God’s people speak

Listening sessions under way for archdiocese’s second general synod

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO
Florida Catholic staff

MIAMI | They spoke. He listened. Everyone prayed.

Two hours later, archdiocesan Catholics felt they had been heard.

“I liked it a lot,” said Miguel Abud-Jorge, who traveled from St. Francis de Sales Parish in Miami Beach to Immaculate Conception Parish in Hialeah on a stormy Friday night to take part in the first synod listening session, held June 15 in Spanish.

“This opens a new chapter in the Church,” said Abud-Jorge, “that the archbishop wants to talk directly with the people. As a wise man once said, wisdom comes from the people, and today the people spoke.”

“I was afraid to say anything,” said Marianne Benvenuti, a member of San Pablo Parish in Marathon. “I didn’t know how my comments would be taken. I was very impressed with Archbishop (Thomas) Wenski, that he looked me in the eye. He did not show me any judgment.”

Benvenuti took part in the second listening session — the first one in English — which was held the next morning, June 16, in her Keys parish.

As he had done the night before, Archbishop Wenski sat and listened to his flock for more than an hour. As he said at the beginning of each session, “I have come here to listen, not to talk.”

He did, however, set the tone for each session with an opening “parable” about a lifesaving station for the shipwrecked that loses sight of its mission over the years.

The parable provides food for thought as participants in the listening sessions respond to the three questions asked: What is the Church in Miami doing right?

PLease see synod, 11

STANDING UP FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Letting God lead

Archdiocese’s new priests had to ‘die to self’ in order to follow God’s call

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO
Florida Catholic staff

MIAMI | One is a first-generation American of Indian descent who enjoyed being a social worker until he felt God calling him to “something even better.”

The other is a native of Nigeria who discarded the faith — and almost his life — as a young adult, then found a community and a path to Christian growth in the Neocatechumenal Way.

Deacon Cletus Omode and Deacon Biju Vells: Their ordinations set the tone for Miami’s newest priests Saturday, June 23, when Archbishop Thomas Wenski ordains them during a ceremony that begins at 10 a.m. at St. Mary Cathedral.

JUNE 23 PRIESTLY ORDINATION

Deacon Cletus Omode

Deacon Biju Vells

Deacon Vells, 34, is a native of Mount Vernon, N.Y., whose parents immigrated to the U.S. from Kerala, India, shortly after their wedding. He has a younger brother, also born in New York, and a sister born in Miami after the family’s move here in 1982.

A graduate of Palmetto Senior High School, Deacon Vells obtained both a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in social work from Florida International University. He worked as a medical social worker at Baptist Hospital for two years before entering St. John Vianney College Seminary for a second time. He had entered immediately after high school, but left after two years.

He recalled when he first felt he might have a vocation to the priesthood: He was a sophomore in high school, attending a parish retreat where he was first exposed to adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

He continued to go to adoration weekly throughout high school and college, and even after leaving the seminary he remained involved in St. Louis’ youth ministry and the Catholic campus ministry at FIU.

“‘There’s God’s peace and God’s love that sustains you. That’s always there with you. But you also have to...”

STANDING UP FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Archbishop Thomas Wenski addresses participants at the religious freedom rally held June 8 in downtown Miami. About 200 people gathered at two locations — the federal courthouse in downtown Miami and the federal courthouse in downtown Fort Lauderdale — to protest President Barack Obama’s administration’s health care mandate regarding coverage of contraception, abortion-inducing drugs and sterilization. Archbishop Wenski spoke at both rallies. The U.S. bishops have called for a Fortnight for Freedom to be marked June 21 to July 4. Find out more at www.miamiarch.org. (ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO | FC)

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ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO
Florida Catholic staff

‘Conchs’ and others rejoice at Mass of designation for St. Mary Star of the Sea

Known for decades, the Vatican confirmed May 31: St. Mary Star of the Sea is holy ground.

“The faith of the people in Key West is so deep and so strong,” said Sister Dolores Wehle, one of two Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary who processed in with the others. “We have to hold this together,” said her fellow Sister Mary Silvestry Mushi, one of the Sisters of the Holy Spirit of the United States, stands as a beacon of faith, hope and love,” the archbishop said. “A family whose doors are always open to visitors and to the needy at their doorstep. St. Mary Star of the Sea operates a soup kitchen that feeds the homeless seven days a week, and an outreach mission on Stock Island that provides groceries, bus fare, rent money, clothing, prescription medicines and job referrals to those struggling to make ends meet.

Recalling the parish history, he lauded the generations of Key West Catholics who, “instructed in the faith by the good priests and holy nuns who served here, heroically braved isolation, storms and disease by entrusting themselves to Mary and her maternal protection.” He recounted a selfless and generous service to the sick and wounded during the Spanish-American War.”

Florida Catholic  June 2012

‘A basilica in God’s paradise’

‘Conchs’ and others rejoice at Mass of designation for St. Mary Star of the Sea

‘When you come into this parish, it’s like an ambiance you never felt before. The fellowship is rich, is vibrant. They’re doing God’s work.’

Robert DeLauro

MARYWEST | What ‘conchs’ have known for decades, the Vatican confirmed May 31: St. Mary Star of the Sea is holy ground.

“When you come into this parish, it’s like an ambiance you never felt before. The fellowship is rich, is vibrant. They’re doing God’s work,” said Robert DeLauro. “There’s no doubt in my mind this is sacred ground.”

“The faith of the people in Key West is so deep and so strong,” said Sister Dolores Wehle, one of two Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary who processed in with the other basilica insignia, the tintinnabulum or bell.

“The Sisters of the Holy Names ministered in the archdiocese’s oldest parish 115 years, from 1868 to 1983. They opened a school for girls, known as the Convent of Mary Immaculate; a school for black children, known as St. Francis Xavier. When the battle-ship Maine exploded in Havana Harbor and the Spanish-American War broke out in 1898, they turned the convent school into a hospital for the wounded.

