

Diocese of Las Vegas

DESERT CLARION

The Ministry of Master of Ceremonies

By Michael La Rocca, Principal Master of Ceremonies to the Bishop

Did you know that the term Master of Ceremonies (aka Emcee, MC) was a liturgical term before it became a show business term?

As a 21st Century people, we think of a MC as the individual who announces the acts on "Dancing With the Stars" or "A person who acts as host at a formal event, making the welcoming speech and introducing other speakers." (The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition)

That is very true. However, the term Master of Ceremonies originated in 1655 as a church term to designate the individual responsible for coordinating, and implementing a liturgical function. "It is appropriate, at least in cathedrals and in larger churches, to have some competent minister, that is to say a master of ceremonies, to oversee the proper planning of sacred actions and their being carried out by the sacred ministers and the lay faithful with decorum, order, and devotion." (GIRM #106)

The Ceremonial of Bishops

states, "For a liturgical celebration, especially a celebration presided over by the bishop, to be distinguished by grace, simplicity, and order, a master of ceremonies is needed to prepare and direct the celebration in close cooperation with the bishop and others responsible for planning its several parts, especially from a pastoral standpoint." (Ceremonial of Bishops #34)

Over the past four years, the ministry of Master of Ceremonies has grown in our Diocese. Our parishes have become accustomed to a MC accompanying the Bishop. They understand that as with the President of the United States, or any other dignitary, proper protocol is too be followed for a bishop as well, and it is the ministry of the Master of Ceremonies to implement that protocol. Our parishes have been welcoming, generous and have fed us with wonderful food.

All of the Las Vegas MC's agree that it is an extreme honor to hold the position of Master of Ceremonies, especially as a lay person, and it is a pleasure to serve Bishop Pepe. In most dioceses the MC's are either priests or deacons.

Generally, this is how the pro-



cess works in our Diocese. Phyllis Bagan, Bishop's Administrative Assistant and I sit down each month and review Bishop's schedule of liturgical functions. I then enter them into my calendar, choose the MC that will accompany Bishop Pepe and then

contact that MC. The MC then contacts the parish or organization, generally attends a rehearsal, and comes back to me to coordinate the pick up and delivery of vestments, and transportation arrangements. With larger events such as ordina-

tions, parish dedications and/or anniversaries, the MC will also attend planning meetings with event organizers. Sometimes we even play photographer.

Our Las Vegas MC's take their ministry very seriously. We hold See **MINISTRY** page 7

Special Celebrations Mark Passage from Lent to Easter

By **VERY REV. KEVIN W. MCAULIFFE, JCL, VICAR GENERAL**

As we move from Lent to Easter, the transition includes liturgical celebrations that give each of us significant opportunities to enter more deeply into the mysteries of salvation in Jesus Christ. Here are some that invite our participation:

Communal Reconciliation Services. Lent is a penitential season. It is a time when the People of God look within themselves individually and collectively to find, examine and address what may be troublesome and divisive in their relationship with God and others. It is a time to acknowledge the presence of sin and plainly see how destructive that sin is to others and ourselves. Thus there is a grater emphasis on celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) as the means by which we seek the forgiveness of God and ask for His increased presence in our lives that they may

better reflect His love for us in all that we say and do.

To accommodate those who wish and need to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to Easter most parishes offer what is termed a communal celebration of it. Typically this includes Scripture reading, a short homily, and an examination of conscience, followed by a collectively expressed prayer of contrition.

Where possible, there will be additional priests available for individual confession and absolution, in which all are invited to partake following the communal portion of the celebration. This is because general absolution is not included in the usual parish communal reconciliation service, as some think it may be. The granting of general absolution requires extreme circumstances to exist (collective danger of death, for example). It is the local bishop who solely determines, in accord with directives given by the Holy

See, any other circumstances that my warrant general absolution. Those attending communal reconciliation services should be aware that individual confession and absolution remains the only ordinary way we celebrate this Sacrament.

These communal services, usually offered in Lent and Advent, are a good opportunity for the parish to gather as a family and seek God's healing. One should attend with the additional realization, however, that individual confession and absolution are an integral, normal and expected part of the celebration.

