

# LaFe

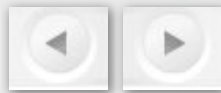
## Welcome to the digital edition of **La Fe Magazine**.

This interactive format allows you to easily read, share with friends and click on websites links to access different resources.

### Getting started with your digital edition:



**Front Cover:** Click to go to the digital magazine front cover.



**Page Navigation:** Use the arrow buttons to turn to the next and previous page. Type a particular page into the box or flip the page from any corner.



**Pointer Icon:** Click to zoom in for a closer look, and zoom out again



**Contents:** Show the table of contents to quickly access a particular article.



**Search:** Use the search box or click on the search icon to find any word or phrase.



**Share With Friends:** E-mail a link to an article or issue to a friend.



**Image Clipping:** Crop part of the magazine and send to a friend.



**Print:** You may choose for print one page or all magazine.



**Download:** If you want you can download the magazine in a PDF format.

We hope you enjoy this digital edition! If you have questions or suggestions for additional features, please let us know at [info@ezwsisolutions.com](mailto:info@ezwsisolutions.com)

**E-publication Developed and Maintained**

**Profile:** Laredoan receives national award and recognition

January/February 2007

www.LaFeMagazine.com

# LaFe

THE MAGAZINE OF THE DIOCESE OF LAREDO

# TEEN

SPECIAL EDITION

# faith is...

spiritual fitness

**In a chat room with God.** Prayer is our instant message with Jesus

saint of the month

**Executed for his faith – twice:**  
Saint Sebastian

\*Two teens proud to be **faithful Catholics**



**A New Way...A Better Way**

# The Paul Young Family Way

## Total Customer Commitment

Our goal is to provide you with an exceptional buying experience. With trained staff to help you avoid the normal hassles of car buying, you'll find that from the moment you walk in, Paul Young is committed to providing customer friendly treatment with total respect for your time.

Because Paul Young is - People you can count on.

## Best Pricing Promise

100% above board and straight forward. We'll show you every rebate, every discount and incentive and we'll go the extra mile to assist you with financing.

## South Texas Size Selection

We've dramatically expanded our selection; more styles, more colors, more to choose from. You won't find a better selection for hundreds of miles. If it's not here, we'll find it for you - guaranteed.

## Continuous Improvement

Our goal is total customer satisfaction and that means you'll see us getting better every day with exciting changes to make us better for you.

# Paul Young

*People You Can Count on*

3701 E. Saunders-Laredo

956-727-1192

[www.PaulYoungAutoGroup.com](http://www.PaulYoungAutoGroup.com)

9-8 M-F 12-6 Sunday

*Paul Young* CHRYSLER

AN AMERICAN  
REVOLUTION

## LaFe

The Magazine of the Catholic Diocese of Laredo

Most Reverend James A. Tamayo, DD  
**PUBLISHER**

Bennett McBride  
**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS**

Jan/Feb. 2007 • Volume 5: Issue 1

Gregorio M. "Goyo" López  
**EDITOR**

Rev. Toribio Guerrero  
**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**

Horchata Design  
**WEB DESIGN**

Blas Gibler  
Transline  
**TRANSLATIONS**

FAITH Publishing Service

Rev. Dwight Ezop  
**CHAIRMAN**

Patrick M. O'Brien  
**PRESIDENT/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Elizabeth Solsburg  
**EDITORIAL DIRECTOR**

Patrick Dally  
**ART DIRECTOR/WEB DESIGNER**

Enomhen Odigie  
Abby Wieber  
**GRAPHIC DESIGN**

Jillane Job  
**SUBSCRIPTIONS/SECRETARY**

Patricia Oliver  
**SECRETARY**

Rev. William Ashbaugh  
Elizabeth Johnson  
Rev. Joseph Krupp  
Cathleen McGreal  
Tim Ryan  
**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**

Derek Melot  
Margaret Perrone  
**PROOFREADING**

Tom Gennara  
Christine Jones  
**CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS**

Inner Workings  
**PRINTER**

[FAITHPublishingService.com](http://FAITHPublishingService.com)

La Fe is a membership publication of the Catholic Diocese of Laredo, 1901 Corpus Christi, Laredo, Texas 78043. Published bimonthly. Subscriptions are \$15 per year. Individual issues are \$4.50. Send all subscription information and address changes to 1901 Corpus Christi, Laredo, Texas 78043; 956.523.0586; fax 956.722.4464 or e-mail [glopez@diocesoflaredo.org](mailto:glopez@diocesoflaredo.org). Catholic Diocese of Laredo. To obtain permission to reprint any portion of La Fe, please call 956.523.0586.



## Cover Story

Two teens proud to be faithful Catholics.



# 12

# inside

what you'll get out of this issue

## in the know with Fr. Joe

**6** Dear Fr. Joe: what do I do if a friend is suicidal?

– Father Joseph Krupp

## theology 101

**10** Was Jesus really human or did he just appear that way? A conversation about Christology with seminary professors.

– Elizabeth Solsburg

## saint of the month

**19** Executed for his faith – twice Saint Sebastian.

## the parenting journey

**23** My child is **not** my best friend. How being a parent is different from being a friend.

– Dr. Cathleen McGreal

## your marriage matters

**24** **She says:** Smoking is a “deal breaker” for me. **He says:** I need to smoke to reduce stress. What do they do?

– Deborah McCormack

## spiritual fitness

**26** In a chat room with God. Prayer is our instant message with Jesus.

– Father Bill Ashbaugh



## work life

**28** What do I want to be when I grow up? Ohmigosh, am I a grown-up?

– Tim Ryan

## the last word

**31** Faith is ...

– Fr. Toribio Guerrero

## 20 profile

### Stephanie Hechter wins national recognition

St. Augustine student captures a national award for her artistic rendition of the nativity. Her artwork was prominently displayed as Bishop Tamayo's Christmas card as well as thousands more on a national level. – Goyo López



## 22 feature

### Diaconate Ordination at Cathedral

– La Fe's camera freezes the moment for the seven men in the Diocese of Laredo who took a bold and spiritual step in their lives. Six of the men were ordained as permanent deacons and one a transitional deacon.

– Goyo López



## feature

### Region 10 Conference

▶▶ While the cover story features two teens from the Region 10 Catholic Youth Conference, you can also see a glimpse of the many activities in this photo montage. – Goyo López

# 18



**A**nother issue of *La Fe* is out so soon? That may be the question many of you are posing as you begin flipping through the pages of this edition.

A new year brings a new theme, and we celebrate 2007 by writing about the many fruits of the Holy Spirit. In this issue we focus on faithfulness.

Another fruit of our endeavors at *La Fe* is the increased frequency of publication.

In an effort to further evangelize and improve our product, we have decided to print every other month, for a total of six issues per year.

*La Fe* first began publishing in spring 2003 through the special funding of a Lamar Bruni Vergara grant, making the magazine available free of charge to anyone who desired one or more copies.

The two-year grant, supplemented by a Kenedy grant, allowed for the full funding of the magazine to be printed on a quarterly basis and distributed free of charge.

Now we have entered a new era. No longer funded by grant monies, *La Fe* is now attempting to become self-sufficient. The first step in this process is to accept advertising.

I'm sure you've noticed the ads on the different pages in the magazine. All revenue generated by the advertisements partially funds the operation of the magazine.

Despite the strain on economic resources, *La Fe* continues to be provided free of charge to anyone who desires to read this magazine filled with stories of faith, hope and love. Whether you grab a copy at your parish, local businesses or at our office, *La Fe* is

always free.

Why is it free?

It's free because we're more than a magazine.

We're more than a medium for the bishop to reach the masses.

*La Fe* is a ministry.

*La Fe* was founded in the spirit of the call for a new evangelization utilizing the communication media, as

set forth by Pope John Paul II.

I hope you enjoy the many blessed stories inspired by the fruits of the Holy Spirit and our gift to you this new year – six issues of *La Fe*!

– Gregorio "Goyo" López is editor of *La Fe*, the magazine of the Diocese of Laredo.



**¿S**ale tan pronto otra edición de *La Fe*? Esta puede ser la pregunta que muchos de ustedes están suponiendo al ir pasando por las páginas de esta nueva edición.

Un año nuevo trae un nuevo tema y nosotros celebramos el 2007 al escribir sobre los múltiples frutos del Espíritu Santo, y en esta edición nos enfocamos sobre la fidelidad.

Otro fruto de nuestros esfuerzos en *La Fe*, es la aumentada frecuencia de publicación.

En un empeño de evangelizar mas y de mejorar nuestro producto, hemos decidido imprimir cada segundo mes para un total de seis ediciones por año.

*La Fe* comenzó a publicarse en la primavera de 2003, mediante el especial financiamiento de una donación de la Fundación Lamar Bruni Vergara Grant, haciendo disponible la revista sin costo alguno para cualquier persona que deseara una o más copias.

La subvención de dos años, ayudado por una donación de Kennedy Grant, permitió obtener el financiamiento total de la revista para ser impresa sobre la base trimestral y distribuida libre de costo.

Ahora hemos entrado a una nueva era para la revista. Y no financiado por dineros donados, *La Fe* ahora está tratando de llegar a ser autosuficiente. El primer paso de este proceso es la aceptación de publicidad.

Estoy seguro que habrán notado los anuncios en las diferentes páginas en la revista. Todo ingreso generado por la publicidad, parcialmente financia la operación de la revista.

A pesar del peso sobre nuestros recursos económicos, *La Fe* continúa siendo proveída libre de cargo para cualquier persona que desee leer la revista, llena de historias de fe, esperanza, y amor.

Ya sea que tome usted una copia en su parroquia, negocios locales o en nuestra oficina, la revista siempre es gratuita.

¿Por qué es gratuita?

Es gratuita porque somos más que una revista.

Somos más que un medio para que el Obispo alcance a las masas.

*La Fe* es un ministerio.

*La Fe* fue fundada en el espíritu de la llamada para una nueva evangelización, utilizando los medios de la comunicación, como establecido por el Papa Juan Pablo II.

Espero que disfruten de todas las benditas historias, inspiradas por los frutos del Espíritu Santo, y de nuestro regalo para ustedes en este año nuevo – ¡Seis ediciones de *La Fe*!



# The College of Champions

Walk in the path of our students who have excelled in academics and athletics. We offer more than 120 degree plans and certificate programs to help you become a champion in the career of your choice.

Visit our website at [www.laredo.edu](http://www.laredo.edu) for more information.

Check out the Spring 2007 Class Schedule online at [ole.laredo.edu](http://ole.laredo.edu).

MAIN CAMPUS  
721-5117

SOUTH CAMPUS  
794-4110



Laredo Community College

West End Boulevard Street • 5800 South Zepeda Hwy. • Laredo, TX • [www.laredo.edu](http://www.laredo.edu)



The most prestigious magazine in the seven counties spanning the Diocese of Laredo is now accepting advertisements.

Support the official magazine of the Diocese of Laredo and reach your target audience by advertising in the next issue of *La Fe*.

Limited Space is available!

Contact Goyo López at 956.722.4167 for rates and deadlines.





►► Recently, at the high school where I'm chaplain, one of our students committed suicide. It was one of the most difficult times I have experienced in my six years at the school. I am writing this column about suicide in response to a question mailed to me. The answer comes from being a part of the slow and painful healing process that everyone goes through when someone chooses to take his or her life. Please pray today that all of us will grow in our ability to know our value in the eyes of God. May Jesus bless you today.



## dear Fr. Joe

### what do I do if my friend is suicidal?

#### Dear Fr. Joe: What do I do if a friend is suicidal?

**T**ough times, obviously – you have my prayers. Now, what do you do? First of all, you have to recognize that you are in an important position as a friend. If you think your friend is suicidal, then one of two things is true:

One possibility is that your friend told you that he is thinking of suicide. If that is the case, then that means your friend has trusted you with his secret. You have earned something great because of the way you care, and that speaks very well of you.

The second possibility is that you have watched your friend and picked up on subtle signs that something is amiss, and that you see the possibility of her hurting herself. If that is the case, this also speaks well of you; you are an observant, sensitive person who is aware of your friends at a time in your life when it is hard not to be self-focused. I am telling you these things because you need to keep them in your heart, as things might get rough.

The first step is to be sure that you are talking with your friend about his or her feelings; “How are you doing today? Is there anything I can do?” Questions like

this are an invitation to take what is hidden in the darkness and bring them into the light. They are more than questions; they are a statement of care and concern. As your friend shares his heart with you, make sure that you are really listening. Find out what

is going on and what you can do to help. Often, the best thing you can do to help is to be available and offer him all your love and prayers.

Now, if in your conversations, you realize that she is serious about hurting herself or taking her own life, you need to be sure and be present to her as much as you can. Perhaps you can get a group of trusted people to stay close, or seek help from an adult while you take the next step, which is the difficult one.

See, the next step is that you need to take this to an adult. The hardest part here will be your feelings of guilt about breaking a confidence. It could also be that you are thinking “Well, I could be wrong and if I am, I’ll really embarrass my friend.”