“The presence here raised the bar for this parish,” said Father John Baker, pastor since 2007, whose new title is rector of the basilica. “As the nuns grew, they responded con- stantly and adapted. They really did set the tone as to what ministry is.”

“They planted the seeds. Everybody talks about the sisters,” said Sister Mary Silvestry Mushi, one of three Sisters of the Holy Spirit from Tanzania who now work at the parish and school, carries the tintinnabulum (bell) into the Basilica of St. Mary Star of the Sea. Behind her are two representatives of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary who staffed the parish and school for 15 years: Sister Therese Cecilia Lowe, left, and Sister Dolores Wehle, who both taught at the school. See more photos at www.miamiarch.org. (ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO | FC)

“We have to hold this together,” said her fellow Sister Mary Silvestry Mushi, one of the Sisters of the Holy Spirit who now work at the parish and school, carries the tintinnabulum (bell) into the Basilica of St. Mary Star of the Sea. Behind her are two representatives of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary who staffed the parish and school for 15 years: Sister Therese Cecilia Lowe, left, and Sister Dolores Wehle, who both taught at the school. See more photos at www.miamiarch.org. (ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO | FC)

“You cannot really understand the history of this state, the history of this region, without knowing something about the history of Key West,” Archbishop Wenski said at the end of the Mass.

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‘They planted the seeds. Everybody talks about the sisters,’ said Sister Silvestry Mushi of the Sisters of the Holy Spirit who now work at the parish and school, carries the tintinnabulum (bell) into the Basilica of St. Mary Star of the Sea. Behind her are two representatives of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary who staffed the parish and school for 15 years: Sister Therese Cecilia Lowe, left, and Sister Dolores Wehle, who both taught at the school. See more photos at www.miamiarch.org. (ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO | FC)
Nuncio to speak in Miami

The new apostolic nuncio of the Holy See to the United States, Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, will be the principal celebrant and homilist for the Saturday eucharistic celebration during the Association of Latino Leaders’ (CALL) national conference to be held in Miami later this summer.

CALL is a faith-based group comprised of laypeople dedicated to promoting the common good of the Catholic Church and of the nation. Schedules are Aug 24-26 at the Miami Marriott Biscayne Bay. CALL’s seventh annual gathering will address issues of particular relevance to Hispanics this presidential election year.

Registration to the conference, with the theme “The Family: Evangelization and Public Witness — From Education to Religious Liberty,” is open to the public and includes a three-day slate of nationally known speakers. This gathering is especially important in light of the recent policy decision by President Obama and the U.S. Health and Human Services Department that is part of a pattern of limitations they seek to place on religious liberties,” said Robert Aguirre, CALL president and CEO. “The issue is not about us, as employers, to provide free sterilization and contraceptive coverage, but about our rights to provide health care as we choose. It’s a serious matter that we will not accept as Hispanic Catholic business and professional people seeking to be faithful.”

The Miami conference agenda will include a legal presentation and update titled “Our Religious Liberty at Risk.” The gathering will feature a powerful line-up of religious and lay speakers who will address topics such as the role of Catholic education in building faithful citizens of family, faith and politics; the New Evangelization; and the call to public witness. The roster includes Archbishop Jose Gomez of Los Angeles and Charles Chaput of Philadelphia, Knights of Columbus Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, Kathryn Jean Lopez of the National Review Online, and others. For more information or to register for the conference, go to www.call-usa.org.

Churches embark on building projects

St. Katharine Drexel Parish in Weston held a groundbreaking and Notre Dame Academy for girls as its church building. But the building project is to accommodate the 1,200 people who attend each of the five Sunday Masses. Seats are set up outside the church and the parishioners view the Mass on big-screen television. The new $12 million Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, named after Haiti’s patron saint, will seat 1,200 people with room for seating another 200. The project was delayed after a groundbreaking ceremony in June of last year, but “we just pulled up the new permanent floor and the general contractor is mobilizing to shovel the construction site,” Father Reginald Jean-Mary, pastor, wrote in a letter inviting parishioners and benefactors to the Mass of Thanksgiving.

The parish celebrated its first Masses at a parochial elementary school just five days after the Sept. 11 attacks, and began fundraising immediately to build a church on 19 acres purchased by the archdiocese 14 years ago. The church designs were environmentally sensitive wetlands and it took five years to get the necessary permits required by all the federal, state, county and city agencies involved. When built, the new church will be located on South Post Road and East 26 Street in Weston.

PRIESTS FROM 1

Misas en honor a una patrona colombiana

La Cofradía de la Virgen de Chiquinquirá, patrona de Colombia, la oficia anualmente a celebrar misas en honor de la Virgen durante todo el mes de julio. Las misas tendrán lugar en las siguientes parroquias a las horas indicadas:

- Domingo, 1 de julio de St. Matthew, Hallandale, 1 p.m.
- Domingo, 8 de julio de St. Joseph, Miami, 12 p.m., Santa Barbara, Hialeah Gardens, 2 p.m., St. Louis, Pinecrest, 7:30 p.m.
- Sábado, 14 de julio, St. Monica, Miami Gardens, 6:30 p.m.
- Domingo, 15 de julio St. Catherine of Siena, Miami, 1 p.m., St. Katherine Drexel, Weston, 12 p.m., Our Lady of Lourdes, Miami, 1 p.m.
- Viernes, 20 de julio de St. Patrick, Miami Beach, 7 p.m.
- Sábado, 21 de julio de St. Chris King, Perrine, 6:30 p.m.
- Domingo, 22 de julio de St. Francis of Sales, Miami Beach, 12:30 p.m., St. Lawrence, North Miami Beach, 1 p.m., St. Agatha, Miami, 1 p.m., St. Martha, Miami Shores, 6 p.m.
- Viernes, 27 de julio de Mother of Our Redenovam, Miami, 8 p.m.
- Sábado, 28 de julio de Sacred Heart, Homestead, 6:30 p.m.
- Domingo, 29 de julio de St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Doral, 12 p.m., All Saints, Sunrise, 5 p.m.