Chrism Mass. This Mass is celebrated once each year in close proximity to Holy Thursday or on Holy Thursday morning. It may be understood as a prelude to the Sacred Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday). It is celebrated by the bishop in his cathedral and the priests of the diocese concelebrate. In it, two

significant rituals take place: The priests publicly renew their priestly promises first made at their ordinations and then the bishop blesses the oils to be used in the coming year for the anointing of the sick and for baptism, and consecrates the sacred chrism (olive oil mixed with a pine or other fragrant sent) to be used in the upcoming celebrations of the Sacrament of Confirmation. This beautiful and meaningful Mass, to which all are invited, will take place this year at the Guardian Angel Cathedral on Tuesday, March 18, 2008 at 6 p.m.

Holy Thursday. Commemorating the Last Supper this Mass includes the ritual of washing of feet (mandatum) which Jesus did for his disciples to make clear to them that they, as we, are called to the service of others in His name. It is the gateway to the Passion and the beginning of what is really a three day long liturgy (Sacred Triduum). At the closing, for example, there is no

final blessing but rather a procession with the Blessed Sacrament to a suitable place of repose where we may remain in prayer with Him through the night (as in the garden of Gethsemane). Following this liturgy, the altar is stripped and the tabernacle is emptied in preparation of Good Friday. This is the only Mass the may be celebrated in parishes on this day.

Good Friday. Mass is not permitted on Good Friday. Instead as a continuation of the Liturgy that began on Holy Thursday, there is the celebration of the Lord's Passion which consists of Scripture readings (including the Passion reading from the Gospel), followed by individual veneration of the cross, and then Communion. This service normally occurs in the afternoon, but be sure to check your own parish schedule.

Holy Saturday. This evening vigil Mass is the only Mass

See **EASTER** page 7

BISHOP'S CORNER

JOSEPH A. PEPE

The sun rose slowly and a simple, solemn group of women walked toward a tomb garden on the edge of Jerusalem.

What was in store for them? They could hardly guess.

A moment of the ordinary would be changed into the extraordinary.

Our lives are much like these women and we live and experience the ordinary. Then one day the extraordinary occurs. A moment of grace touches our hearts and changes it forever.

A walk down a road, a view of a sunset, a wedding day, the birth of a child, a resolution to a painful decision, perhaps the death of loved one are moments of favor from God.

But are they moments of Resurrection?

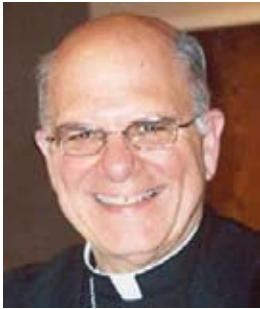
Those women as they entered the garden at Calvary were met with the unexpected absence of the one they loved, Jesus. Only in faith were they to experience their Resurrected Lord and Teacher and to be enriched by His abiding and eternal Presence.

It is much like that for us. Only in faith do these moments of favor transform into the Presence of Jesus. When we look at them at the time, we can experience an enriching event, but limited by time and eventual decay. With faith we see these events as elements of a heartfelt love that belong to the Lord and give promise of deeper and more intense presence of Him into the future. Each occasion here is like a sacramental as it were to a deeper reality that in the Lord remains forever.

This Easter should be an occasion for us to petition for faith that gives to each favored moment in our lives the opportunity of encounter with the Risen One, Who is Joy and Peace. Alleluia!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph A. Pepe, D.D., J.C.D.
Bishop of Las Vegas



When Ideology Corrupts Science and Medicine

Some physicians and researchers fail to see the important role of ethics and religion in the world of medical science. Others are clearly ready to sideline religion altogether when it comes to discussing the moral values that should guide the conduct of science and scientists.

Recently I came across some published remarks by Professor Richard Sloan of Columbia University dealing with the relationship between medicine and religion. He notes that even though abortion is a "perfectly legal procedure," some physicians withhold information about the practice from their patients, claiming their decision is justified by their religious beliefs. He goes on to express his displeasure that some states have enacted conscience clauses, "to permit such religiously motivated malpractice." He even states that in some parts of the country, patients may have "no alternative to physicians who think that their primary obligation is to honor their religious convictions rather than act in the best interests of their patients."