I think it’s worth it, don’t you? Suicide is a permanent condition. There are no second chances in a situation like this.

With that in your heart and mind, then, be sure and talk to a trusted adult. You may want to talk to your own parents. Sometimes, they may have suggestions about who you should

be telling about this situation. There is also the possibility of talking to one of your teachers, or the counselor at school. There are many people you can go to in a situation like this – make sure you take this step!

Now, if the person is threaten-

ing to seriously hurt him or herself at that moment, don’t hesitate – pick up the phone and call 9-1-1. Don’t worry about “wasting their time.” I assure you, the numerous police officers I have talked to on this issue would rather respond

to a call to prevent a teen suicide than a call to report one.

Some people will tell you, “Well, she’s only doing it to get attention,”

**“How are you doing today? Is there anything I can do?” Questions like this are an invitation to take what is hidden in the darkness and bring them out into the light.**



►► Send your questions to: “In the Know with Fr. Joe”, FAITH Magazine, 209 Seymour

## Querido Fr. Joe: ¿Qué debo hacer si un amigo quiere suicidarse?

**M**omentos difíciles, sin lugar a dudas - cuentas con mis oraciones.

¿Qué debes hacer ahora?

Primero que nada debes reconocer que tú te encuentras en la posición muy importante de ser su amigo. Si sabes que tu amigo quiere suicidarse, una de estas dos cosas es cierta: una posibilidad es que tu amigo te haya dicho que ha estado pensando en suicidarse. En ese caso, tu amigo te ha confiado a ti su secreto. Has ganado algo verdaderamente valioso y te lo mereces por la manera en la que te dedicas a tus amigos, lo que habla muy bien de ti. La segunda posibilidad es que tú, observando a tu amigo, hayas reconocido síntomas sutiles de que algo no está bien y que reconoces que existe la posibilidad de que él pueda hacerse daño a sí mismo. Este caso también habla bien de ti; eres una persona observadora y sensible, consciente de la presencia de tus amigos durante un periodo de tu vida en el que es difícil no estar centrado en ti mismo. Te digo estas cosas porque debes guardarlas en tu corazón ya que la situación estará a punto de ponerse dura.

and that may very well be the case. However, if she is only "doing it to get attention," then she must need attention pretty badly, because talking about suicide is a pretty drastic step. Don't use the possibility of "attention-getting" as a reason to step away, let it compel you even more to get involved. Any time a person threatens to hurt herself or to end his life, you should take it very seriously.

If you are reading this and struggling with thoughts about hurting yourself or ending your life, please talk to someone who can help: your parents, your priest or teacher, a friend; anyone who can help.

Life is a precious, beautiful gift - we all need to take care of and cherish that gift the best we can.

Enjoy another day in God's presence! ☺ - Father Joseph Krupp

*Recientemente, en la escuela secundaria donde trabajo como capellán, uno de nuestros estudiantes se suicidó. Ese fue para mí uno de los periodos más difíciles en los seis años que he estado en la escuela. Escribo ahora esta columna en respuesta a una pregunta que me han enviado por correo. La respuesta surge de la experiencia de ser parte del lento y penoso proceso de sanación por el que todos pasan cuando alguien elige quitarse la vida. Por favor, oren hoy para que crezca en todos nosotros la capacidad de reconocer el valor que tenemos delante de los ojos de Dios. Que Jesús los bendiga.*

El primer paso será no dejar de conversar con tu amigo sobre sus sentimientos: "¿Cómo estás? ¿Qué puedo hacer por ti?" Preguntas como estas invitan a sacar a la luz lo que está escondido en las tinieblas. Son más que preguntas; son una declaración de que te importa y preocupa el bienestar de tu amigo. A medida que tu amigo compart contigo los secretos de su corazón, asegúrate de que tú estés realmente escuchándolo. Averigua qué es lo que está pasando y la manera en la que tú puedas ayudar. Con frecuencia lo mejor es ponerte a disposición de tu amigo y ofrecerle todo tu amor y tus oraciones.

Pero, si por tus conversaciones te das cuenta de que él seriamente quiere quitarse la vida, tienes que estar con él lo más que puedas. Haz que un grupo de personas de confianza esté siempre cerca de él mientras tú tomas el próximo paso, que es el más difícil.

Lo que pasa es que el próximo paso es llevarle este problema a una persona adulta. Lo más duro en estos momentos es enfrentarse con los sentimientos de culpa por divulgar un secreto. Además puede ser que estés pensando "Puede ser que yo esté equivocado, y si realmente estoy equivocado, voy a avergonzar a mi amigo."

Yo pienso que vale la pena arriesgarse, ¿no te parece? El suicidio es permanente. En situaciones como ésta no se tiene más que una oportunidad. Es mejor cometer un error por ser demasiado cauteloso que tener que estar en un funeral pensando en lo que podrías haber hecho.

Entonces, con todo esto presente en tu corazón y en tu mente, no dejes de hablar con un adulto de confianza;

sería una buena idea conversar con los padres de tu amigo, asumiendo que ellos no sean parte del problema. Si no puedes hablar con ellos, podrías decírselo a tus propios padres. En realidad, puede ser que quieras conversar con tus padres primero, de todas maneras. Es posible que ellos tengan sugerencias en cuanto a las personas con las que debes hablar sobre esta

situación. Tienes además la opción de hablarle a uno de tus maestros o al consejero de tu escuela. ¡Hay tantas personas a las que puedes acudir en una situación como esta - no dejes de tomar este paso!

Pero si esta persona está amenazando con quitarse la vida en ese momento, no vaciles, ve a un teléfono y llama al 911. Que no te importe si les "haces perder el tiempo." Te aseguro que los muchos agentes de policía con los que he hablado sobre este asunto prefieren mucho más contestar un llamado para prevenir el suicidio de un adolescente que un llamado para reportar una muerte por suicidio.

Algunas personas te dirán, "Está haciendo eso para llamarte la atención," y puede que ese sea realmente el caso. Sin embargo, si tu amigo "está haciendo eso para llamarte la atención," entonces debe estar muy necesitado de atención, porque comenzar a hablar de quitarse la vida es un paso bastante drástico. No uses la posibilidad de que sólo se trate de "llamar la atención," como una razón para alejarte de tu amigo. Deja que esta posibilidad te impulse a dedicarte más a la situación. Siempre que una persona amenace con quitarse la vida o diga que quiere estar muerta, tú debes tomarlo en serio.

Si estás leyendo esto mientras tú mismo estás luchando con pensamientos suicidas, no dejes de hablar con alguien que pueda ayudarte: tus padres, un sacerdote o tu maestra, un amigo, cualquier persona que pueda ayudarte.

La vida es un regalo valiosísimo y hermoso - todos nosotros necesitamos cuidarlo y conservarlo lo más posible.

¡Disfruta de otro día en la presencia de Dios! ☺





## Thanks be to God!

**R**eading that line probably invokes memories of going to Mass. We proclaim our gratitude during the readings and at the conclusion of the Liturgy. But do we ever stop and reflect on the full meaning of this phrase? Thanks be to God!

In this, our first issue of 2007 we celebrate faithfulness – one of the many fruits of the Holy Spirit.

We celebrate our faithfulness to the words and teachings of Christ.

We also celebrate our faithfulness to one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. And I remind you to give thanks to God for providing us the choice to be faithful.

All that we do and all that we have is because of Him. And as faithful servants, we give thanks.

Unfortunately, all too often we take for granted everything that our Creator has given us.

Sometimes we are consumed by our daily tasks.

However, we should all extend our gratitude to God for the most basic necessities in life like the air we breathe, the water we drink and the food we eat.

We also give him thanks for nourishing our soul through the body and blood of Christ.

And thanks be to God for saving our lives by sacrificing his only son for us. The list continues for everything and everyone in our lives.

A little over three months ago, Rev. Daniel Mahan visited our diocese and conducted a series of seminars on stewardship.

Fr. Mahan quickly dispelled the myth that good stewardship simply requires giving money to the church. Instead, good stewardship begins by thanking God everyday for all that we have. Give glory to God for all the goodness in our lives.

As a faithful steward, give God credit and thanks for all the resources, talents and abilities that you possess.

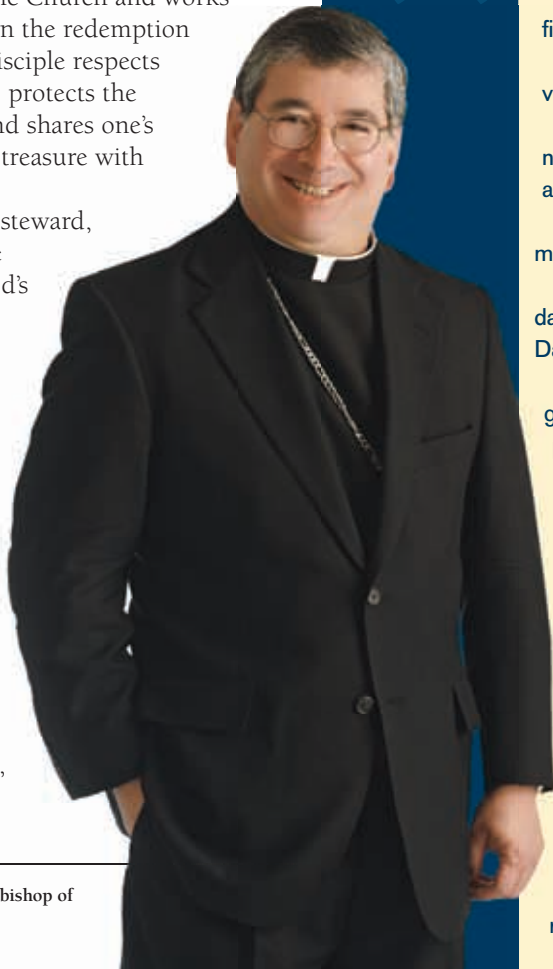
A faithful Catholic steward embraces the social teachings of the Catholic Church and works as a partner with God in the redemption of the world. A good disciple respects human life and dignity, protects the natural environment and shares one's gifts of time talent and treasure with others.

By becoming a good steward, you will experience the amazing increase of God's presence in your life. This reward results from your partnership with our Lord.

And it is then that "thanks be to God" takes a new, deeper meaning.

Fulfill your faithfulness by becoming a good steward of the Catholic Church and let the world witness that you embrace your God-given talents, resources and abilities  
*Todo Con Amor!*

- Most Rev. James A. Tamayo is bishop of the Diocese of Laredo.



**A faithful Catholic steward embraces the social teachings of the Catholic Church and works as a partner with God in the redemption of the world.**

**iG**

racias a Dios!

Al leer esa línea probablemente nos trae recuerdos de ir a Misa.

Proclamamos nuestra gratitud durante las lecturas y a la conclusión de la Liturgia..

¿Pero acaso nos detenemos para reflexionar sobre el significado total de esta frase?

¡Gracias a Dios!

En esta, nuestra primera edición del Año Calendario del 2007, celebramos nuestra fidelidad, uno de los muchos frutos del Espíritu Santo.

Celebramos nuestra fidelidad en las palabras y las enseñanzas de Cristo.

Y yo les recuerdo que den gracias a Dios por proveernos con la dicha de elegir ser fieles.

Todo lo que hacemos y todo lo que tenemos es debido a Él. Y como sirvientes fieles, damos gracias.

Desafortunadamente, con demasiada frecuencia, tomamos por hecho todo lo que Nuestro Creador nos ha dado. A veces nos consumen nuestras tareas diarias.

Todos deberíamos extender nuestra gratitud a Dios por las necesidades más básicas en la vida, como el aire que respiramos, el agua que bebemos y el alimento que comemos.

También darle gracias por nutrir nuestra alma mediante el cuerpo y la sangre de Cristo.

Y gracias a Dios por salvar nuestras vidas mediante el sacrificio de su hijo único, por nosotros.

Y la lista continúa por todo y por cada persona en nuestras vidas.

Hace poco más de tres meses, el Rev. Daniel Mahan visitó nuestra diócesis y dirigió una serie de seminarios sobre la administración de servir.

El Padre Mahan rápidamente dispuso el mito de que la buena administración de servicio simplemente requiere dar dinero a la Iglesia.

En vez, la buena administración de servicio comienza por darle gracias a Dios, todos los días por todo lo que tenemos. Dar gloria a Dios por todas las bondades en nuestras vidas.

Como fiel administrador de servicio dale crédito a Dios y gracias por todos los recursos, talentos y habilidades que tú posees.