Archbishop: President’s move to halt deportations of young immigrants not enough

Archbishop Wenski said that the Obama administration’s decision to halt deportations of young immigrants is “better than nothing but still not enough.”

The archbishop was referring to an executive order issued by Obama last week that would halt deportations of immigrants who came to the United States legally as children. Archbishop Thomas Wenski of Miami said in a statement that the archbishop said in an interview with the Florida Catholic.

“He basically took Marco Rubio’s legislation and did it by executive decree,” Archbishop Wenski said, referring to a proposal by the Republican senator from Florida. “I can’t be happy with this one because I wasn’t happy with what Marco Rubio was proposing because it didn’t go far enough.”

What Archbishop Wenski, the U.S. bishops and other immigrant advocates have been asking Congress to pass is the DREAM Act, which would provide a path to citizenship for an estimated 800,000 people in the United States who had entered the country before they turned 16.

“By using the Florida Catholic, I’m getting the clientele who are responsible renters.” — James Saxton

TRAVEL

Lawsuits defend religious rights

CALL TO ACTION

- On April 12, the U.S. bishops issued a "Fair, Most Cherished Liberty," which outlines their concern that "religious liberty is under attack, both at home and abroad." To read it, in English and Spanish, go to www.usccb.org or click on the link on the archdiocesan home page, www.miamicatholic.org.
- The bishops have called for the observance of a “Fortnight for Freedom,” from June 21 to July 4, to focus "all the energies the Catholic community can muster" for religious liberty. The two-week period begins with the feasts of Sts. Thomas More and St. John Fisher and ends with Independence Day.
- To see a listing of events being planned to mark this fortnight in the visit, visit www.miamicatholic.org.

I commend the 43 dioceses, hospitals, schools and Catholic Church entities that have filed 12 lawsuits against the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for violation of religious freedom. These lawsuits defend our rights under this country’s First Amendment, Freedom of Religion.

This freedom is rooted in the dignity of every human person, and as Americans and Catholics we are obliged to defend this religious right for our brothers and sisters. The “separation of Church and State” was intended to keep the state from intruding into the Church’s or any religious organization’s territory — the HHS is attempting to do just this through its health care mandate, which creates a slippery slope.

The Catholic Church is not attempting to force its views on the rest of the country; it’s the other way around. The federal government of the United States is trying to force its views on the Church. Individuals are free to buy contraceptives — the Supreme Court settled that question a long time ago. Employers are free to cover it in the health insurance they sponsor, and insureds are free to write policies covering it. This has long been the case and is not in dispute.

Our government’s efforts to “accommodate” the Church’s objections based on religious freedom is not a fix. This HHS mandate still requires religious organizations to sponsor and subsidize health insurance plans that include drugs and procedures that are found morally objectionable. Many of this country’s Catholic dioceses, hospitals, schools, and entities are self-insured, so costs mandated coverage, although a violation of our freedom and beliefs, will have to be accepted and absorbed by the religious institution.

Catholic Churches and their entities help people because we are Catholic, not because they are Catholic. Since the Church services non-Catholics in hospitals, schools and parishes, they have to write policies covering it. This HHS mandate and its narrow exception, the government is punishing us for reaching out to non-Catholics. Before we asked, “Are you hungry? Are you sick?” We now have to ask, “Are you Catholic?”

The way the HHS mandate defines religious ministry is so narrow that almost no religious organization qualifies for religious freedom protection or exemption. HHS is willing to jeopardize a massive national hospital, financial, and social services and schools in order to impose on everybody its views on abortion-inducing drugs, contraception and sterilization.

Some ask why are only the Catholic Church organizations filing these lawsuits? Perhaps that question should be directed to those being sued. But every individual in this country, and every religious organization, should be concerned that our federal government believes it has the power to force its citizens to violate their consciences and beliefs. Non-Catholic entities are similarly impacted by this mandate; some of those entities are already involved in separate lawsuits. Although these newest lawsuits happen to include only Catholic entities, we are hopeful that they will establish principles that protect all religious organizations.

FROM THE ARCHBISHOP

Thomas Wenski

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Our staff meets for prayer each work day at 9 a.m. Send prayer intentions to prayers@thefloridacatholic.org


APPOINTMENTS

Father Alfredo Rolón — parochial vicar, St. Mary Star of the Sea, Key West.
Father Harry Loubriel — parochial vicar, Little Flower, Coral Gables.
Father Luis Rivero — director of Campus Ministry, St. Thomas University, Miami Gardens.
Father Julio Solano — parochial vicar, St. Agnes, Key Biscayne.
Father Juan Pedro Hernandez — parochial vicar, Mother of Christ, Miami.
Father Luis Perez — parochial vicar, St. Maximilian Kolbe, Pembroke Pines.
Father Jorge Perales — parochial vicar, St. Andrew, Coral Springs.
Father Fernando Orejuela — parochial vicar, Our Lady of Lourdes, Miami.
Father Nestor Varón — parochial vicar, St. Boniface, Pembroke Pines.
Father John Valage — parochial vicar, St. John the Apostle, Hialeah.
Father Alberto Rodriguez, Trinitarians — parochial vicar, Holy Rosary-St. Richard, Palmetto Bay.
Father Rafael Cos — parochial vicar, St. Agatha, Miami.
Father Juan Aviles — parochial vicar, St. Patrick, Miami Beach.
Father Joseph Marou — temporary administrator, St. Paul the Apostle (until Aug. 1).
Father Damian Flanagan — parochial vicar, St. Hugh, Coconut Grove.
Effective Aug. 1:
Retirements accepted:
Father George Garcia, effective June 1.
Msgr. John Vaughan, effective June 15.

