated them.

More than 100 De La Salle Christian Brothers arrived in Miami on May 25, 1961. Their students visited them a few days later at the Orange Grove Hotel in downtown Miami, and told them of their desire to finish their education with the brothers.

They wanted to start a school where the boys would continue the work they had started in Cuba, which by 1959 included the running of a university and 20 schools.

The students had not come to Miami via Pedro Pan but they were told to speak to Msgr. Walsh, who then accompanied them to a meeting with Bishop Carroll.

The bishop gave his permission, the students raised funds from the community and did some of the construction work themselves, and the school opened three months later, in late September 1961, on the grounds of the all-girl Immaculata High School located next to Mercy Hospital.

The initial enrollment was 260 boys. Four of the six students who spearheaded its construction — Jose M. Alvarez, Oscar Bustillo, Eduardo Sanchez and Nestor Martinez — were present at the 50th anniversary celebration, along with one of their teachers, Brother Marcelino Cox.

During the celebration, Archbishop Thomas Wenski blessed and rededicated the original school building as the Msgr. Bryan O. Walsh Heritage Pavilion.

The plaque reads: “We dedicate this original La Salle building in loving gratitude to Msgr. Bryan O. Walsh (1910-2003) and the instrument of role he played in Operation Pedro Pan from 1960-1962, which continues to impact our school history today.”

Evidently, Immaculata-La Salle high schools merged into one coed school, now known as Immaculata-La Salle. Many of its former students were Cuban refugees, and their children make up a large part of the student body today.

The De La Salle Brothers, on longer staff the school but their former students continue to do good works for the poor, including operating and funding an after-school center for the children of farmworkers in Homestead.

Memorial Mass set for Msgr. Bryan Walsh

Archbishop Thomas Wenski will celebrate a memorial Mass to mark the 50th anniversary of the death of Msgr. Bryan O. Walsh on Tuesday, Dec. 21, 5 p.m., at St. Michael the Archangel Parish, 2011 SW Flagler St., Miami.

LEGACY FROM 7

and parents of Pedro Pan. Archbishop Thomas Wenski was one of the fourth grade at Sacred Heart School in Lake Worth when the Pedro Pan program began. Even though he did not know anything about it, he and his classmates had been taught to pray for the Our Father and the hail Mary in Spanish.

One day the pastor and two of the sisters who taught at the school brought two children from Cuba into the class. “None like Pedro Pan,” Archbishop Wenski recalled.

“What you can see in their eyes is a desire to say yes when they hear learners’ language,” the archbishop said.

Years later, in a high school student at St. John Vianney Seminary in Miami, some of his classmates were Pedro Pan.

“I knew one of his classmates was imprisoned on the island. And it was one of those circumstances when he told him to speak Spanish.

“Over time, however, Msgr. Walsh was a key player in Operation Pedro Pan and a respected leader in the interfaith, ecumenical and civil rights movements in South Florida. Members of Operation Pedro Pan Group, the new generation of that Christian community, spoke on behalf of anyone whose human dignity was threatened.

“The fact that there was even a Pedro Pan was because of this man of vision,” Archbishop Wenski said, a man of vision because he was also a man of faith.”
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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Florida Catholic December 2011

AROUND YOUR COMMUNITY


CONCERTS

"The Joyful Mystery Thst Is Christmas," Saturday, Dec. 18, 3 p.m. and Tuesday, Dec. 21, 7 p.m., St. John Vianney Church, 16050 S.W. 9th St., Pembroke Pines, Free admission. For more info, call (954) 244-0002.

"Guitar concert with Rafael Padilla," Sunday, Jan. 20, 3 p.m., St. Brigid Parish, 12801 W. 10th Ave., Miami, $10, cash only. Proceeds go to the St. Brigid Church restoration fund. For more info, call (305) 264-7663.

FAITH EDUCATION

"Introduction to Antiguo Testament," Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28, 1:30 p.m., Gesu, 118 N.E. 2nd St., Miami, $20, call (305) 531-4567 or email maha@stgregory.org to schedule a time.

Focus on Initiation: Children and Electors, Saturday, Jan. 7, 2012, 9:30 a.m., St. Mark, 5401 S. Flamingo Road, Southwest Ranches, In partnership with the North American Forum on the Catechumenate, a two-day institute presents the vitally relevant topic of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. The program features several speakers and discussions. The cost is $65, and a minimum of 20 participants is required. For information, contact beth@stmarkswr.org.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Pre-Cana weekend, Jan. 14-15, 2012, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., St. Anthony, 901 N.E. Second St., Fort Lauderdale, For first marriages only, including reconstituting couples whose previous marriage was an annulled marriage. Workshop includes both sacramental and life-skills training requirements for all engaged couples wishing to get married. In Archdiocese of Miami: Cost, $750 per couple includes meeting dates, materials, and information. For registration, call 305-761-1481 or email marriagediocese@miamiarch.org. For further information, call 305-585-4679 or visit www.marriedlifeforlife.org.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION: Camino del Matrimonio

Pre-Cana Weekend: Sundays, Jan. 7 and 14, 2012, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., St. Anthony, 901 N.E. Second St., Fort Lauderdale, For first marriages only including reconstituting couples whose previous marriage was an annulled marriage. Workshop includes both sacramental and life-skills training requirements for all engaged couples wishing to get married. In Archdiocese of Miami: Cost, $750 per couple includes meeting dates, materials, and information. For registration, call 305-761-1481 or email marriagediocese@miamiarch.org. To schedule a time, call 305-585-4679 or visit www.marriedlifeforlife.org. For further information, visit www.mariagebilingual.org.