His remarks expose a real tension between those who believe modern healthcare should be guided by the values of an ethically-informed conscience, and those who believe that it should be driven by various ideologies. One ideology widely encountered in the field of medicine today promotes the direct taking of human life through abortion, euthanasia, and embryo research, and neglects longstanding codes of medical ethics that insist that the first duty of the physician and the researcher is to "do no harm."

When a physician directly takes the life of another human being, he is, in fact, committing medical malpractice, and acting directly against his central healing mission as a doctor. Abortion, by its very nature, can never be compatible with promoting human dignity. It never respects the human person. It is invariably at odds with the best interests of patients. As a component of a broader anti-life ideology, it represents a corrosive force in hospital clinics, research laboratories and other institutions of higher learning. When ideology begins to shun sound ethical thinking rooted in religion, we need to be very concerned.

I remember a story my father once told about the corrosive power of ideology, something he had witnessed first-hand living under communism, and working as a physics professor at the University of Warsaw. To enter the university and study physics, all applicants were required to pass three oral exams, one in physics, one in mathematics and the third in something called "Politics and Marxism." All the exams were held in a single room with different tables for

Making Sense

Out of Bioethics

Fr. Tad Pacholczyk



each subject.

One day as my father and another faculty member were interviewing candidates, a young man approached their table. It became immediately clear that he was very intelligent and gifted, and would make an excellent student. They discovered that he had been unable to gain admission to the university for the past two years, because — even though he did brilliantly on the physics and mathematics exams — he couldn't seem to pass the Politics and Marxism exam.

My father and his colleague had seen this before. The communist party members who conducted these interviews would target applicants who might be religious in their outlook, asking them pointed and discriminatory questions they could not answer in good conscience, and then fail them on the exam. Fortunately for the young man, there was a policy that any faculty member was free to move among tables and ask questions during any other department's entrance examination. So when the hopeful student approached the Politics and Marxism table, my father and his friend went over and sat down, one on each side of the communist party member running the interview.

The first question was: "Please explain how the Church is backwards and oppresses people." The fellow remained silent, since he was a Catholic himself. My father and his colleague stepped in after a moment, and said, "Well, it's clear that he didn't grasp the question. Allow me to repeat the question for him: 'What does Marxism teach about how the Catholic Church is backwards and oppresses people?'"

The fellow was then able to jump in and provide a correct answer, by affirming that the ideology of Marxism did teach thus-and-so. The questions and their refinement by my father and his colleague continued, and the communist party official became visibly agitated. The fellow ended up passing the Politics and Marxism exam, along with the physics and mathematics exams, and was admitted to the university. Although the story had a happy ending, the brilliant young man had lost two years of a successful career because of the closed-minded, anti-religious ideologies prevalent in the academic environment of the university under communism.

In academic settings today, we still encounter powerful anti-religious ideologies, as Professor Sloan's comments remind us, and they can result in even more damaging consequences than merely delaying admission to the university. As anti-life ideologies, for example, become tolerated and even promoted as part of medicine, not only do many humans end up being destroyed along the way by abortion, euthanasia, in vitro fertilization or embryo research, but those clinicians and researchers who decline to participate in these practices "feel the heat" and worry their careers may be at risk.

To force health care and research to embrace such anti-life ideologies is to warp and eventually corrupt modern medicine altogether. Instances of such corruption have happened only too often in the past as professors, researchers, and physicians have chosen to minimize the demands of an ethical conscience and to adopt seriously misguided ideologies. Codes of medical ethics like the Hippocratic Oath, the Nuremberg Code, and the Declaration of Helsinki came into existence after various misguided ideologies gained a foothold, and the medical establishment suffered a core meltdown, allowing doctors and researchers to participate in crimes against humanity. History sadly reminds us how quickly our human conscience, when deprived of its divine and religious dimensions, becomes untethered in a tumultuous sea of ideological temptations, and can end up on the glide path towards crime and atrocity.

Those who strive to protect the ethical integrity of medicine through conscience protection laws, and those medical professionals who ardently pursue an upright personal conscience by resisting, among other things, maiming or killing actions directed against early human life, provide an essential witness, and a critical counterbalance, to powerful and destructive ideologies that are operative in academia and health care today.