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Demanda defienden la libertad religiosa

Felicito a las 43 diocesis, hospitales, escuelas y entidades de la Iglesia Católica que han presentado 12 demandas en contra del Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos de los EE.UU. por violación de la libertad religiosa. Estas demandas defienden nuestros derechos bajo la Primera Enmienda de este país, la libertad religiosa.

Esta libertad tiene sus raíces en la dignidad de todo ser humano y, los estadounidenses y los católicos somos obligados a defender este derecho religioso para nosotros y los demás. La “separación entre Iglesia y Estado”, fue concebida con la intención de impedir que el estado se entrometiera en el terreno de la Iglesia, o de cualquier otra organización religiosa. El Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos (HHS) está tratando de hacer precisamente esto por medio de su mandato de asistencia de salud, que crea una reshbaladiza pendiente.

La Iglesia Católica no está tratando de imponer sus puntos de vista sobre el resto del país, sino que está sucediendo al revés. El gobierno federal de los Estados Unidos está tratando de imponer sus puntos de vista sobre la Iglesia. Las personas son libros de compras anticonceptivos: la Corra Suprema zanjó esa cuestión hace mucho tiempo. Los empleadores son libros de cubrirlos en el seguro de salud que ellos pa...
By studying what happens when these particles collide, physicists learn about the laws of nature and its composition.

“We are so proud of Juliette,” said Elva Beigosa, public relations coordinator for Pace High School. “She truly brings the excitement of physics and science to the classroom. This past October when the area middle schools were visiting us, she created a marvelous haunted house Halloween lab for her students. They, and the visiting middle schoolers, were thoroughly engaged in the learning experience.”

“Ms. Victoria makes the classroom extremely interesting,” said Luz Madera, a junior student in her class. “We were able to interact with two graduating physicists from FSU, via Skype. We discussed mass versus matter, and it gave us a hands-on approach. It has motivated me to want to major in physics.”

“I was able to ask the physics graduates from FSU where God plays into all of this,” said Sebastian Zamudio. “It wasn’t something they would really talk about since they are a part of a public institution. But since we are a Catholic school, we discuss this in our class, looking at how science and religion coincide.”

With all of my studies, I have become even more Catholic,” said Victoria, a 1994 graduate of Pace, as well as a graduate of St. John the Apostle in Hialeah. “It all boils down to energy. When you look at the atom, you wonder what is holding it all together. There comes a time when you cannot explain anymore. Then you are looking at the awesomeness of God.”

How will Victoria integrate this experience into her classroom teaching?

“I will be further encouraged to teach particle physics in the classroom,” she said. “I will be better able to facilitate it because I will have the in-person, hands-on, real stories that come from this deep study. I have to thoroughly understand it to be able to explain it to teens. And, finally, I want to inspire and capture students’ imaginations. They will be the scientists, teachers, voters and decision-makers of the future. I will be influencing their critical thinking.”

“Juliette is a shining example of a Pace graduate who continues to accomplish great things,” said Ana Garcia, the school’s principal. “This is not just about her. She brings honor and respect to all of us as a school.”

Victoria will be “Twittering” her experiences this summer. You can follow her at @PaceMsVictoria2.

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**Re-creating the ‘big bang’**

Msgr. Pace High physics teacher receives fellowship to study at CERN in Geneva

Toni Pallatto
Florida Catholic correspondent

MIAMI GARDENS | Juliette Victoria, physics and chemistry teacher at Msgr. Edward Pace High School, received exciting news last month from one of her physics professors at Florida State University. She has been selected to particpate in a one-month research project at the CERN laboratory in Geneva, Switzerland, this summer.

“I worked with Dr. Horst Wahl for two semesters in experimental physics at FSU,” said Victoria. “He contacted me to advise that one other Florida high school teacher and I had been selected among Florida teachers to receive this Compact Muon Solenoid Fellowship.”

The funding is provided by the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy.

CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, is the largest physics experiment in the world, with international collaboration from thousands of scientists. The concentration is on fundamental physics, striving to find out what the universe is made of and how the particles work.

The largest and most complex scientific instruments, particle accelerators and detectors, are used to study the components of matter. The accelerators boost beams of particles to high energies before they are made to collide with each other, while the detectors observe and record the results of these collisions.

“Within its complex structure of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN, there are six detectors. I will be working at the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS), which is one of the six,” said Victoria. “The CMS detector has a super conducting wire that looks like a Slinky but much bigger and produces a large magnetic field.”

Two beams of protons travel in opposite directions inside the circular accelerator, gaining energy with every lap. The two beams collide head-on at very high energy.

“We exploit the relationship between the path of the particle and the magnetic field in which it travels to see what comes out of the collisions,” said Victoria. “It is kind of like re-creating the conditions after the big bang.”

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**St. Brendan High School Congratulates its Graduating Class of 2012**

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**Christopher Columbus High School**
Measuring achievement

Numbers tell the story of Catholic class of 2012’s accomplishments

STAFF REPORT

MIAMI | As the Archdiocese of Miami’s class of 2012 heads off to college, here are a few statistics that reflect some of their accomplishments:

- 3,039 — Total graduates in the 13 Catholic high schools within the archdiocese (nine are operated by the archdiocese, four are operated by religious orders).
- $146 million — Total value of scholarships awarded to local Catholic graduates.
- 2 million — Total number of service hours performed by local Catholic graduates during their four years of high school.
- Two and 10 — Number of Silver Knight winners and honorable mentions, respectively, in the annual recognition sponsored by The Miami Herald to honor students who combine academic achievement with service to the community. (See accompanying story, Page 7.)

“Most first-tier and Ivy League universities are represented by one or more of our graduates, including Harvard, Yale, Notre Dame, The Catholic University of America,” said Donald Edwards, associate superintendent of schools for the archdiocese. “This also includes each of the service academies.”

Edwards compiled the statistics by surveying the high school principals and guidance counselors. Another factoid: Of the 3,039 graduates, 1,435 had completed eight or more years of Catholic education.