SCHOOLS

St. Agnes Academy application season, through Dec. 31, 2012, 122 Harbor Drive, Key Biscayne, For students entering grade 8 to 12th grade. Tour Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., and Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m.-3 p.m., contact Karla Dobler, 305-364-5245, ext. 202, or www.stagnesacademy.org.

Food truck round up, Thursday, Jan. 17, 2012, 5-9 p.m., Archbishop Carroll Career High School, 10300 S.W. 161 Ave, Miami, Monthly food truck round up meeting with more than 10 food trucks offering a wide range of cuisine. Average meal cost $10. Proceeds benefit school. 305-388-7000. carrollcole@carrollmiami.com.

"Knight for a Day," Jan. 5-11, 2012, Archbishop Curley Notre Dame Preparatory School, 4949 N.E. 2nd Ave, Miami, Ages 8-14. Minors only. $175 per day. Includes breakfast, lunch, and a tour of the school. For reservations, contact Angela Infante at 305-385-5491 ext. 207, info@curleynd.org.

High school entrance exams, Saturday, Jan. 19, 2012, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Archbishop Curley Notre Dame Preparatory School, 4949 N.E. 2nd Ave, Miami, College board SAT and ACT. Admission for the exam only. Students must register online at www.collegeboard.com/compass or call 305-491-2900, ext. 166. For more information, call 305-491-2900 ext. 166.

Miami Archbishop COMMUNITY PAGE SUBMISSION DEADLINES

The Florida Catholic welcomes calendar items of Carolinas graduation events that are open to the whole community. There is no charge but items must be submitted by the Miami Archdiocese at least eight weeks before the event. To list an event on this website and in this newspaper, go to www.miachurch.org, click on the "Repository," the "submit an event" tab, and follow the step-by-step instructions to submit your event. For further information, call 305-705-7319, ext. 247.

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MASSES/PRAYER SESSIONS

Centering prayer, Mondays, 6 p.m., Coral Ridge Community Church, 5020 S.W. 137 Ave., Pembroke Pines. Members of the parish are invited to receive the gift of contemplative prayer, a means by which we experience God's love, God's presence, and the reality of the Trinity. For more information, contact 954-721-1195.

Walking meditation, Tuesday, 12 p.m., Our Lady of Fatima Center, 13500 W. Flagler St., Miami, The program features a reflection on the mysteries of the Rosary and Holy Communion. 954-753-1783.

RETREATS/DAYS OF REFLECTION

Morningstar Breakfast Retreat, 7725 S.W. 124 St., Miami, 8 a.m.-11 a.m., $25, for all ages. Includes lunch and study materials. Contact 305-238-4387, ext. 102 or visit www.morningstarretreat.org.

"Silently, How Silently the Wonderful Gift is Given," Tuesday, Dec. 20, 8:15 a.m.-1 p.m. A day-long retreat with the purpose of bringing an opportunity to prayfully hear and ponder the true meaning of days just passed, includes presentations and plenty of time for quiet prayer and immersion in the Word. Includes lunch for each person, includes lunch at noon.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Virtual workshops help parents, teachers and anyone who works with children understand the signs of sexual abuse and spot abuse. Session is free, around three hours long, and required for all employees and volunteers in schools and parishes and entities of the Archdiocese of Miami. If the subject matter, children are not allowed. To register, log in to www.miachurch.org, click on the yellow word "registration" located on the left-hand side of the page, choose "all organizations," log in to your "organization," scroll down to "all your organization," any in your "organization," click on the"host an event" button. Entitle the event, "Saturday, Jan. 7, 2012, 9 a.m., Youth Spiritual Center (next to Shrine of Our Lady of Charity), 11410 S.W. 268th Street, Miami, Miami Dade County, Saturday, Jan. 12, 2012, 9 a.m., My Help of Christians, Parkland, 14400 N.W. 12th Ave., Miami, 16 p.m., St. Catherine of Siena, 9601 S.W. 152 St., Miami, To report abuse by someone representing the archdiocese, 1-866-002-2973 (900 free), to report all abuse allegations to civil authorities, 1-800-282-7033.

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Chaminade-Madonna, 509 E. Camino Bellino, Miami, 4:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 17, 2012, $15. For more information, call 305-965-1536. 167.

Immaculate Conception, 3423 N.W. 10th Ave., Miami, 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 17, 2012, $10. For more information, call 305-243-6477.
Parishioners of Christ the King sing during Mass Nov. 20, which marked the parish's 50th anniversary on the feast day of the same name.

PARISH
FROM 9

the church.

"Our pastor, Father Bill Mason (Oblate of Mary Immaculate), re- configured the altar area when he took over in 2009, placing it at an angle so that both those in the original church and those seated in the hall have a direct view of the altar," said Sharp.

Nineteen years after Andrew, parishioners are still looking forward to a new church and have a render- ing of the new building hanging on a wall in the hall.

"We've collected $650,000 so far toward the $2.1 million building," said Sharp, who is the chairman of the building fund committee for the new church. "Once we reach $1 million, people will believe that it's really going to happen. That's when the building fund will really take off."

Father Mason canceled the other Sunday Masses so parishioners could come together in one trilingual 50th anniversary Mass, which included a trilingual choir.

"Today the church was more sharp than flat," Father Mason said. "A lot of hard work went into this service. Give yourself a round of applause. Christ the King is united in our diverse cultures and we are united to the Archdiocese of Miami." Father Mason thanked Archbishop Thomas Wenski for joining the community during its 50th an- niversary celebration.

"Christ the King is a parish where love is universal," said the archbish- op. "We look to the past with grati- tude, we embrace the present with enthusiasm and look to the future with confidence."

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