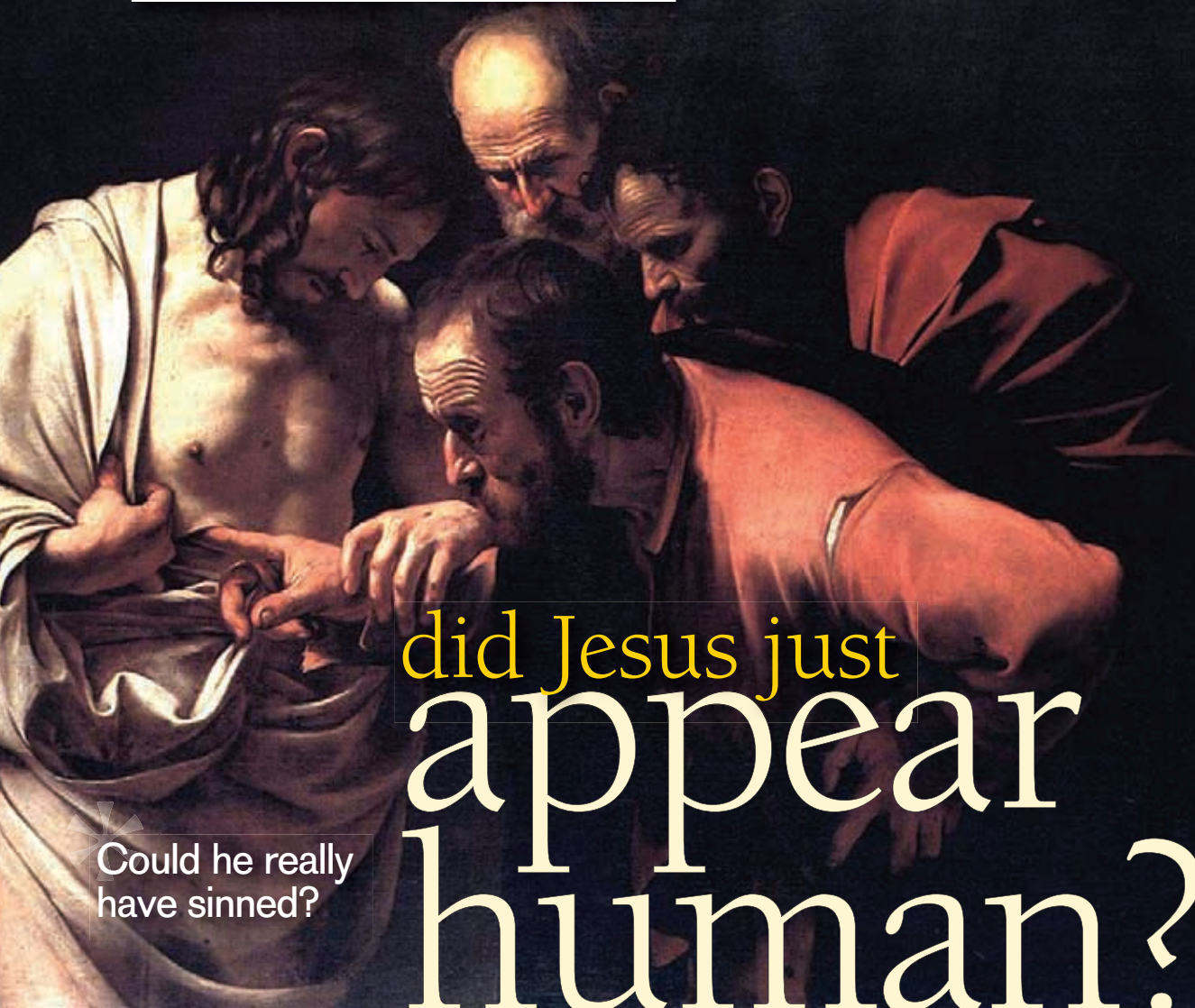
Un fiel administrador de servicio Católico abraza las enseñanzas sociales de la Iglesia Católica y trabaja como un socio de Dios en la redención del mundo. Un buen discípulo respeta la vida y dignidad humana, protege el ambiente natural y comparte sus bienes de tiempo, talento y tesoro con otros.

Al ser un buen administrador de servicio, experimentarás la asombrosa presencia de Dios en tu vida. Este premio es resultado de tu asociación con Nuestro Señor.

Y es entonces cuando "Gracias a Dios" tiene un nuevo y más profundo significado.

Cumple tu fidelidad convirtiéndote en un buen administrador de servicio de la Iglesia Católica y permite que el mundo sea testigo de cómo utilizas y compartes tus talentos, recursos y habilidades ¡Todo Con Amor!





Could he really have sinned?

# did Jesus just appear human?

**T**his year, *La Fe* is exploring Christology – the study of Jesus Christ. We asked several eminent seminary professors some questions about Jesus. Their answers are enlightening and thought-provoking.

**La Fe: Was Jesus really human or did he just appear that way?**

**Father Muller:** Jesus was fully human. One of the most important things in the early church was the testimony of the bodily resurrection of Christ. That is crucial in terms of grounding Christ's humanity, which was not something illusory – it could not be taken up and put aside. Rather, it was a permanent part of Christ's reality.

**Father Stevens:** It is basic to our faith that Jesus didn't simply appear to be human. Time and again, there were affirmations of his genuine humanity. Even the Gospel of John, which is so often concerned with Jesus' divinity, points out that Jesus



theologian of the month

**Irenaeus**  
(c. 130-202)

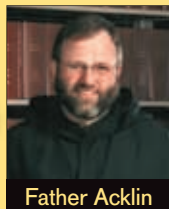
►► **Irenaeus** was the bishop of Lugdunum in Gaul (Lyons, France). He is believed to be Greek and was a disciple of Polycarp.

► **Irenaeus' theology** was centrally concerned with the unity of God, as opposed to the Gnostic divisions of God's nature.

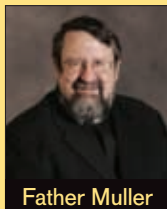
► **Irenaeus** taught that God created the world, has a plan for it and that humanity must mature into its fullness as images of God.

► **He articulated Jesus as the Logos, or Word**, and believed that salvation history reached its highest point with Christ. Irenaeus is credited with being the first to list the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John as divinely inspired, and he is known for his work, *Against Heresies*.

Meet the professors



Father Acklin



Father Muller



Father Stevens

► **Father Thomas Acklin** is on the faculty of St. Vincent Abbey in Latrobe, Pa. He is a graduate of Duquesne University, St. Vincent Seminary, The Catholic University of Louvain and Pittsburgh Psychoanalytic Institute.

► **Father Earl Muller** is on the faculty at Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit. He formerly taught at Marquette University in Wisconsin.

► **Father Gladstone Stevens** is on the faculty of St. Mary Seminary in Baltimore.

## Heresy!

### Docetism – Jesus only appeared human

►► **Did Jesus really have a body? Or was he pure spirit who only appeared in human form?** An early heresy of the church, Docetism, proposed the latter. The name comes from the Greek, *dokeo*, “to seem” and the heresy comes from a worldview of matter as being inherently evil. If physicality is evil, then God, being all-good, could not associate with it. Therefore, Jesus only appeared to be human, but was not.

**Of course, this would mean that Jesus did not really inhabit our world, suffer crucifixion and rise from the dead.** And as Paul said, “If Jesus did not rise from the dead, then our faith is in vain.”

**Docetism was condemned as a heresy by the Council of Chalcedon in 451, after vigorous arguments and discussions over the previous four centuries.** Ignatius of Antioch, Irenaeus and Hippolytus all wrote treatises against it.

is fully human. For example, Jesus weeps. Even after the resurrection, he eats. The only way to save us was to assume our humanity fully – that which is not assumed cannot be saved. So, if part of the human ex-

perience falls outside the life of Jesus’ experience, it would not be saved.

**Was Jesus really human or did he just appear as a human? It’s one of the oldest heresies. If he only appeared as a human, then he only appeared to redeem us.**

**Father Acklin:** Was Jesus really human or

did he just appear as a human? It’s one of the oldest heresies. If he only appeared as a human, then he only appeared to redeem us. As St. Irenaeus said, everything he assumed of our humanity is redeemed. There

is sometimes a tendency to exempt Jesus from having to suffer or die; or from having a human body or sexuality. If that is the case, then our bodies are not redeemed. So, the full humanity of Jesus has been taught from the earliest moment of church history.

**La Fe: Could Jesus really have sinned?**

**Father Acklin:** Jesus could be tempted, in every way that we are tempted. However, Jesus was not only perfect in his divine nature, he was perfect in his human nature. He was human in a way that was not corrupted by sin. Adam and Eve fell, but Jesus and Mary did not. The third Council of Constantinople held that Jesus had human free will as well as divine will – so



**what does that symbol mean?**

**Chi Rho**

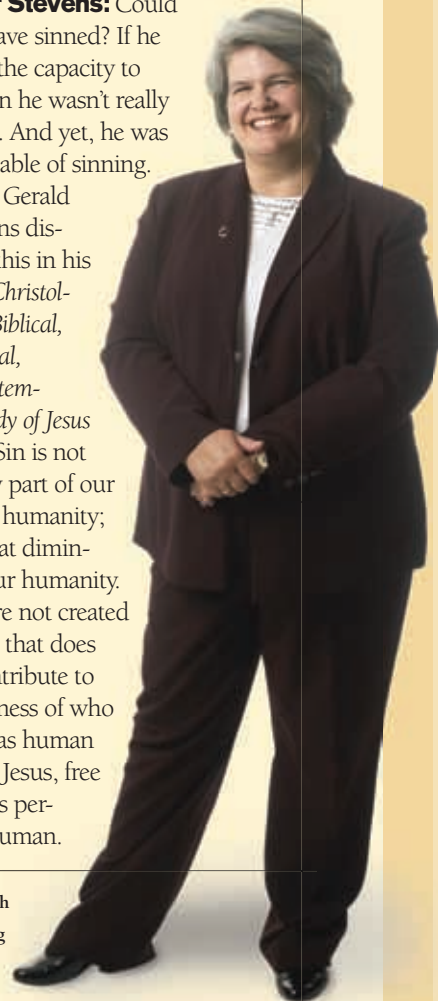
►► **The Chi Rho is an early Christian symbol – formed by combining the first two Greek letters of the word Christ. Its first famous use was on the labarum, or imperial standard, adopted by Emperor Constantine after his vision.**

he could have fallen, but didn’t. His human free will was so perfectly aligned with his divine will that it would have been impossible for him to sin.

**Father Muller:** Could he have physically performed actions that were “sinful actions.” Yes, he was capable of that, but the question you have to ask is: Was his grace such that sin was possible? And a related question is about us – when we are in heaven, will we be able to sin? The answer is that sin will no longer be possible because we will be faced with the full glory of God and won’t want anything else. We will be free, but will freely choose to love God. That is the intrinsic necessity on which Christ’s sinlessness is based. As the eternal Son, he is utterly happy and his human soul, in union with that utter happiness, would not want to sin.

**Father Stevens:** Could Jesus have sinned? If he lacked the capacity to sin, then he wasn’t really human. And yet, he was not capable of sinning. Author Gerald O’Collins discusses this in his book, *Christology: A Biblical, Historical, and Systematic Study of Jesus Christ*. Sin is not actually part of our natural humanity; it is what diminishes our humanity. We were not created to sin – that does not contribute to the fullness of who we are as human beings. Jesus, free of sin, is perfectly human.

– Elizabeth  
Solsburg



## Bible Quiz

I am the femme fatale of the Valley of Sorek – who am I?

►► Turn to page 29 for the answer



**People often say my name means “weak” in Hebrew – I myself prefer to think of it as meaning “delicate”, which is so much more feminine. And I am nothing if not the epitome of feminine wiles. I was noted for my beauty in my hometown – the valley of Sorek – and my**

**name has actually become a synonym for a femme fatale. I’ve been portrayed in art by Tintoretto and Van Dyck, in opera by San Saens, and on film by Hedy Lamarr and Elizabeth Hurley. But my personal favorite is when Tom Jones sang a popular song about me in 1968 – thousands of years after my famous romance with a real “he-man” in the Book of Judges. I think if I’d lived in a later time, I might have gone to beauty school – I just love the feel of scissors in my hand and an untouched head of hair in front of me. Who am I?**





## \*Two teen servant leaders personify faithfulness

By Goyo López | Photography by Goyo López

**J**uan Jose “JJ” Martinez, Jr. of Carrizo Springs and Sylvester Salinas of Crystal City both have chosen to walk the path less chosen.

They’ve learned that doing what’s popular isn’t always right and doing what’s right isn’t always popular.

As a result of their religious convictions, the two high school students have often been ridiculed by their peers.

Despite this peer pressure, their strong belief in Catholicism has allowed them to persevere and to continue bearing their individual crosses.

**J**uan José “JJ” Martinez, Jr., de Carrizo Springs y Sylvester Salinas de Cristal City, ambos han escogido caminar la senda menos escogida.

Han aprendido que hacer lo que es popular no siempre es correcto y hacer lo que es correcto no siempre es popular.

Como resultado de sus convicciones religiosas, los dos estudiantes de preparatoria con mucha frecuencia han sido ridiculizados por sus compañeros. A pesar de esta presión, su fuerte creencia en el Catolicismo, les ha permitido perseverar y de continuar cargando sus cruces individuales.







**J**J, the more extroverted of the two, is a sophomore at Carrizo Springs High and a lector at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish.