“This confirms the value of Catholic education in our archdiocese,” said Kim Przybylski, senior director of Christian formation and superintendent of schools. “Not only are the scholarships impressive; of equal note, the graduates represent more than 2 million service hours provided to individuals and organizations throughout the community.”

“This also confirms our efforts to bring to fruition the archbishop’s vision of excellence in Catholic education in our archdiocese,” Przybylski continued. “We have reason to be very proud of what the Catholic high school class of 2012 has accomplished.”

Archbishop Coleman F. Carroll High School
Wishes to congratulate its class of 2012
Jessica Clark, Valedictorian
Amanda Candelaria, Salutatorian

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12 students from 7 schools honored with ‘Silver Knights’

MAM | Two archdiocesan high school students—one in Miami-Dade, the other in Broward—won “Silver Knights” in their respective fields of excellence this year, and 10 others were recognized with honorable mentions.

The Silver Knight awards—begun in 1959 in Miami-Dade and 1984 in Broward—are given out by The Miami Herald to honor graduating seniors who have excelled both academically and in service to the community.

The competition is open to students in all public and private schools.

The two winners from Catholic schools this year were:

- Courtney Brant of Archbishop Edward McCarthy High School in Broward, in the category of athletics. A competitor in soccer, volleyball and track, Courtney was honored for her four years of work serving meals to the homeless at the Cooperative Feeding Program of Broward.

- Tomas Ramon Cacedo of Belen Jesuit Prep in Miami, in the category of mathematics. He was honored for the hours he spent tutoring his fellow students in math and his volunteer work with the Lighthouse for the Blind. Tomas himself is legally blind.

The 10 students who received honorable mentions were:

- From St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Fort Lauderdale: Shayna Rebecca Palmer in athletics; Amy Goodner in English and literature; Kimberly Danae Ellis in general scholarship; Kristen Celeste Garcia in journalism; and Thomas Vincent Mulrine VI in speech.

- From Archbishop McCarthy High School: Giancarlo Rodriguez in social science.

- From Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart in Miami: Molly Sandra Nuell in speech.

- From Christopher Columbus High School in Miami: Fernando Alvarez Jr. in world languages.

- From Msgr. Edward Pace High School in Miami Gardens: Bria Brown in speech.

- From Our Lady of Lourdes Academy in Miami: Emily Nicole Molina in business.

Past Silver Knight winners who have gone on to national prominence include Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon.com; Oscar- and Emmy-winner William Conti, composer of the theme for the “Rocky” movies; NFL Hall of Famer Ted Hendricks; and Frances Cook, the first female ambassador to a Persian Gulf nation.
Four Carolinas: An instructional tale

Sisters of St. Philip Neri, four generations of women, weave ‘tapestry of education’

TONI PALLATTO
Florida Catholic correspondent

FORT LAUDERDALE | Carolina O. Ritchie just finished the first grade at St. Jerome School — nothing unusual about that. However, she represents the fourth generation of a rich tradition of Catholic education dating back to 1915.

It all began in Havana in 1915 when Carolina's great-grandmother, Carolina Pichardo (1910-2001) and her sister Emilita attended Our Lady of Lourdes, a school started and run by the Sisters of St. Philip Neri.

The sisters stress spiritual, academic, social, moral and physical excellence within a safe, joyful and nurturing environment. “Our tradition continues to be an invitation for those who are overwhelmed by choices to be at a school that is anchored in faith, academic excellence and service,” said Sister Vivian Gomez, Sisters of St. Philip Neri, principal of St. Jerome.

Pichardo and Emilita graduated from Our Lady of Lourdes in 1924. In 1948, Pichardo's daughter, Carolina Covian (1943-2001), began her Catholic education alongside her sisters Maria and Gemma at Our Lady of Lourdes in Havana. Covian graduated in 1960. When she came to the United States with her family, they came first to Miami, then moved to San Francisco before relocating in Fort Lauderdale in 1973. Her daughter, Carolina Robson Ritchie, along with a younger sister and brother, attended public school at the time.

By good fortune or “God- incidence,” however, Covian attended her high school reunion for Our Lady of Lourdes that year, a reunion held annually in Miami.

“People come from all over the

PLEASE SEE CAROLINA, 9

Sister Vivian Gomez, right, of the Sisters of St. Philip Neri, principal of St. Jerome School in Fort Lauderdale, poses with the two youngest generations of women to attend schools run by her congregation: Carolina Robson Ritchie and her daughter, Carolina O. Ritchie, a first-grader at St. Jerome. (TONI PALLATTO | FC)
Late bishop bequeaths $60,000 to Cuban diocese

Bishop Agustín Román, who died April 11 of this year, left in his will a donation of $60,000 to the Diocese of Matanzas, Cuba — the place where he was ordained and first ministered as a priest and the place he was never able to return to after being expelled from his homeland in 1961.

Bishop Román supported that Church — and now in death he continues to do so," Archbishop Thomas Wenski said.

"One could say that Bishop Román had two great loves," the archbishop added, "the Ermita de la Caridad (Shrine of Our Lady of Charity in Miami) and his native Cuba. Bishop Román has indicated that all his worldly goods would be left to support both. The portion of his estate for the Diocese of Matanzas has already been identified and allocated according to his wishes. As we set Bishop Román’s estate we will do the same for the Ermita de la Caridad."

Referring to the size of the gift, Archbishop Wenski noted "Bishop Román lived a life of extreme simplicity. He never spent anything on himself and this frugality made possible this generous gift."

After being expelled from Cuba, Bishop Román ministered in Chile. He came to Miami in 1966 and almost immediately became involved in the construction of the shrine on Biscayne Bay. He was ordained an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Miami March 24, 1979, in 2003 submitted his resignation as auxiliary bishop but remained active at the shrine and in the archdiocese until his death.

The $60,000 bequest has been sent to Bishop Manuel de Céspedes of Matanzas.

McCarthy alumna wins Pulitzer

Sara Ganim, a 2005 graduate of Archbishop Edward McCarthy High School in Southwest Ranches, has won the 2012 Pulitzer Prize for local reporting for her coverage of the Penn State sex abuse allegations.