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org

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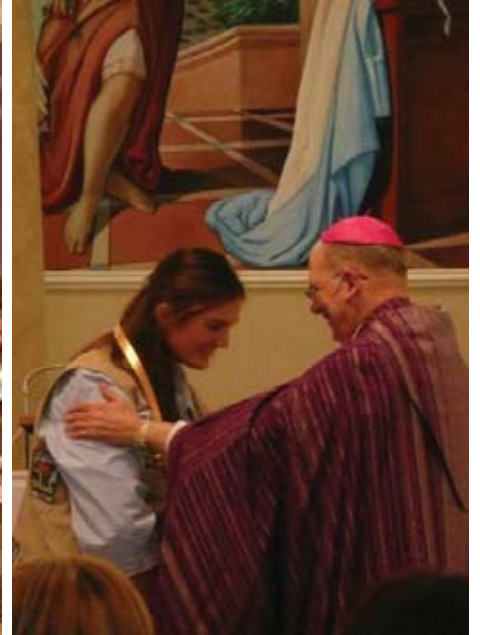


Girl Scouts®

Catholic Girl Scouts Receive Religious Awards at St. Viator Catholic Community



On Saturday, February 16th, 57 Catholic Girl Scouts (ages 7 to 18) from nine parishes throughout the diocese gathered with Bishop Joseph A. Pepe, at a ceremony held at St. Viator Catholic Community to receive religious recognitions from Girl Scouts of the United States of America. Each Girl Scout must fulfill the requirements set forth by the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry in order to merit these awards. Congratulations to the following Girl Scouts:



Family of God

Girl Scout Troop #46

Audrey Bernal, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Girl Scout Troop #177

Morgan Blanner, St. John Neumann

Girl Scout Troop #180

Katie Downs, St. Thomas More

St. Viator Catholic Community

Girl Scout Troop #195

Gianna Bailey, Jensen Drewes, Emily Dush, Lexi Enriquez, Nikita Gilvarry, Madison Rose Hall, Elizabeth Horning, Sophie Juschka, Mikayla Kelly, Megan Lifuori, Skylar Minden, Miranda O'Donnell, Hannah Rodriguez, Nora Rodriguez, Madison Ryan, Rosalia Sedano, Gia Tomasso, Kayla Rose Unkelbach, Kali Walters, Riley Watson

Girl Scout Troop #320

Catherine Anne Odgers, St. Peter the Apostle

Girl Scout Troop #455

Cassie Dubie, Christ the King
Vanessa Cuellar, Prince of Peace

Marian Medal

Girl Scout Troop #87

Christine Lange, St. Christopher

I Live My Faith

Our Lady of Las Vegas

Girl Scout Troop #37

Donatienne M. Abapo, Christina Ann Aveni, Isabel Carter, Kalley Kenny, Susan Louise McCollom, Emily Ann Miller, Anna Marie Scali, Catherine Grace Simons, Savanna Tassone, Madeline M. Ward

Our Lady of Las Vegas

Girl Scout Troop #282

Victoria Alesandrini, Johna Ghirlando, Gillian Futryk, Jenna Rose Mikulich, Breana Presmyk, Jacqueline Rodriguez, Celine Tello, Faustine Yee, Amalia Williams

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Girl Scout Troop #309

Kyla Beecher, Lisa Borzage, Carlyn McCornick, Megan Soriano, Julia Stueve, Alexa Wells

Spirit Alive

Juliette Girl Scout

Noelle Stack, St. Christopher
Mary Jo Stack, St. Christopher

Pillars of Faith Pin

Juliette Girl Scout

Noelle Stack, St. Christopher
Mary Jo Stack, St. Christopher



Also recognized at the ceremony were eight adults, including Cheryl Ghirlando from Our Lady of Las Vegas who received the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award. The Light of the World Pin was presented to Bishop Pepe, Fr. Richard Rinn, CSV, Fr. William Haesaert, CSV, Beth Schill, Debbie Svab, Russ Svab and Leah Zeldin.

For detailed information regarding Catholic Girl Scout program, please contact Leah Zeldin at (702)270-4364 or by email at lrzeldin@cox.net.