He also tends to stand out in a crowd. There aren't too many 16-year-old boys who, by choice, don a dress shirt, tie and slacks as their daily attire.

"Look at me, at the way I'm dressed. Why do you think everyone says that I'm gonna be a priest," JJ asks rhetorically.

While most teenagers would more than likely detest the notion of becoming a priest, JJ embraces it.

"It doesn't bother me when people tease me about becoming a priest. I actually see it as a sign of respect," said JJ. "Even my two older sisters tease me about becoming a priest."

Even though he has not discerned about it, JJ has thought about the priesthood.

"I've thought about how many people I help. I could change people's lives for the better," he theorized. "I've

**J**J, el más extrovertido de los dos, es estudiante de segundo año de preparatoria en Carrizo Springs y Lector en la Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe.

También tiene la tendencia de destacar en los grupos.

No hay muchos muchachos de 16 años de edad quienes por su propia elección se ponen una camisa de vestir, una corbata y pantalón de traje como su ropa diaria.

"Miren mi manera de vestir. ¿Por qué creen que todos dicen que voy a ser sacerdote?" pregunta JJ de manera retórica.

Mientras que la mayoría de los adolescentes lo más probable es que odian la noción de llegar a ser sacerdote, JJ abraza la idea.

"No me molesta cuando la gente se burla de mí porque quiero llegar a ser sacerdote. En realidad lo veo como una señal de respeto", dijo JJ.

"Aún mis dos hermanas mayores me fastidian por parecer que voy a ser sacerdote".

Aunque no ha discernido sobre ello, si ha pensado sobre el

Through Fr. Toby, God changed one of my closest friends. He's now the closest one to God. Before that, my friend was very far from the church. **I'd like to be an instrument like that.**

seen the miraculous work of God through Fr. Toby. Through Fr. Toby, God changed one of my closest friends. He's now the closest one to God. Before that, my friend was very far from the church. I'd like to be an instrument like that."

The busy youth leader manages to balance his academic schedule with extracurricular activities such as marching band, concert band, student council, Business Professionals of America and church.

And by no stretch of the imagination does church take a back seat.

"I'm really involved with church," JJ exclaims. "I started getting involved last year because I registered for CCD and they told us how they were starting a youth choir and a youth ministry. So I joined both of them and got involved."

For almost two years, JJ has also served as an ambassador for his parish through his involvement



sacerdocio.

"He pensado sobre a cuantas personas podría ayudar. Yo podría cambiar las vidas de las personas para lo mejor", ha reflexionado. "Yo he visto el trabajo milagroso de Dios a través del Padre Toby. Mediante de Fr. Toby, Dios cambió a uno de mis amigos más cercanos. Ahora es el que más cerca está de Dios. Antes de eso, mi amigo estaba muy alejado de la Iglesia. Yo quisiera ser un instrumento como ese sacerdote".

El ocupado joven de liderazgo logra balancear su programa académico con actividades extracurriculares tales como banda de marcha, banda de concierto, consejo estudiantil, Empresarios Profesionales de América y la Iglesia.

Y la Iglesia, por ningún alcance de la imaginación, se queda hasta lo último.

"Yo realmente estoy involucrado con la Iglesia", exclama JJ. "Comencé a involucrarme el año pasado porque me registré para CCD y nos dijeron que estaban formando un coro juvenil y un ministerio de juventud. Así es que me registré en los dos y simplemente me involucré".

Por casi dos años JJ ha servido como embajador para su Parroquia mediante estar involucrado en la Hermandad Cristiana de Atletas (FCA) en la Preparatoria de Carrizo Springs.

"FCA es un grupo grande de Cristianos de diferentes religiones y nos untamos cada martes a las 7:30 de la mañana para desayunar, leer las

Escrituras y discutir su significado y lo que nosotros pensamos sobre lo mismo", dijo JJ. "Y entonces oramos juntos. A veces ofrecemos nuestras oraciones para ciertas personas en la escuela que las necesitan".

Quizá lo más sorprendente de que JJ está involucrado con la Iglesia Católica es que ha sido por motivación propia. Por su propia cuenta, habla libremente acerca de sus padres, Juan José y Delma, quienes asisten a Misa pero no están tan inmersos como lo está él.

"Ellos si van a la Iglesia y respetan lo que yo estoy haciendo pero no están tan involucrados como yo lo estoy", comenzó a decir JJ.

Ellos me apoyan en lo que yo estoy haciendo. Me han dicho que están orgullosos de mi y que están



with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Carrizo Springs High.

"FCA is a bunch of Christians from different religions and we gather every Thursday at 7:30 a.m. to eat breakfast, read Scripture and discuss its meaning and what we think about it," said JJ. "Then we pray together. Sometimes, we'll offer our prayers for certain people in school who need them."

Perhaps what is most surprising about JJ's involvement with the Catholic Church is that he's been self-motivated. By his own account, he talks freely about his parents, Juan José and Delma, who attend Mass, but are not immersed as he is.

"They do go to church and they respect what I'm doing, but they are not as involved as I am," began JJ. They are supportive of what I am doing.

They've told me that they are proud of me and they are happy for me because I'm doing something that I like and that is for a good cause."

And JJ caught a glimpse of the greater cause two

The busy youth leader manages to balance his academic schedule with extracurricular activities such as marching band, concert band, student council, Business Profes-



months ago while attending the Region 10 Youth Conference in Laredo.

"I left the conference in amazement," exclaimed JJ. "I can't believe that I saw thousands of people like me. I felt happy because I saw that I'm not the only one that loves God. I'm part of something bigger."

The son of Baldemar and Martha Salinas from Crystal City also walked away from the conference in awe of the universal church.

"I never felt anything like this," Sylvester proclaimed. "This woke me up because there's a connotation that Catholicism is very rigid and that it's not open to everybody. But it is. This event proved it. I wish all my friends could've seen this. It definitely opened my eyes and my mind. God was just working his magic."

The Javelina senior, like his peer in Carrizo Springs, returned to the church during his formative middle-school years.

"I've been a Catholic all my life, but I got involved in the eighth grade. I was away from the church for about seven years because my parents were working a lot and we didn't make time for church," explained Sylvester. "Then in my eighth-grade year, I started coming back to church. I was the first one to come back and my parents were still working."

It was during this time that the potential salutorian began excelling academically.

"I started doing well in school, but I was not fulfilled. I needed something more," Sylvester added. "I started going to the English Masses and I listened to the readings and to the sermons. Then, Fr. Chema [Rev. José M. Guevara] asked me to be an usher at Sacred Heart. Then they asked me if I wanted to be in choir, so I went to choir. And then, they asked me to be a lector and commentator.

"The first day I ever read was the day of my Confirmation. That was the start of a new chapter in my life at the end of my freshman year in high school.

After then, I started working a lot at the church."

Sylvester continues serving Sacred Heart Parish and has added CCD teacher aide to his long list of duties.

Like JJ, the student council president and National Honor Society vice president has also

felices de lo que yo estoy haciendo, porque es algo que me gusta hacer y que es para una buena causa".

Y JJ. Se percató de una causa mayor hace un par de meses cuando asistía a la Conferencia de Juventud de la Región 10 en Laredo.

"Sali de la conferencia azorado", exclamó JJ.

"No puedo creer que vi a miles de personas como yo. Me sentí feliz porque me di cuenta de que yo no soy el único que ama a Dios. Soy parte de algo mucho más grande."

El hijo de Baldemar y Martha Salinas de Cristal City, también salió de la conferencia igualmente azorado de la Iglesia Universal.

"Yo nunca había sentido cosa alguna como esta", proclamó Sylvester.

"Esto me despertó, porque existe una connotación de que el Catolicismo

es muy rígido y no está abierto para todos.

Pero sí lo está. Este evento lo comprobó. Yo desearía que todos mis amigos podrían haber visto esto. Definitivamente abrió mis ojos y mi mente. Dios sólo estaba haciendo funcionar su magia."

Este estudiante de último año de Preparatoria Javelina, tal como su igual en Carrizo Springs, regresó a la Iglesia durante sus años escolares de formación media.

"Yo he sido un Católico toda mi vida, pero me involucré cuando estaba en el octavo grado. Estuve alejado de la Iglesia por unos siete años porque mis padres estaban trabajando mucho y no le dimos tiempo a la Iglesia", explicó Sylvester. Luego en mi octavo año, comencé a regresar a la Iglesia. Yo fui el primero en regresar y mis padres todavía estaban trabajando".

Fue durante este tiempo que el potencial "Salutorian" comenzó a sobresalir académicamente.

"Comencé a mejorar mucho en la escuela, pero no me sentía cumplido. Necesitaba algo más", agregó Silvestre. "Comencé a ir a las Misas en inglés y escuchaba las lecturas y los sermones. Entonces el Padre Chema (Rev. José M. Guevara) me pidió que fuera un acomodador en la Iglesia del Sagrado Corazón. Entonces me preguntaron que si quería estar en el Coro, así es que me fui al Coro. Y después me pidieron que fuera Lector y Comentarador. La primera vez que había leído fue el día de mi Confirmación. Eso fue el comienzo de un nuevo capítulo en mi vida, al final de mi primer año de preparatoria. Después de eso comencé a trabajar mucho en la Iglesia."

Sylvester continúa sirviendo a la Parroquia del



The first day I ever read was the day of my Confirmation. That was the start of a new chapter in my life at the end of my freshman year in high school. After then, I started working a lot at the church.



been on the receiving end of the “goody-two-shoes” remarks.

“Silver the next priest,” he recounted. “That’s the way I used to get teased a lot, especially during my sophomore year and it was usually people who didn’t like me who were making fun of me about becoming a priest.”

**“Nowadays, everyone asks me if I want to be a priest. My father asks me, Fr. Chema asks me and even people I meet for the first time tell me that I have that priest intuition”**

Eventually, the intellectual Sylvester defended himself with a clever retort.

“At first, it bothered me. But then I started telling them so what if I am, there’s nothing wrong with becoming a priest.”

There are others, however, who are fond of Sylvester and recognize his wonderful attributes.

“Nowadays, everyone asks me if I want to be a priest.

My father asks me, Fr. Chema asks me and even people I meet for the first time tell me that I have that priest intuition,” he said. “Even girls that I’m fond of, girls that I would like to date, tell me that I should become a priest and that they like me like a brother. The girls tell me that it’s a compliment so I take it that way and I’ve thought about the priesthood.”

Another reason many of his peers opine about the vocation stems from his introverted lifestyle.

“I think the reason they say that to me is because I’m not very social and I don’t go to parties and stuff like that,” explained Sylvester. “I’ve never had a girlfriend but that doesn’t mean that I’m not interested in having one. I’m still looking for the right one. I don’t want to date just for the heck of it. I want to date with a purpose in mind. I want a good relationship.”

Sylvester derived his mature perspective on dating through Catholic teachings and from his active role in the peer-to-peer program Students Taking Action for Respect (STAR), which advocates for sexual awareness and fights against sexual abuse.

“Part of my STAR certification at Texas State University in San Marcos included attending a dating seminar that taught me that I need to love myself first before I can love someone else,” Sylvester said. “And I mean love myself in a good way, like having good self esteem and being secure and not getting jealous. I realized, though, that the only way to love your-self fully is to love God.”

Sylvester and JJ are two teenagers carrying the torch leading others on the right path and the one definitely less traveled by their peers. Their actions personify our theme for this issue – faithfulness. ☺

Sagrado Corazón y ha agregado el trabajo de Ayudante de Maestro de CCD a su larga lista de deberes.

Como JJ, el Presidente del Consejo Estudiantil y Vicepresidente de la Sociedad Nacional de Honor, también ha estado recibiendo comentarios de elogio.

“Silver, el próximo sacerdote,” son comentaba. “Así es como me bromeaban mucho, especialmente durante mi segundo año de preparatoria, y normalmente era de personas que no me querían, que estaba burlándose de mí por llegar a querer ser sacerdote.”

Eventualmente, el intelectual Sylvester se defendía con una contestación bien pensada.

“Al principio me molestaba. Pero comencé a decirles: ¿Y qué si de veras lo soy? No hay nada malo en llegar a ser sacerdote.”

Hay otros, sin embargo, que quieren a Sylvester, y reconocen sus maravillosos atributos.

“Hoy en día, todos me preguntan que si quiero ser sacerdote. Mi padre me lo pregunta. Fr. Chema me pregunta y aún personas que me encuentro por primera me dicen que tengo la intuición sacerdotal”, dice él. “Aún las muchachas a las que estimo, muchachas con las que quisiera tener una cita, me dicen que debo hacerme sacerdote y que me quieren como a un hermano. Las muchachas me dicen que es un cumplido, así es que así lo interpreto y he pensado acerca del sacerdocio.”

Otra razón por la que muchos de sus iguales opinen acerca de la vocación, surge de su estilo de vida introvertida

“Yo creo que la razón por la que me dicen eso, es porque no soy muy social y no asisto a fiestas y cosas como esas,” explica Sylvester.