Ganim started her journalistic career in high school, as editor of the school newspaper and as a freelance reporter for the Sun-Sentinel. She graduated with a journalism degree from Pennsylvania State University and joined the Centre Daily Times in State College, Pa., in 2007 where she began investigating allegations that former Penn State football coach Jerry Sandusky had sexually abused or had inappropriate contact with underage boys.

In 2011, Ganim joined the Patriot-News in Harrisburg, Pa., where she is credited with being the first to report on the investigation and working to give it national attention.

CAROLINA

FROM 8

country to attend this high school reunion," said Ritchie. "There she saw Sister Maria Cartaya, whom she knew immediately from Our Lady of Lourdes School in Cuba. She discovered that Sister Cartaya was the principal of St. Jerome Catholic School, which was just down the street from where our family lived in Fort Lauderdale."

"In no time, we were taken out of the public school, and we were all enrolled at St. Jerome," said Ritchie. "My mother was so insistent that we receive a Catholic education from the Sisters of St. Philip Neri that she went back to work to help pay for it. My dad would walk the three of us to school in the morning and my mother would meet us in the afternoon."

The Sisters of St. Philip Neri are a congregation founded in Spain in 1858 by Marcos and Gertrudis Castañer y Seda, a brother and sister inspired by the spiritual need.

Marcos, ordained a priest in 1839, and Gertrudis, whose failing health prevented her from finishing her studies as a Carlisten nun, opened their first school in Barcelona. The congregation soon expanded its reach into Mexico, Cuba and eventually to the United States.

Ritchie attended St. Jerome from August 1973 to June 1977 and continued her education at St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Fort Lauderdale.
COMMUNITY EVENTS

Summer fun runs, Tuesdays and Thursdays through Aug. 2, 6:30 p.m., Miami Shores Community Center, 97th Street and Park Avenue. Organized by Archibishop Curley-Notre Dame Prep. For people of all ages and ability levels. 305-751-8367.

Candlelight prayer service for religious freedom, Tuesday, July 3, 8 p.m., Little Flower, 2711 Indian Mound Trail, Coral Gables. Includes readings, reflections, patriotic music and intercessory prayer. 305-446-9950.

CONCERTS

Concerto lírico, viernes, 12 a.m., St. Dominic, 3909 N.W. Seventh St., Miami; con el tenor Nelson Martinez y la soprano Hilda del Canto. $50 por canastero, por anticipo; $100 en la puerta. 305-261-2858.

FAITH EDUCATION

Experiencia Pre-Caná, 6-7 de julio, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, 3317 N.E. 80th St., Miami, incluyendo primeros matrimonios, parejas vueltas a casa en la iglesia católica, convalidaciones, y aquellas con uniones previas que vuelven a casa tras haber recibido la nulidad. El taller cubre el entrenamiento sobre el sacramento y destrezas para la vida. $200/pareja, incluye menús y materiales. 305-762-1148/1157, familie@theodom.org/familie.

Pre-Cana for convalidations, Saturday, July 7, 9 a.m., Our Lady of the Holy Rosary-St. Richard, 7500 S.W. 152 St., Miami. One-day preparation for civilly married couples seeking to receive the sacrament of marriage in the Catholic Church—15 couples up until the Monday before the program; $75 thereof if it is already paid (includes meals and materials). familie@theodom.org, 305-762-1148.

Pre-Cana weekend, Saturday, July 21, and Sunday, July 22, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Our Lady of the Holy Rosary-St. Richard, 7500 S.W. 152 St., Miami. Two full days of preparation for engaged couples preparing for first marriages and convalidations, and couples remarrying in the Catholic Church. $250 per couple, includes meals and materials. familie@theodom.org, 305-762-1148.

Pre-Cana, day and a half of preparation for engaged couples preparing for first marriages and convalidations, and couples remarrying in the Catholic Church. $200 per couple, includes meals and materials.

• Friday, Aug. 10-7 p.m. and Saturday, Aug. 11, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Pastoral Center, 9401 Biscayne Blvd., Miami Shores. familie@theodom.org. 305-762-1148.

• Friday, Aug. 17-7 p.m., and Saturday, Aug. 18, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Our Lady of the Rosary-St. Richard (sponsored), 11291 S.W. 142 Ave., Miami. maydololordolores@305-386-4121, ext. 717.


Camino del Matrimonio, 14-15 de julio, Southeast Pastoral Institute (SEPI), 7700 S.W. 56 St., Miami. Programa arquidiocesano de preparación matrimonial en español, con el propósito de llegar a aquellos que desean convalidar matrimonio en la Iglesia Católica, basado en la Teología del Cuerpo, del Papa Juan Pablo II. 305-226-4664.

Respect life workshop, Saturday, Aug. 19, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., St. Benedict, 701 W. 77 St., Hialeah. Learn what the Church teaches on the critical life issues, R.S.V.P.: 954-981-2922.

Southern Pastoral Institute (SEPI), 7700 S.W. 56 St., Miami. 305-279-2333, www.sepiomiami.org: “Carta Magna del Reino: Las Bienaventuranzas”, martes y jueves, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., 21 de agosto-20 de septiembre, la espiritualidad cristiana, su vivencia y compromiso testimonial; profesor: Padre Jesús M. Leece, Sch.P.

• Teología Moral Fundamental, viernes, 7:30-10:30 p.m., 24 de agosto-26 de octubre, introducción a la teología moral como ciencia; profesor: Padre Jesús M. Leece, Sch.P.

Online marriage preparation for couples with special circumstances that will not allow them to attend any of the parish programs. Contact the Office of Family Life, 305-762-1148/1157, familie@theodom.org.

Preparación pre-matrimonial por internet, para parejas con circunstancias especiales que no les permiten asistir a los programas en las iglesias. Para más información, comunícense con la Pastoral Familiar de la Arquidiócesis de Miami, 305-762-1148/1157, familie@theodom.org.