Girl Scouts®
Where Girls Grow Strong.™
Girl Scouts of Frontier Council
(702)385-3677
www.frontiercouncil.org

Bishop Pepe Presents NCCS Boy Scout medals

By MARIE SIMONS

The 25th Annual Catholic Scouting Religious Emblems were presented by Bishop Joseph Pepe on February 23 at St. Joseph, Husband of Mary Roman Catholic Church. This milestone was attended by a record number of youth recipients.

Traditionally scouts are given patches as memory markers for special events and in remembrance of the day an Anniversary Patch was presented to the recipients and staff present.

Fr. Bob Stoeckig, Pastor of St. Joseph, HOM, opened wide their doors sharing the facilities and most memorable the talents of so many.

Barbara Finn, Music Director, and her team enriched the mass that was planned by Sr. Georgita Cunningham and Betty Hiller the Liturgists. Ventur Scout Thomas San Nicholas of the parish and Crew 453 led the altar servers while Dianne Fischer of the Catholic War Veterans assembled the flags. Behind the scenes working with the DCCS could be seen, Rob, Vince, Peggy, Cheryl, Al and many more who took time in their day to share the universal calling of our faith.

DCCS members who represent all of the parishes in the

diocese worked extremely hard to insure youth were checked in, assembled and properly placed for recognition. Jessica Wattenbarger and her team under took the task of lining 125 youth who were first greeted by Donna Rowley, Helen Margaret Shelton and their team getting names applied to recipients and intrusting packets of program, pin, patch and pocket cards to their families. Prior to the day hours were spent in preparations. Families first through their units presented and helped their youth.

Support from the diocese, Dr. Marc Gonzalez, Director, the LVAC Cameron Bomstad and Jennifer Tuggle, many Scouters, all Scouts and Matthew McGroarty our Youth Host and all Parishes made this day possible.

Bishop Pepe concelebrated with Fr. Tom Gallenbach, DCCS Chaplain, Fr. Steve Hoffer Crew 543 Assistant Advisor, Fr. Bill Haesaert, St. Viator Pack 143 COR, and Fr. Phil Audet, Scout Chaplain SEAS Pack and Troop 129. It was a treasured moment to see the inner action of Bishop Pepe during the homily. He raised his arms inviting answers to his questions after sharing his experience as a scout.

Medals were individually bestowed to the youth recipients by Bishop Pepe, Fr. Tom Gallen-



bach and Marie Simons, DCCS representatives with the concelebrants present to congratulate the awardees. Adults were also presented medals for their service to both the scouting community and to the diocesan scout programs.

The Bronze Pelican was given to Rhonda Durbin of La Virgen

de Guadalupe, Carmella Chris and Fr. Peter Romeo of Our Lady of Las Vegas, Anthony Jones of St. James the Apostle, Cameron Bomstad of St. Thomas More and Fr. William Haesaert of St. Viator. The St. George NCCS Award was presented to Isabel Lopez of St. Francis de Sales.

Refreshments following the

mass were assembled under the leadership of Christine Beecher, Liz Williams and Sharyn DaPra and provided by the families of the recipients. The array of delights were provided for all as they waited for recipients who remained in the church for photos with Bishop Pepe and his concelebrants of the mass.

Boy Scouts honor volunteer

Fr. Steve Hoffer, of St. Peter the Apostle, Jay and Jeanette Bufalino, of Our Lady of Las Vegas and Isabel Lopes, of St. Francis de Sales were presented the Las Vegas Area Council highest award for service on February 20, 2008. The Silver Beaver Award of the Boy Scouts of America is presented annually to volunteers who have greatly contributed to the community, their faith and the local scouting pro-

gram. These dedicated Scouters give countless hours as they endeavor to enrich the lives of many youth as well as other adults who are touched directly and indirectly by their service. The Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting with representatives from the Catholic War Veterans and Serra were present at the annual dinner to show support and gratitude to the Catholic honorees and all who were



Isabel Lopes



Fr. Steve Hoffer



Jay and Jeanette Bufalino

St. John the Baptist dedicates stained glass windows

On Sunday, February 17th, the Very Reverend Kevin McAuliffe, Vicar General, dedicated eight stained glass faceted windows at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Laughlin, Nevada. The blessing of these windows marks the completion of the major building projects at St. John's which was dedicated by Bishop Pepe on October 11, 2003.