“Nunca he tenido una amistad femenina, pero eso no significa que no estoy interesado en tener una- Todavía estoy buscando la adecuada. No quiero tener una cita simplemente por tenerla. Quiero tener una cita con un propósito en la mente. Quiero una buena relación de amistad.

Sylvester deriva su perspectiva madura sobre las citas, a través de las enseñanzas Católicas y de su papel activo en el programa de igual de Estudiante Tomando Acción para Respeto (STAR) que respalda la conciencia sexual y la lucha contra el abuso sexual.

“Parte de mi certificación STAR en la Universidad de Texas en San Marcos, incluyendo la asistencia a un seminario sobre citas, me enseño que necesito amarme a mí mismo antes de que pueda amar a alguien mas,” dijo Sylvester. “Y amarme a mí mismo de una manera buena, como teniendo una buena auto estimación y con la seguridad de no sentir celos. Me di cuenta, sin embargo, que la única forma de amarte a ti mismo completamente es amar a Dios.”

Sylvester y JJ son dos adolescentes que llevan la antorcha que guía a otros por el sendero correcto y definitivamente el menos viajado por sus iguales. Sus acciones personifican nuestro tema para esta edición – fidelidad. ☺



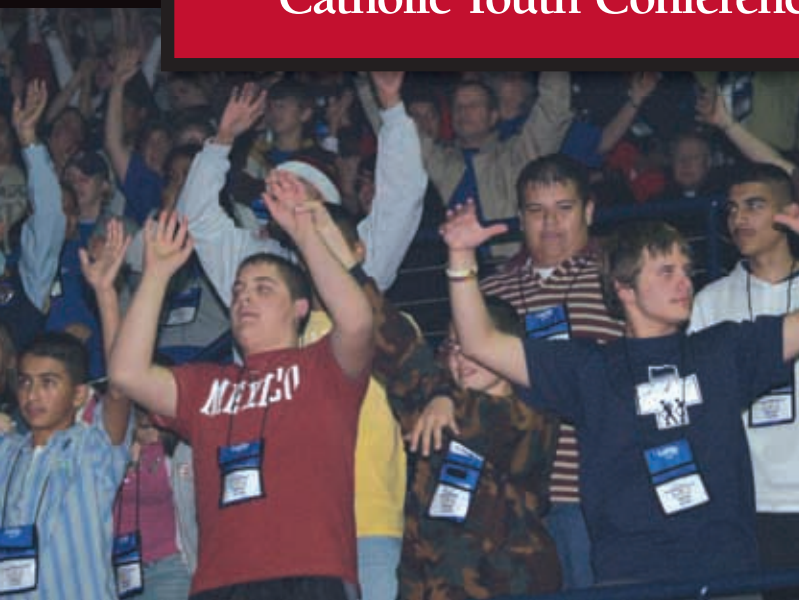




► (L-R) Jessica Cavazos, Gaby Arellano and Ana Maldonado visit with vendors at the conference.

# Region 10

## Catholic Youth Conference



► Participants from the Diocese of Amarillo shout words of praise during the Region 10 conference.

Photography by  
Goyo López



Rev. Deacon José López of Sacred Heart Parish in Crystal City reads from the Book of Gospels.



Felix Cruz, a parishioner at San Luis Rey in Laredo, portrayed Juan Diego during the opening ceremony of the conference.



Keynote speaker Rosa Guerrero emphasizes her message of cultural heritage



Nick Rodriguez of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Carrizo Springs played the keyboards as part of the musical entertainment.



A Region 10 participant in fiesta mode during the outdoor party at the LEC.



# Executed for his faith – twice

## Saint Sebastian

### Birthplace:

Narbonne, Gaul

**Fest Day:** Jan. 20

**Patron of athletes, soldiers, police and physicians**

### ►► Claim to Fame:

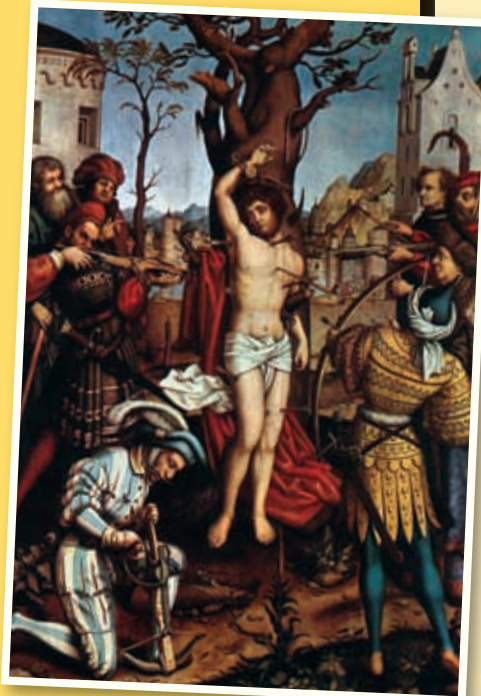
According to tradition, Sebastian was born in the third century. He attended school in Milan, Italy, as a boy. When he was a young man, Sebastian became concerned about the persecution of Christians. Hoping to find opportunities to encourage them, Sebastian joined the Roman army in 283. While keeping his own Christianity a secret from

army leaders, he discreetly converted many Romans. Sebastian also covertly urged wavering Christians to remain true to their faith as the threat of persecution escalated.

►► **Best quote:** Although we have no record of Sebastian's words, it is said that he appeared in a vision to a Christian woman named Lucina. When she learned of Sebastian's martyrdom, she recovered his body and had it properly buried in the catacombs, an underground Christian cemetery beneath the city of Rome.

►► **How he died:** When Sebastian's faith was eventually discovered, he was sentenced to death by Emperor Diocletian. Tied to a stake, Sebastian was shot with arrows. His executioners left him for dead, but he survived. A Christian widow named Irene, who had come to bury Sebastian, nursed him back to health instead. Undeterred by his previous suffering, Sebastian confronted Diocletian and denounced his atrocities against Christianity. The emperor was surprised to see Sebastian alive, but the ruler did not repent. Instead, he ordered Sebastian to be beaten to death with clubs, and his body thrown into a sewer.

►► **Prayer:** *Dear Saint Sebastian, you chose to be a soldier of Christ and dared to spread the faith – for which you were condemned to die. May we have the same strength of faith. Amen.* – Jan Ryneerson



# Ejecutado por causa de su fe - dos veces

## San Sebastián

**Lugar de nacimiento:** Narbona, Galia

**Día del Santo:** 20 de enero

**Patrón de los Atletas, Soldados, Policías y Médicos**

### ►► Lo que lo hizo famoso:

De acuerdo a la tradición, Sebastián nació en el siglo tercero. Cuando era niño asistió a la escuela en Milán. Siendo joven le comenzó a preocupar la persecución de los Cristianos. Deseando encontrar oportunidades para alentarlos, en el año 283, Sebastián se alistó en el ejército romano. Mientras que guardaba su propio cristianismo como un secreto para los superiores del ejército, él discretamente convertía a muchos romanos. Cuando las amenazas de persecución se intensificaron, Sebastián encubiertamente instó a los cristianos que flaqueaban a que se mantuvieran fieles a la fe cristiana.

### ►► Su mejor cita:

Aunque no tenemos documentación de las palabras de Sebastián, se dice que él se le apareció en una visión a una mujer cristiana llamada Lucina. Cuando se enteró del martirio de Sebastián, ella rescató su cuerpo y lo enterró apropiadamente en las catacumbas, un cementerio subterráneo debajo de la ciudad de Roma.

### ►► Forma en la que murió:

Cuando finalmente se descubrió la verdadera fe de Sebastián, el emperador Dioclesiano lo condenó a muerte. Atado a una estaca, le lanzaron flechas. Sus verdugos lo dieron por muerto, pero Sebastián sobrevivió. Una viuda cristiana llamada Irene que había venido a enterrarlo, lo cuidó hasta que se repuso. Sin dejarse intimidar por los sufrimientos anteriores, Sebastián encaró a Dioclesiano y denunció sus atrocidades contra el Cristianismo. El emperador se sorprendió de ver a Sebastián vivo, pero no se arrepintió. En cambio, ordenó que lo apalearan hasta matarlo y que arrojaran su cuerpo en una alcantarilla.

### ►► Oración:

*Querido San Sebastián, elegiste ser soldado de Cristo y te atreviste a divulgar la fe del Rey de Reyes por lo que te condenaron a muerte. Haz que tengamos tu misma fortaleza en la fe. Amén.* – Escrito por Transline USA.





# Stephanie Hechter wins National recognition

**T**his past Christmas was special for Stephanie Hechter, a sixth-grade student at St. Augustine School in Laredo. “This is one Christmas that I’ll remember forever,” said Stephanie. “Every Christmas is special, but this one is extra-special.” Stephanie traveled to Washington, D.C., in mid-December to be officially recognized as a national winner in the Holy Childhood Association art contest.

HCA works to provide young Catholics with programs and materials that give their faith a global perspective and an opportunity to grow in faith through mission education, sacrifice and service.

As students learn about children in the missions, they are inspired to put an important part of their faith into action by following Jesus’ example of concern for others.

Annually, HCA sponsors an artwork contest for students enrolled in Catholic schools and in CCD/RE programs from which 24 winners are selected. The 24 win-

ning entries then appear on HCA’s Christmas cards.

“Winning the contest was cool but then to have Bishop Tamayo use my artwork for his official Christmas card was even better,” explained Stephanie. “Everyone who got a card from the bishop got to see my winning entry of baby Jesus in the manger.”

Bishop Tamayo touted the talent that the diocese offers on many levels.

“Stephanie is one shining example of the gifts granted to each of us by our Creator,” said Bishop Tamayo. “I am





"This is one Christmas that I'll remember forever. Every Christmas is special, but this one is extra-special."



extremely proud to have her art adorn the cover of my Christmas cards."

Operating since 1916, HCA initially promoted the sale of its Christmas seals as a fundraiser for the missions. Now, it focuses on the sales of its Christmas cards to support the work of spreading the love of Jesus and his message of peace to children in the missions. In its purest sense, this program involves young Catholics to help mission children internationally.

Accompanying Stephanie on the trip to Washington was classmate Daniela Santos, St. Augustine principal Olga Gentry and the superintendent of Catholic schools, Dr. Rosa Maria Vida.

Stephanie, and five additional winners, were recognized at a special Mass at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on Dec. 14. Rev. Msgr. John E. Kozar, national director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, was the principal celebrant of the Mass.

"This is an exceptional honor for Stephanie, St. Augustine School and the Diocese of Laredo," said Dr. Vida. "Stephanie has made the entire community very proud and has given us national prominence. Stephanie's art teacher, Ms. Ana Torres, should know that she was very well represented."

Gentry also noted the overwhelming beauty of the Basilica.

"The Basilica itself is magnificent, but the Chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe, whose feast day was two days prior, was filled with roses in observance of her birthday," said Gentry. "The scent of the roses filled the air and the altar was completely covered with flowers making it a sight to behold."

"Stephanie has made the entire community very proud and has given us national prominence. Stephanie's art teacher, Ms. Ana Torres, should know that she was very well represented."



# St. Vincent de Paul Parish Charitable Bingo

## Sunday Afternoon Family Bingo

Sales start at 2 pm

Bingo starts at 3pm

## Tuesday Evening Family Bingo

Sales start at 6 pm

Bingo starts at 7pm

**Cash Prizes!!**

**Come enjoy  
a Texas Favorite  
& support your local parish.**

*Only Adults 18 & older may buy cards.*

*Only children 13 & older allowed to play.*

**St. Vincent de Paul Parish  
2710 Boulanger St.  
956.722.3034**

**Licensed Operators**

**Rev. Deacon Pilar Leonard Aguillon**

**Hector Garcia**

**Manuel de Jesus Osorio**

**Licensed and regulated by the**

**Texas Charitable Bingo**

**a division of the Texas Lottery Commission.**

**[www.txbingo.org](http://www.txbingo.org)**



# Diaconate Ordination at Cathedral



**B**ishop James A. Tamayo ordained the second group of deacons in the history of the Diocese of Laredo at San Agustín Cathedral on Dec. 9, 2006.

In all, there have been four diaconate ordinations in the Diocese of Laredo, including a previous group and two individuals.

Six permanent and one transitional deacon comprise the recently ordained group. A transitional deacon is one who is a candidate for the priesthood.

Bishop Tamayo announced at the Mass that the newly ordained deacons would continue serving in their respective parishes.