MASSES/PRAYER SESSIONS

First Saturday devotion/prayer, July 7, 6 a.m., St. Brendan, 8725 S.W. 32 St., Miami. 305-359-5246.

First Saturday Communion of Reparation, July 7, 8 a.m., St. Andrew, 9501 N.W. 152 St., Coral Springs. Devotion to Our Lady of Fatima with prayer, meditation on the rosary, holy Communion. 954-753-1783.


RETRIEVES/DAYS OF REFLECTION

“Behold the Lamb of God,” Sunday, June 23, 8:30 a.m.-10 p.m., Our Lady of the Lakes, 15801 N.W. 67 Ave., Miami Lakes. Praise and worship, uplifting music, inspirational teaching, healing service, Mass and Benedictine. 954-961-1856, crobl@att.net.

MorningStar Renewal Center, 7275 S.W. 124 St., Pinecrest. Registration for retreats is required for all programs. 305-238-4367, ext. 102; or visit www.morningstarrenwalrenewal.org.

• Father and son evening of celebration, Thursday, June 28, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Speaker: Willy Ferrer, U.S. State Attorney for Florida. Recommended for ages 10 and up. $30 for adults, $15 for children ages 10-16.

Wellspring retreat, June 29-7, 1 Grand Palms Hotel, 110 Grand Palms Drive, Pembroke Pines. A live-in weekend in a safe environment for those who have experienced significant loss, primarily focused on separation/divorce, but also death and other broken relationships. Includes talks, time for personal reflection, sharing in small groups. Closes with Sunday Mass. Linda163563@comcast.net.

Seminario de Vida en el Espíritu, 29 de junio-1 de julio, Mother of Christ, 14141 S.W. 26 St., Miami. Ven y descubre lo hermoso que es Dios. Incluye comedas y cuidado de niños. 305-586-9012, 786-282-1682.

Retiro de la Divina Misericordia, sábado, 30 de junio, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Gesu, 118 N.E. Second St., Miami. Conferencia cuyo objetivo es aprender a entender y comprender el mensaje de Jesús misericordioso a santa María Faustina profundizando en el significado de cada una de las nuevas formas de devoción a la Divina Misericordia por los 786-299-7767.

Encuentro Familiar 300D, 11-12 de agosto, Casa Manresa, 12190 S.W. 56 St., Miami. Una experiencia en la que los padres participan con sus hijos de 12 a 21 años con el propósito de llegar a una profunda reflexión en el hogar: Charlas, videos y dinámicas por separado, con temas de acuerdo a cada grupo. Closes with Sunday Mass. 305-238-2458, alvarenz@bellsouth.net.

FLORIDA CATHOLIC

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Some text has been truncated or omitted due to the nature of the image and the page's main language. The main content includes information on Church events, concerts, and community meetings, along with some advertisements. The text is primarily in Spanish.
young people across the U.S. The original DREAM Act (short for Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors) was first proposed by Senators Dick Durbin and Orrin Hatch back in 2001. It offers a path to citizenship to high school graduates of “good moral character” who arrived in the U.S. as minors and lived here continuously for five years prior to the bill’s enactment.

After two years of study at a four-year college or two years in the military, these young people would be eligible for temporary residency for a six-year period. To obtain permanent residency, they would have to acquire, within that six-year period, a degree from a U.S. institution of higher education, or have completed two years toward a bachelor’s or higher degree, or have served in the Armed Forces for at least two years and received an honorable discharge. It would have applied to undocumented immigrants as old as 35.

Similar bills were introduced in both houses of Congress in 2009 but have never been passed.

The executive order announced June 15 by Janet Napolitano, secretary of Homeland Security, “will allow certain young people who were brought to the United States as young children, do not present a risk to national security or public safety, and meet several key criteria to be considered for relief from removal from the country or from entering into removal proceedings,” according to the White House.

The deportations will be halted for two years and may be renewed depending on the individual cases.

The order applies to those who are between the ages of 16 and 30 and have lived in the U.S. continuously for five years before applying for inclusion. They also need to be enrolled in school, graduated from high school, obtained a high school equivalency degree, or been honorably discharged from the military.

The order excludes those who have been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, multiple misdemeanors or pose a threat to national security.

“This is basically what Marco Rubio was proposing and I criticized Marco Rubio for not going far enough. The ‘far enough’ has to be done by the Congress,” Archbishop Wenski said. “They do need a path to permanent residency or citizenship. Without that path they will legally work in this country but there will be a really low glass ceiling that will keep them from achieving their full potential as human beings.”

Asked if this was merely a political move by President Obama to gain more Hispanic and Latino votes in the November election, the archbishop said, “Perhaps he wanted to keep Marco Rubio from achieving this legislatively because politically it might have made the Republicans look better. I don’t know. I can’t judge his motivation. It’s some welcome relief, but it’s not a solution.”

SYNOD
FROM 1

What could the Church in Miami do better? What could the Church in Miami do in the future that it is not doing now?

Although participants in the listenign sessions get to share their thoughts directly with the archbishop — and synod coordinator Jacqueline Debs transcribes their comments on her laptop — speaking out is not essential. The most important aspect of the listening sessions is filling out the feedback forms, which will be compiled and grouped into focus areas.

Focus teams will then study their particular area of expertise and make SMART — Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Timely — recommendations, which the archbishop and his synod leadership team will then figure out how to implement.

Participants at the first two sessions — about 250 in Hialeah and 50 in the Keys — repeatedly expressed their desire to see more outreach to young people and open more, and more affordable Catholic schools.

“We’re losing the battle with youths,” said one participant at the Immaculate session, a sentiment echoed repeatedly by participants in the Keys.

But suggestions ran the gamut: from not leaving pastors in the same parish for too long to focusing more on the needs of the poor; from doing a better job of teaching the faith to adults to using television to project a better image of the Church; from organizing a Corpus Christi procession through the streets of downtown Miami to hosting more inter-parochial events so Catholics can get to know each other across parish boundaries.