The newly ordained deacons include:

## Transitional Deacon

### Gerardo Silos

Age: 40

Birthplace: Mexico

Parish Assignment: San Agustín Cathedral

## Permanent Deacons

### Roderick A. Bordelon

Age: 75

Widower

Parish Assignment: St. Patrick – Laredo

### Frank Huerta

Age: 47

Wife: Frances Huerta

Parish Assignment: Sacred Heart – Crystal City

### Joe N. Longoria

Age: 56

Wife: Sylvia Longoria

Parish Assignment: St. Patrick – Laredo

### Antonio H. Rivera, M.D.

Age: 62

Wife: Gloria Rivera

Parish Assignment: Sacred Heart – Crystal City

### Guadalupe Rodriguez, Jr.

Age: 41

Wife: Fiona Rodriguez

Parish Assignment: Our Lady of Guadalupe – Hebbronville

### Frank Solansky

Age: 68

Wife: Lynne Solansky

Parish Assignment: Sacred Heart – Crystal City

## my child is NOT my best friend — how being a parent is different from being a friend

I enjoyed watching Jessica Fletcher of *Murder She Wrote* solve crimes, and now I watch *Monk*, so I was a willing participant when my son Ryan wanted to analyze my fingerprints after dinner. The “maggot tales” from his high-school forensics class had to wait until we were far from the table, however! For the final exam, students searched for clues in a “crime scene.” Later, I learned that the case involved a murder victim who had been running a lucrative pornographic video business. Distasteful clues to the victim’s hidden life had been planted for students to discover. I decided to contact school officials about the final, much to my son’s dismay. But parents and their teenage children aren’t friends, as much as we love each another.

### ►► Parents and friends have different types of relationships.

Parents and children have a hierarchical relationship. There is a difference in authority, and sometimes parents make difficult decisions in their children’s best interests; remember those first vaccinations? Throughout their lives, our children will interact with others in hierarchical relationships, such as supervisors at work. With friends, we interact as equals. Each type of relationship is enriching.

### ►► Everyday life issues involve limits.

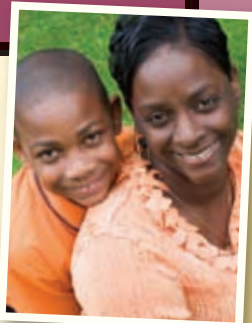
Many bids for independence are negotiated. As “friendly” as these discussions are, parents still set limits. Daily life helps us realize that we are parents, not friends. The cleanliness of a teen’s bedroom is often a sore spot. Whose space is this anyway? Listen and be ready to compromise. For example, some clutter might be OK, but bug-attracting leftover food might not be. Set consequences that you won’t be too tired to enforce!

### ►► Activities of teens need to be monitored.

As they get older, teens make more decisions. It helps them become competent adults. Experience can be a great teacher when something doesn’t work and you, as parent, are there to help fix it. To become self-reliant, a person makes choices. But this takes place within parental safety limits. When parents don’t monitor the activities of their teens, because of indulgence (we’re like best friends!) or indifference, then it is actually more difficult for teens to mature.

Proverbs (29:17) says, “Discipline your son, and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul.” Encourage your adolescents to walk in the light and to listen for the whisper of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

— Dr. Cathleen McGreal



## mi hijo NO es mi mejor amigo — cómo ser padre es diferente a ser amigo

He disfrutado de ver a Jessica Fletcher resolver crímenes, y ahora veo a *Monk* en la televisión, así que de buen grado acepté participar cuando mi hijo Ryan quería analizar mis huellas digitales después de la cena. ¡Los “cuentos de gusanos” de su clase de ciencia forense en la escuela secundaria tuvieron que esperar hasta que estuviéramos lejos de la mesa, sin embargo! Para el examen final los estudiantes tenían que buscar pistas en una “escena del crimen.” Más tarde me enteré que el caso consistía de una víctima asesinada que había estado operando un negocio lucrativo de videos pornográficos. Se colocaron pistas de mal gusto relacionadas con la vida secreta de la víctima para que fueran descubiertas por los estudiantes. Para la gran consternación de mi hijo, decidí contactar a los funcionarios de la escuela en conexión con este examen. Los padres y sus hijos adolescentes no son amigos, a pesar de lo mucho que nos amamos.

### ►► Padres y amigos establecen distintos tipos de relaciones.

Padres e hijos tienen una relación jerárquica. Hay una diferencia de autoridad, y a veces los padres toman decisiones difíciles para el beneficio de sus hijos; ¿se acuerdan de las primeras vacunaciones? A lo largo de sus vidas, nuestros hijos interactuarán con otras personas estableciendo relaciones jerárquicas, como con los supervisores en el trabajo. Con los amigos nos relacionamos como iguales. Cada una de estas relaciones nos enriquecen.

### ►► Los asuntos de la vida diaria suponen la presencia de límites.

Muchos de los intentos para lograr independencia son negociados. Aunque estas discusiones pueden ser muy “amistosas”, los padres todavía establecen límites. La vida diaria nos ayuda a darnos cuenta de que somos padres, no amigos. La limpieza del dormitorio de un adolescente es con frecuencia un tema delicado. ¿A quién le pertenece este espacio, de todas maneras? Escuchen y prepárense para transigir. Por ejemplo, un poco de desorden se puede aceptar pero los desechos de comida que atraen bichos serían inaceptables. ¡No establezcan las consecuencias que no se puedan imponer cuando estén cansados!

### ►► Las actividades de los adolescentes deben ser controladas.

A medida que crecen, los adolescentes toman más decisiones. Esto los ayuda a transformarse en adultos competentes. La experiencia puede enseñarnos mucho cuando algo no funciona y nosotros como padres estamos allí presentes para arreglarlo. Para llegar a ser independiente una persona tiene que tomar decisiones, pero esto ocurre dentro de los límites de seguridad de los padres. Cuando los padres no controlan las actividades de sus hijos adolescentes, ya sea por complacencia (somos como mejores amigos!) o por indiferencia, es cuando en realidad se les hace más difícil a los adolescentes madurar.

Proverbios (29:17) dice, “Corrige a tu hijo, y te dará consuelo; y te sentirás feliz por él.” Alíen a los adolescentes para que caminen en la luz y escuchen el susurro del Espíritu Santo en sus vidas.





romance



**Dance the night away**  
▶▶ One evening (or more) per week, after the kids are in bed, turn on your favorite music and dance together. Holding your beloved and talking to him or her is wonderfully intimate.

money



**Save, save, save**  
▶▶ It's hard to do when the bills are looming. Either pay the savings account first (5 percent-10 percent of your income) or have it automatically deposited to a savings account from your payroll. If you don't see it, you won't spend it!

**S**usan and Dan have been married for 25 years. Their romantic relationship has been suffering

he says

## the romance has fizzled

**Dan says:** Susan and I have been married for a long time – I don't know, maybe too long. We used to do a lot of fun things on the weekends, and Susan would show me how much she found me attractive in little ways – notes in my lunch, seeing action movies that I know she doesn't really like. Now, it's just routine all the time – all we ever talk about is the kids. I don't feel as if we have anything in common anymore.

expert says

Dan and Susan are not the first couple who have been married this long. Twenty-five years is a long time. Marriages that have lasted that long often need special care along the way. Both the man and the woman in long-term relationships get used to caring for others. Usually, it's the children and sometimes other family members. Often they neglect each other, taking each other for granted. What can we do to make the rela-

she says

## he may be right

**Susan says:** Dan's right. I don't think either one of us feels the "glow" anymore. After 25 years, we may just be bored. Sometimes, after we've completed all the essential conversation of the day – what the kids need, what bills need to be paid – there is no time or energy left. I'd really rather just watch TV and unwind, or maybe read. Perhaps we **have** been married too long.

# He said She said what do they do?

tionship special again?

First and foremost, we must prioritize the marital relationship. That means spending time together without children or others. Having time to talk about your relationship and time to talk some more is very important. If you have lost this contact with each other, try to spend several 'dates' or alone-time doing just that. Spend time reminiscing about why you came together in the first place. Remember that having a mutually supportive and



## communication



### You have the floor

►► If you don't feel you can get a word in edgewise, try using a small floor tile or other object as a modern version of the "speaking stick." If you "have the floor," you get to speak — uninterrupted. When you pass the floor tile, the next speaker echoes what you've said so that you know you were heard — and then it's his or her turn to speak — without you interrupting.

empathetic relationship is the desired goal. That means each person takes turns talking with honesty and listening with empathy. Talk about your feelings and thoughts. This allows each partner to listen to the other person and confirm the other's feelings, while allowing a connection to their own feelings. This creates a mutually supportive relationship that is positive for both partners. This 'connection' builds trust and mutual respect, the foundation of loving relationships. Again, this talking and listening may take several different private times. Try not to rush this process. Become friends again.

If this empathetic listening and talking work in creating mutual trust and respect, love may bloom again. Having a good friend in your marital partner is a great start to getting the 'glow' back. The next step is pretty easy. Start to date again. Spend time relaxing and holding each other. Alone time is again really

important. Depending on each partner's style, this may also take some time to re-develop the glow. Sometimes, by acting as romantic as you were at the beginning of your relationship, the reality will follow.

These techniques work well for partners who need to connect again. If the issues are deeper, a series of counseling sessions may be necessary. This helps get the little-used techniques of communication back in shape, just like a personal trainer helps us get back in good physical shape. I would encourage all partners to try counseling before they take any next step. Dan and Susan talk about maybe being married "too long." Please don't draw that conclusion too early without trying professional help. Most relationships can be helped with outside assistance. Twenty-five years are worth saving.

— Deborah McCormack

## time



### Schedule some time together.

►► Planning is preparation, but scheduling is commitment. Once the time slot is agreed to, write it down in more than one place. Write it down in red ink at work, at home on the refrigerator door calendar, on your PDA, on your daily planner, and on your computer calendar. Label it: "Marriage Time."

## Proud to Serve Our Community

**Main Branch**  
5219 McPherson Road  
Laredo, Texas 78041  
(956) 723-2265

**Downtown Branch**  
801 Matamoros  
Laredo, Texas 78040  
(956) 723-9855

**Eagle Pass Downtown Branch**  
725 Main Street, Suite C  
Eagle Pass, Texas 78852  
(830) 757-4441

**North Branch**  
7718 McPherson Road  
Laredo, Texas 78045  
(956) 723-2265

**East Branch**  
212 Bob Bullock Loop  
Laredo, Texas 78043  
(956) 723-2265

**Eagle Pass Bibb St. Branch**  
476 S. Bibb Ave.  
Eagle Pass, TX 78852  
(830) 757-4441



**FALCON**  
INTERNATIONAL  
BANK

Member  
FDIC

We know what counts™

**(956) 723-2265**

[www.falconbank.com](http://www.falconbank.com)





## In a chat room with God

prayer is our “instant message”  
with Jesus



**I** remember the first time I experienced IM (for those who may be computer illiterate, that stands for “instant messaging”). It was strange to know that a friend on another computer far away was communicating with me through the Internet in real time. I would type something, then a minute or so later, a response would show up on the screen. Not so long ago, I witnessed the first marriage of two people who met over the Internet in a Christian chat room. They fell in love. It led to a face-to-face meeting and then to a lifelong commitment before God. 😊

It is wonderful to see relationships grow. Love deepens. People begin to connect emotionally and spiritually. We can feel very close to another person. God wants this for all of us, for where there is true love, there is the kingdom and there is God! Even more wonderful is that God wants this close connection to happen between us and God. Jesus said “Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him.” (John

14:23) One of the great mysteries of our faith is that God dwells within us. Deep within us is the ideal “chat room” where we meet God. Modern technology can connect us with

people all around the world, but it cannot connect us to God.

Fortunately, God has ‘wired us’ for God.

Our relationship with God is the most important relationship of our lives, for it is the one that saves us. Many people have struggles as they build this relationship – hang in there! God is pursuing us and meets us where we are. There is a great saint I have grown to admire who had lots of trouble forming his own relationship with God. His name is St Augustine.

Augustine grew up in North Africa and had a lot of freedom as a teenager. When he was 16, he met a girl and fell in love. Within two years, he had a child with her out of wedlock. He knew he had acted badly, but continued to struggle with all the temptations and freedom of his culture. Later, he would see this “freedom” to indulge in sensuality and

pleasure as true slavery. St Augustine tried to talk to God during this time, but he couldn’t connect – God seemed very distant. Augustine realized that his own immoral behavior was creating the block. He would pray, “Lord give me chastity and temperance, but not yet.” It was kind of a joke, but also a real expression of his inner struggle. He was in deep pain and yearned for the love only God could give. One day, he was with his young son and some friends and was experiencing sadness and frustration over his inner struggle. He sat down underneath a fig tree and was crying to God over his trouble. Then he heard a voice of a young child sing, “Tolle, lege,” which means, “Take up and read.”

The voice captured him – he knew it was God. Augustine took up the Sacred Scriptures that were right beside him and there, from St Paul’s letter to the Romans, he read, “Let us conduct ourselves properly as in the day, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in promiscuity and licentiousness, not in rivalry and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the desires of the flesh.”

Augustine’s life changed dramatically at this point, and so did his prayer life! He learned to talk to God. Here is one of the many beautiful passages that St Augustine wrote about his experience in his book, *The Confessions*:

▶▶ Late have I loved you, Beauty ever ancient and ever new! Late have I loved you! ... You shone upon me; your radiance enveloped me; you put my blindness to flight. You shed your fragrance about me; I drew breath and now I gasp for your sweet odor. I tasted you, and now I hunger and thirst for you. You touched me, and I am inflamed with love of your peace. (Book X, 27)

Augustine learned how to have a deep, lasting, rich, fruitful prayer life with God. So can we.





► **Our spiritual exercise this month is to spend time in the God chat room!**

## 1 All relationships need an investment of time.

Just like there is an investment of time in Internet chatting, make an investment of time to talk to God. I suggest at least 15 minutes a day or more to begin.

**2 Find the place where you can pray to God.** For the sake of this analogy, I will call this place the “God chat room.” This is very important. The God chat room is a quiet place where you can be alone with just you and God. It should be a place where you can be yourself without any worries.

OK, once you have found a place to pray, the exciting part begins!

**3 Consider who you are talking to.** Some people get nervous at this stage because they are not sure what to do next. Questions arise: How can I speak to God? What do I say?

It is OK to have these worries. Put them aside for now. Think instead about who you are and who you are about to talk to. You are God’s child. God loves you. God does not change his mind about that. God is not fickle, one day loving you and the next not.

**4 Begin your prayer “In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit ...”** I would suggest praying the *Our Father*. When the Apostles saw Jesus praying one time, they wanted to learn how to pray too, so Jesus gave them the prayer we call the *Our Father*. It has everything in it we need.

## ►► ¡Este mes nuestro Ejercicio Espiritual es pasar un poco de tiempo en el cuarto de conversaciones de Dios!

### 1 Todas las relaciones necesitan que se invierta tiempo en ellas.

Así como se invierte tiempo en conversar en el Internet, inviertan tiempo en hablarle a Dios. Yo sugiero que comiencen con 15 minutos por día por lo menos.

**2 Busquen un lugar para orarle a Dios.** Para seguir con esta analogía, llamaré este lugar el “cuarto de conversación de Dios.” Esto es muy importante. El cuarto de conversación de Dios es un lugar tranquilo donde puedas estar a solas con Dios. Debe ser un lugar donde puedas ser tú mismo sin ninguna preocupación.

¡Muy bien, una vez que hayan encontrado un lugar para orar, ahora comienza la parte más apasionante!

**3 Tomen en cuenta con quién es que están hablando.** Algunas personas se ponen nerviosas cuando llegan a esta etapa porque no están seguros de qué deben hacer ahora. Surgen preguntas: ¿Cómo debo hablarle a Dios? ¿Qué le digo?

Está bien tener estas preocupaciones. Pero déjenlas de lado por ahora. Piensen, en cambio, en quiénes son ustedes y con quién es que están a punto de hablar. Ustedes son los hijos de Dios. Dios los ama. Dios no cambia de parecer con respecto a eso. Dios no es inconstante, amándolos un día y dejando de amarlos al siguiente.

Pray slowly. Don’t worry about rushing to get through. Your goal is to meet God, not see how fast you can say the words. Listen. If you get stuck, you can tell God so, “Dear God I am stuck. Help me!” I would encourage you to read a Scripture passage sometime during your prayer for it is God’s word to us. Reflect on what you have read. End by thanking God for your



**4 Comiencen la oración “En el nombre del Padre, del Hijo y del Espíritu Santo...”** Les sugeriría que **recen el Padrenuestro.** Una vez, cuando los Apóstoles vieron a Jesús orando, ellos también quisieron aprender a orar, así que Jesús les dio la oración que nosotros llamamos el Padrenuestro. Contiene todo lo que necesitamos.

Recen lentamente. No se apresuren para terminar. El objetivo es encontrarnos con Dios, no es ver si podemos decir las palabras más rápido. Escuchen. Si se atascan, pueden decirse a Dios, “Dios querido estoy atascado. ¡Ayúdame!” Los alentaría a que lean un pasaje de las Escrituras, en algún momento mientras estén orando, porque esa es la palabra de Dios dirigida a nosotros. Reflexionen sobre lo que hayan leído. Terminen agradeciéndole a Dios el tiempo que le dedicaron a la oración y ruegenle para que les dé la gracia de orar mañana otra vez. No dejen que el diálogo se interrumpa. Algunas personas encuentran útil llevar un diario de oraciones y anotan lo que ocurre durante la oración. La oración, como toda relación, requiere tiempo. No se den por vencidos. El premio es una relación con Dios que salva vidas, las cambia, las sustenta y dura toda la vida.

time of prayer and pray for the grace to pray again tomorrow. Keep the dialogue going. Some people have found it helpful to keep a prayer journal and record what occurs during prayer.

Prayer, like all relationships, takes time. Don’t give up. The reward is a life-long, life-changing, life-sustaining, life-saving relationship with God. – Fr. Bill Ashbaugh



## what do I want to be when I grow up?

ohmigosh, am I a grown-up?

**M**y friends and I were sitting around the other night talking about college and careers. Almost everyone has been applying to different colleges already. They were talking about engineering, architecture, nursing, cooking, etc. But, I didn't say anything – I got scared because I'm not sure what I want to do! I haven't been thinking about the future, I've just been having fun in high school. Now, all of a sudden, I'm supposed to be making decisions that are going to affect the rest of my life. I'm not sure what I'm really good at. I kind of like writing, but everyone tells me that it's tough to make a living at it and I need to be more practical. I don't know what I'm supposed to do. I don't think I'm ready for this!

►► **The expert says:** Author Peter Senge writes about a concept called personal mastery (*Fifth Discipline Fieldbook*). This is the process of developing a personal vision. But, it's not as easy as picking a vision in one day and then chasing it. A personal vision may take a while to develop.

Having a vision doesn't necessarily mean that we know exactly what's going to happen or where we're going in life. It may be fuzzy at first, but it provides us with a sense of direction that automatically guides our thoughts and actions to help us gradually refine the vision. The challenge is to constantly develop a mind-set that opens us to the vision so we can act accordingly.

Although Senge doesn't write about spiritual matters, I think the process he is describing is the same as prayer.

Prayer is how we become what God needs us to be. Prayer is not about trying to influence God's actions; it's about recognizing God's actions in our lives and how we need to respond.

Just as personal mastery is a gradual process, seeking God's purpose is gradual and rooted in prayer. We don't pray just once and expect it to happen tomorrow; prayer is a continual process of drawing ourselves closer and closer to God's vision for our lives.

Jesus taught us to be persistent in prayer: "Ask and you will receive, seek and you shall find ..." (Luke 11:8-11)

### ►► How do I know what God wants me to do?

- God does have a plan for you.
- Pray, pray, pray.
- Let go of what this world says will make you happy.
- Seek the wisdom necessary to follow God's plan, and you shall find it.
- Be patient; God will reveal each step in the plan when you are ready.

– Tim Ryan

## ¿qué voy a ser cuando sea grande?

¡Dios mío! ¡ya soy grande?

**L**a otra noche mis amigos y yo estábamos sentados hablando de la universidad y de las distintas profesiones. Casi todos ya han enviado solicitudes de ingreso a varias universidades. Hablaban de ingeniería, arquitectura, enfermería, cocina, etc. Pero yo no dije nada - me asusté porque yo no estoy seguro de qué es lo que quiero hacer. Hasta ahora no he pensado sobre el futuro, solamente he estado divirtiéndome en la secundaria. Ahora, de repente, se supone que debo tomar decisiones que van a afectar el resto de mi vida. No estoy seguro para qué sería yo realmente bueno. Creo que me gusta escribir, pero todos me dicen que es difícil ganarse la vida escribiendo y que necesito ser más práctico. No sé qué debo hacer. ¡Creo que no estoy preparado para enfrentar esto!

►► El autor Peter Senge escribe sobre un concepto llamado Dominio Personal (*"Fifth Discipline Fieldbook"*, en español: *Disciplina, Quinto Libro de Campo*). Se refiere al proceso necesario para desarrollar una visión personal. Pero no consiste solamente en fácilmente elegir una visión personal y luego ir en busca de ella. Desarrollar la visión de uno mismo puede llevar tiempo. Tener la visión no significa necesariamente saber exactamente qué es lo que va a suceder o saber adónde nos dirigimos en la vida. La visión puede aparecer borrosa al principio, pero nos infunde un sentido de orientación que automáticamente guía nuestros pensamientos y acciones para ayudarnos gradualmente a perfeccionar esa visión. El desafío está en desarrollar constantemente una forma de pensar que nos dé acceso a la visión de manera que podamos actuar de acuerdo a ella. Aunque Senge no escribe sobre asuntos espirituales, yo pienso que el proceso que él está describiendo es lo mismo que la oración. La oración es la forma en que nosotros nos transformamos en lo que Dios quiere que seamos. Por medio de la oración no tratamos de influenciar las acciones de Dios; la oración reconoce las acciones de Dios en nuestras vidas y la forma en la que tenemos que responder.

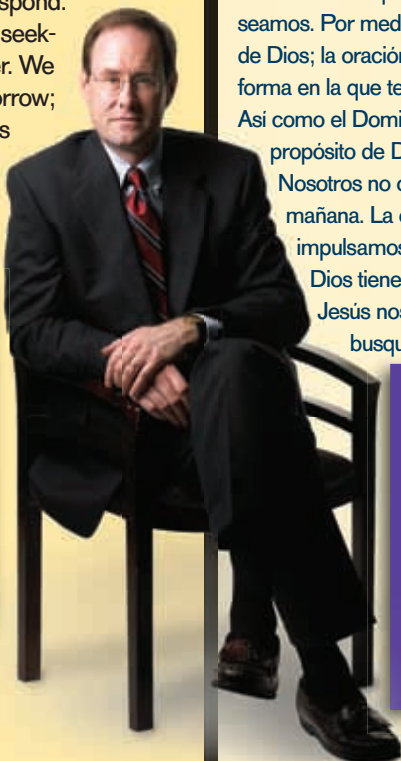
Así como el Dominio Personal es un proceso gradual, la búsqueda del propósito de Dios también es gradual y está enraizado en la oración.

Nosotros no oramos solo una vez y esperamos que todo suceda mañana. La oración es el proceso continuado por medio del cual nos impulsamos a nosotros mismos, más y más cerca, a la visión que Dios tiene de nuestras vidas.

Jesús nos enseñó a perseverar en la oración: "Pidan y se les dará, busquen y hallarán ..." (Lucas 11:8-11)

### ►► Note preocupes Keith, simplemente recuerda que:

- Dios tiene un plan para ti.
- Ora, ora, ora.
- No te aferres a lo que el mundo dice que te hará feliz.
- Busca la sabiduría necesaria para seguir el plan de Dios y tú encontrarás el plan.
- Sé paciente, Dios te revelará cada paso del plan cuando tú estés listo.



## Stewardship seminar in Laredo

►► Rev. Daniel J. Mahan visited Laredo in October and presented a two-day seminar on stewardship.

Fr. Mahan, a priest in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, is the executive director of the Marian College Center for Catholic Stewardship.

The seminar covered varied topics such as the definition of steward, the explanation of spirituality and correlating both themes into a positive attitude and lifestyle.

Fr. Mahan also discussed how stewardship is a powerful remedy to counter the seductive influences upon us today like individualism, materialism, relativism, hedonism, atheism and nihilism.



## Calvary Cemetery Celebrates All Souls Day

►► Hundreds of Catholics from throughout Laredo gathered at the Calvary Catholic Cemetery for a special All Souls Day Mass with Rev. Stan Bieniek as the celebrant. Rev. Toribio Guerrero concelebrated the Mass with Rev. Deacon Miguel Vallarta, Rev. Deacon Edmundo López and Rev. Deacon David Vargas assisting. Mrs. Rosa Aldape, director of Calvary Catholic Cemetery, organizes the annual outdoor Eucharistic celebration.



## 6th Annual Red Mass

►► Members of the federal and state judiciary, state and local officials, as well as the various bar associations of the counties comprising the Diocese of Laredo – including Webb, Maverick, Dimmit, Zavala, La Salle, Zapata and Jim Hogg counties – gathered at San Agustín Cathedral for the sixth annual Red Mass on Oct. 3, 2006, marking the beginning of the judicial year.

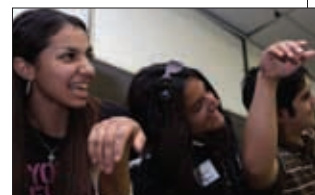
Rev. Msgr. Stanley Sliwiak celebrated the Mass and former Laredoan Antonio Alvarado, the immediate past executive director of the State Bar of Texas, shared his personal spiritual reflections on theology and the law.



## Northern Deanery Youth Gathering

►► The parishes of the northern deanery in the Diocese of Laredo gathered at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Carrizo Springs for a youth rally in preparation for the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation and for the Region 10 Catholic Youth Conference.