Among the things the Church in South Florida is doing properly, participants cited its lay ministry formation program, the reopening of closed parishes and this second general synod itself. “It’s been a privilege for me to be able to listen to you,” Archbishop Wenski said at the end of the listening sessions.

“We should do this every year,” said a pleased Ramona Morina of St. John the Apostle Parish in Hialeah. 

DREAM
FROM 3

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AD LIMINA’ VISIT

Archbishop Thomas Wenski poses for a picture with Pope Benedict XVI during his “ad limina” (to the threshold) visit May 11 to the Holy See. The archbishop went with all the other bishops of Florida and a group of about 30 priests, religious and lay people from Miami. (L’OSSERVATORE ROMANO)
NEW BISHOP IN PANHANDLE

Bishop Gregory Parkes, who previously served as a priest of the Orlando Diocese, receives the applause of the faithful after being ordained and installed as the fifth bishop of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee. Archbishop Thomas Wenski served as principal consecrator during the June 5 ceremony. Bishop Felipe Estévez of St. Augustine and Bishop John Noonan of Orlando were co-consecrators. (COURTESY PHOTO | SISTER ELIZABETH WORLEY)

ANNA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO
Florida Catholic staff

MIAMI | As the song says, “The times, they are a-changin’.”

And in order to evangelize effectively, the Church needs to change the way it teaches the young about Christ.

To that end, the archdiocese’s new director of catechesis, Peter Ductram, with the help of a curriculum advisory committee, has revised the requirements for people wishing to function as catechists in the Archdiocese of Miami.

The last time the certification requirements were tweaked in the archdiocese was in 2003. The tweaks represented an upgrade from the pioneering four-level certification process first established here in 1980.

“This is a major renewal of that program,” said Ductram, who described the original certification curriculum as “visionary” and a model for the rest of the nation.

This new curriculum takes into account guidelines issued by the U.S. bishops in the National Directory for Catechesis, published in 2005. The curriculum is grounded in the four pillars of the Catholic Catechism: what we believe (the Creed and Scripture); the sacraments and liturgy: our life in Christ (morality); and prayer.

Instead of four levels of catechist certification, the new curriculum establishes three: basic, advanced and masters. “We are utilizing the language that is being used at the national level,” Ductram said.

Basic certification is for catechists and requires 40 to 60 hours of classes. Most of those classes are offered by the Office of Catechesis itself for a nominal fee throughout the year at its weeklong summer institutes in Miami-Dade and Broward counties, and at its annual Catechetical Day in the fall. Some are also offered online and in conjunction with the Office of Lay Ministry.

Advanced certification requires a bachelor’s degree in theology and is for those looking to work as parish coordinators of religious education or CREs. The masters level is for those with master’s degrees in theology, the only ones who from now on will bear the title of DRE, or director of religious education.

The new terminology means “we are more standardized, more alike in our programming” with dioceses throughout the U.S., one of the goals of the bishops’ Directory for Catechesis, Ductram said.

He stressed that this curriculum only applies to catechists who teach the faith to children who attend public or non-Catholic private schools. New requirements for teachers in Catholic schools will be issued in 2013.

“We have to ensure that the Catholic schools create a Catholic connection: What does it mean in my daily life?” Ductram said, which is why those certifications will differ. The goal is to convince every teacher that you are an agent of evangelization in this school.”

Religious education programs basically represent a parallel archdiocesan school system, with 110 catechetical leaders usually one person, most often paid, who runs the program in each parish: 5,000 catechists, nearly 1,000 CREs and 48,000 students who take classes once a week after school or on Saturdays.

Ductram said the goal of the new requirements is not to burden those “amazing” volunteers, but to help them do a better job. And he distinguishes between a volunteer and a catechist, a discernment process that he said should take at least a year.

“A volunteer has time. A catechist has responded to the call to share their faith,” Ductram said. “These are people who are very committed and they find life in their ministry.”

In his experience, volunteers turn into catechists “when they discover they have the time and talent and strength; (then) they themselves ask for formation.”

“Imparting the faith to the young requires two things, he noted: ‘You have to define what the Church teaches first, and then you have to apply it to daily life.”

“The role of the Office of Catechesis is ‘to help the catechist or the teacher to articulate their encounter with Christ.’ Once the children learn about liturgy and prayer, the catechist has to help them make the connection: What does it mean in my daily life?”

“We cannot just teach the faith. We have to share the faith,” Ductram said.

He noted that about 60 percent of the children coming to religious education today hail from divorced families. “If you have a catechist who is helping them to find Christ in the midst of their divorced families, they’re providing tools for life to these little kids.”

“I believe that by investing in their formation, this is going to empower these children,” Ductram said. “When you invest in catechesis, your parish becomes alive. I’ve seen it.”

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Florida Catholic staff

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO
Florida Catholic staff

EXCELLENT. AFFORDABLE. CATHOLIC.

Florida Catholic  June 2012

A new chapel and mausoleum will be built at Our Lady of Mercy Cemetery in Miami. After celebrating Memorial Day Mass there, Archbishop Thomas Wenski, second from right, dedicated the site. Breaking ground for the new chapel and mausoleum are, from left, Msgr. Tomas Marin, pastor of St. Timothy Parish in Miami; Father Israel Mago, pastor of Our Lady Guadalupe Parish; Sister Elizabeth Worley, chief operating officer of the archdiocese; Mary Jo Frick, executive director of Catholic Cemeteries; Archbishop Wenski; and Joseph Catania, president and CEO of Catholic Health Services. Archbishop Wenski is jokingly pouring dirt on Catania’s shovel. (MARLENE QUARONI | FC)

NEW LESSONS FOR CATECHISTS
Archdiocese revamps certification requirements for religious education teachers in parishes

ANA RODRIGUEZ-SOTO
Florida Catholic staff

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