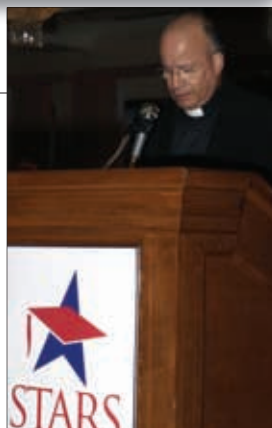
Teenagers representing Sacred Heart Parish (Eagle Pass), Our Lady of Refuge (Eagle Pass), St. Joseph Parish (Eagle Pass), Sacred Heart Parish (Crystal City), St. Michael Parish (Batesville), St. Joseph Parish (La Pryor), Immaculate Conception Parish (Asherton) and the host parish in Carrizo Springs participated in a full day of activities ranging from skits to group prayer. A group of youngsters from San Agustín Cathedral and St. Joseph Church in Laredo traveled to Carrizo Springs for the event as ambassadors for the Region 10 conference.



## Former president speaks at STARS event

►► Former Mexican president Ernesto Zedillo spoke at the annual fundraiser for the South Texas Academic Rising Scholars (STARS) held in October at the Laredo Country Club.

The event, organized by Steve & Linda LaMantia, raises money for academic scholarships available to collegiate students who are South Texas natives. Rev. Francisco Leon, OSA, pastor of Holy Redeemer Parish in Laredo, delivered the invocation for the event.



## KHOY Fundraiser

►► KHOY 88.1 FM, Catholic radio for Laredo and South Texas, held its annual fundraiser during the first week of November with great success. Operated by the nonprofit Laredo Catholic Communications, Inc., KHOY reached its goal of \$50,000 in pledges. This marks the most successful fundraising campaign in the station's 21-year history. KHOY operates 24 hours daily and 365 days a year with only two full-time employees and two-part-time employees. A tax-deductible contribution can be made at anytime during the year by visiting the studio at 1901 Corpus Christi or by calling 956.722.4167. KHOY is also the only station with streaming audio in Laredo at [www.khoy.org](http://www.khoy.org)



## Inaugural ALS Walk

►► Nearly 1,000 people of all ages walked for a cure for ALS, better known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, at Texas A&M International University in early November.

Rev. Msgr. Stanley Sliwiak, pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Laredo, and Rev. Daniel Ramirez-Portugal, pastor of St. John Neumann in Laredo, presided over the opening ceremony and participated in the walk.







### Gift of Giving

►► Blessed Sacrament School held its 2nd annual Gift of Giving project where students shared

their abundance with those who are less fortunate. Principal Esther Gutierrez and the elementary students presented gifts of food baskets, clothing and toys to Rio Bravo Mayor Juan Gonzalez.



### OLG Feast Day

►► Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Laredo hosted a nine-day ceremony concluding on the feast day of the patroness of the Americas. Rev. Richard Hall, OMI, pastor of Guadalupe Church, Rev. Edward Vrazel, OMI, parochial vicar, and Rev. Deacon Anastacio Bernal hosted

numerous men and women religious. Bishop James A. Tamayo celebrated a 6 a.m. Feast Day Mass at the parish as the culmination to the novena of activities.

### 5th White Mass

►► Bishop James A. Tamayo recently celebrated the fifth annual White Mass at San Agustin Cathedral for medical professionals of all levels and of all fields.



### Silver Rose Trek

►► The Laredo Councils of the Knights of Columbus recently hosted the final American leg of the Silver Rose trek across North America in homage to Our Lady of Guadalupe. Fourth Degree Knights from the Our Lady of Guadalupe province in Texas participated in the Mass celebrated by Bishop James A. Tamayo at San Agustin Cathedral on the second Sunday of Advent.



### Santa Monica receives donations

►► Ursuline Sister Theresa Sarich recently accepted gifts for the children at Santa Monica Mission in El Cenizo, Texas. Dismas Charities, through the efforts of Den Freany and Mike Corona, partnered with U.S. Border Patrol, SCAN (Serving Children And Adolescents In Need), U.S. Probation, IBC (Free checking & Quality Control Departments), and the U.S. Marshals Service.

# THANK YOU



Sisters of Mercy of the Americas  
Hermanas de la Misericordia de las Américas  
Regional Community of St. Louis

2039 North Geyer Road  
St. Louis, MO 63131-3399  
314-966-4313  
Fax 314-909-4640

Dear Friends,

The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas celebrated Foundation Day on December 12, 2006. This day marked the 175th anniversary of the founding of the Sisters of Mercy by Catherine McAuley. Since our foundation in Dublin, Ireland, the Sisters of Mercy have spread worldwide, honoring Catherine McAuley's dedication to serve anyone in need, with a special concern for women and children.

As we celebrate this momentous occasion in our history, we thank all of you with whom and for whom we have had the privilege of serving over the years. It is through you that Mercy becomes so visible that it can be felt. As so stated in our Constitutions, "By collaborating with others in works of mercy we continually learn from them how to be more merciful." You are our teachers in Mercy.

We are profoundly grateful for all of the blessings we have received through you. We publicly thank you, our co-workers, Mercy Associates, Companions, volunteers, and our friends and supporters, for all that you are and all that you do in the name of Mercy.

We look forward to another 175 years of service.

May God bless each of you with deep peace and great joy.

Sisters of Mercy  
Regional Community of St. Louis  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas



Estimadas(os) amigas y amigos:

Las Hermanas de la Misericordia de las Américas celebraron el Día de Fundación el 12 de diciembre de 2006. Este año marcó el 175º aniversario de fundación de las Hermanas de la Misericordia por Catalina McAuley. Desde nuestra fundación en Dublin, Irlanda, las Hermanas de la Misericordia nos hemos extendido por todo el mundo homenajeando la dedicación de Catalina McAuley por servir a cualquier persona necesitada, con una preocupación especial por las mujeres y los niños.

Al celebrar nosotras esta ocasión memorable en nuestra historia, les agradecemos a todas(os) ustedes con quienes y a quienes hemos tenido el privilegio de servir durante todos estos años. Es a través de ustedes que la Misericordia se hace tan visible de modo que se puede sentir. Así se declara en nuestras Constituciones, "Al colaborar con otros en las obras de misericordia, aprendemos continuamente de ellos como ser más misericordiosas". Ustedes son nuestras maestras y nuestros maestros en Misericordia.

Nosotras estamos profundamente agradecidas por todas las bendiciones que hemos recibido mediante ustedes. Les agradecemos públicamente a ustedes compañeras y compañeros en el trabajo, a nuestras(os) Asociadas(os) de la Misericordia y Compañeras en Misericordia, a nuestras(os) amigas y amigos, y a quienes nos apoyan, por todo lo que ustedes son y lo que hacen en nombre de la Misericordia.

Esperamos con ansias otros 175 años de servicio.

Que Dios les bendiga a cada una(o) de ustedes con paz profunda y gran gozo.

Hermanas de la Misericordia  
Comunidad Regional de St. Louis  
Hermanas de la Misericordia de las Américas

## Faith is ...

**A**bout three months ago, I brought a group of youth from Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Carrizo Springs to the Region 10 Catholic Youth Conference in Laredo.

We joined teenagers and adults from Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas at the Laredo Entertainment Center for three days of worship and celebration of our faith.

The theme of the regional conference was "Faith Is" and resonated with me as I thought about this column and the theme of faithfulness for this issue.

When I hear the word faithfulness, I usually think of the loyal viejitas that are always there at daily Mass, as well as every Sunday morning bright and early.

I also think of that man who's always helping around the church with anything I may need.

I think of the older people praying the rosary.

These are all wonderful examples of faithfulness. However, there's more.

Luckily, the Region 10 Catholic Youth Conference opened my eyes and my heart to more blessed examples of faithfulness.

Close to 2,500 teenagers taught me that faithfulness can be more than an older generation's way of worshipping. I also learned that faithfulness can be kids, as well as adults young at heart, jumping, shouting, dancing, singing and praying – all in God's name.

This event allowed me to see a whole new way of faithfulness through the actions of these kids.

I saw in them Jesus, our savior.

In them, I saw hope and happiness.

On the radio, on television and in concerts, you'll often hear the phrase "loud and proud" used as a rallying call.

On my drive back to Carrizo Springs, I listened to the excitement in the voices of our group and realized that you can be loud and proud and still be faithful.

Faithfulness may come in many forms and shapes, but they all serve one glorious purpose.

~ Fr. Toribio Guerrero is director of vocations for the Diocese of Laredo.

►► Faithfulness may come in many forms and shapes, but they all serve one glorious purpose.



## Fe es...

**H**ace unos tres meses yo traje a un grupo de juventud de mi parroquia en Carrizo Springs, para la Conferencia de la Región 10 de Juventud Católica en Laredo.

Nos unimos con adolescentes y adultos de Arkansas, Oklahoma y Texas, en el Centro de Entretenimiento de Laredo, durante tres días de reverencia y de celebrar nuestra fe.

El tema de la conferencia regional fue La Fe Es, y resonaba conmigo al estar pensando acerca de esta columna y del tema de fidelidad para esta edición.

Cuando escucho la palabra fidelidad, normalmente pienso en las leales viejitas que siempre están presentes en la Misa diaria, así como cada Domingo, bien alertas y bien temprano.

También pienso en aquel hombre quien siempre está ayudando en la iglesia con cualquier cosa que pudiera yo necesitar. Pienso en las personas de mayor edad rezando el rosario. Estos, todos son maravillosos ejemplos de fidelidad. Sin embargo, aún hay más.

Afortunadamente, la Conferencia de la Región 10 de Juventud Católica, abrió mis ojos y mi corazón a más benditos ejemplos de fidelidad.

Cerca de 2,500 adolescentes me enseñaron que la fidelidad puede ser más que la forma de adorar de una generación de edad mayor. También aprendí que la fidelidad puede estar en jovencitos, así como en adultos de corazón joven, que están brincando, gritando, bailando, cantando y orando – todos en el nombre de Dios.

Este evento me permitió ver una completa y nueva forma de fidelidad, mediante las acciones de estos jovencillos.

Vi en ellos a Jesús, nuestro Salvador.

En ellos vi esperanza y alegría.

En la radio, la televisión y en conciertos, frecuentemente escucharan la frase "fuerte y orgulloso" usada como una llamada de reanimarse. A mi regreso manejando a Carrizo Springs, escuche la animación en las voces de nuestro grupo y me di cuenta de que uno puede ser fuerte y orgulloso y seguir siendo fiel.

La fidelidad puede llegar en muchas formas y tamaños pero, todos sirven a un propósito glorioso.



TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

**I know what  
I want out  
of life!**

**Andrea López,  
Laredo**

"I will be a teacher"

**I want ...**

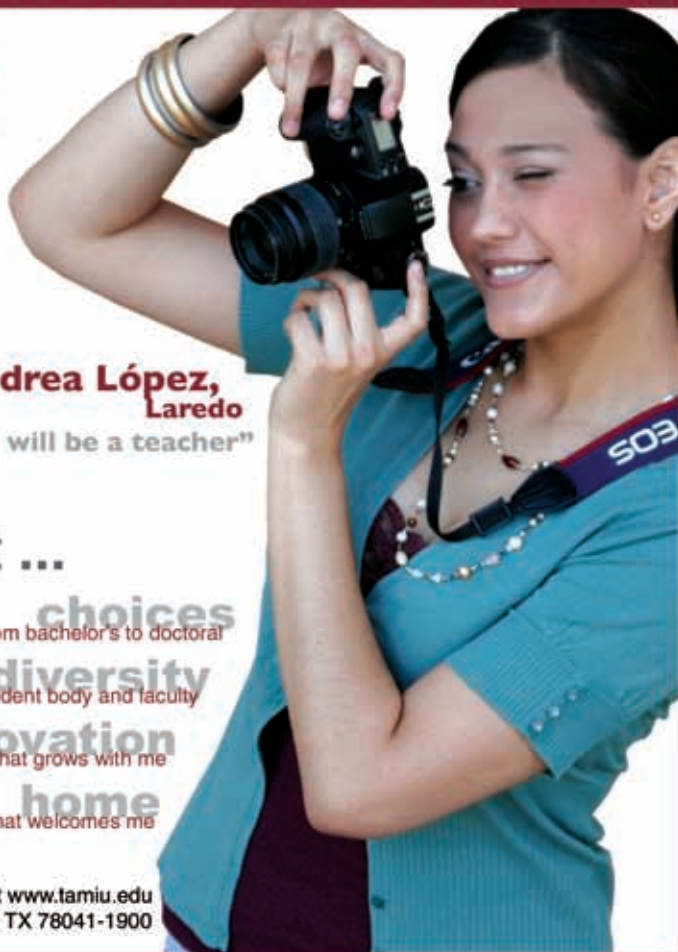
78 degrees from bachelor's to doctoral

An international student body and faculty

A new campus that grows with me

A vibrant community that welcomes me

For more information, call the Office of Recruitment at 956.326.2270 or visit [www.tamui.edu](http://www.tamui.edu)  
5201 University Boulevard, Laredo, TX 78041-1900



PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 135  
MIDLAND, MI 48640



**LaFe**

Online: [www.DioceseofLaredo.org](http://www.DioceseofLaredo.org)  
[www.LaFeMagazine.com](http://www.LaFeMagazine.com)

On Radio:



Catholic Radio Serving Laredo and South Texas  
Listen to live streaming radio at [www.KHOY.org](http://www.KHOY.org)