The last eight windows depicted Our Lady of Lourdes, Our Lady of Miraculous Medal, Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, the Medjugorie Apparitional Devotions, Mother Teresa, Padre Pio, and St. Agnes. Each of the windows were custom designed and manufactured by Denise Taylor, an artist from New Mexico who specializes in stained glass art.

Father Kevin's blessing was as follows: We praise you, Lord God, Father All Holy. You sent your Son into our world to

gather your people scattered by the power of darkness and sin. You sent Jesus to unite us all in one sheepfold. He is our Protector and Guide. Grant that those who meditate on these stained glass windows

may receive your continued protection and blessing and share in the inheritance of eternal happiness. This we ask you through Christ Our Lord, Amen



Left, The Very Reverend Kevin McAuliffe, JCL., V.G., Fr. Frank Yncierto and Deacon Dan McHugh standing in front of some of the stained glass windows that were dedicated St. John the Baptist on February 17th. Right, the Very Reverend Kevin McAuliffe, JCL., V.G., speaks during the dedication mass.



St. Anthony holds successful Inaugural Golf Tournament

On Saturday, February 23rd, 2008, St. Anthony of Padua Church held their Innaugral Golf Tournament at Highland Falls Golf Course with a shotgun start at 12:15 PM. Immediately after golf, all golfers and guests enjoyed a delicious bar-b-que dinner at Desert Vista Community Center where all the golf contest winners received their trophies. A raffle was held during dinner with prizes such as golf packages at several different golf courses, dinners, shows and more. Many of the participants said they would definitely return next year. Pictured here is Administrator, Rev. M. Gene Kinney with the rest of his foursome.



UNLV Newman Center; Campus Ministry and Social Justice



By **FR. ALBERT FELICE-PACE, O.P.**

Social Justice! One of the most kept secrets in the Church is the Catholic Social Teachings. When I ask practicing Catholics if they ever heard of the social teaching of the Church, they give you a look that indicates that they do not understand what you are talking about. So I feel that Bishops, Pastors, Religious and Laity need to do a lot of work in order to educate the faith community about this social teaching and its implications.

In spite of the apathy one can find on campus and in the faith community, I strongly feel that as a Campus Minister it is my call to make the community aware of social justice issues that we face every day. I know that we cannot tackle all the

problems, but one can do his or her part to be involved in some aspect or some area of justice.

In a pastoral letter "Empowered by the Spirit: Campus Ministry Faces the Future" published by the United States Bishops in November 1985 addressed to Campus Ministers, the Bishops emphatically said that "Campus ministry is called to be a consistent and vigorous advocate for justice, peace and reverence for all life."

All the baptized are called to work together "to bring glad tidings to the poor, to proclaim liberty to the captives" (Lk 4:18).

The Bishops reminded us "In word and deed, Jesus taught us the essential unity between love of God and love of neighbor. His followers understood that if you claim to love God and hate your

neighbor, you are a liar" (1 Jn 4:20). Empowered by the Spirit suggests a variety of opportunities to deepen faith, raise consciousness and become involved in service projects and programs: "Since the struggle for social justice demands involvement and not simply objective analysis, the Church on campus should provide ample opportunities for all its members to work directly in programs and projects designed to create a more just social order in which peace and reverence for life are possible".

As the US Bishops stated in their pastoral letter, The Challenge of Peace, that "To be a Christian, according to the New Testament, is not simply to believe with one's mind, but also to become a doer of the word, a wayfarer with and witness to Christ."

Campus Ministries all over the United States have a social justice component in the ministry to the university community especially to students. I know of other Newman communities who organized trips during the Spring Break and took students to Nicaragua, El Salvador, Haiti, Mexicali or work in some poor

reservations in the United States to mention a few.

They work with the indigenous people; do a lot of painting and fixing dilapidated property besides working with the local people.

The UNLV Newman staff encourages its members to take part in the social justice events that are designed by our Social Justice Coordinator. We have a good response from the community.

One of our social justice events is to go to work with the Catholic Worker community to feed the homeless. We usually go on the first Friday of each month but during Lent we go every Friday. Ten to fifteen students and staff gather together at 5:30 a.m. at the Center to go to the Catholic Worker.

I was curious why students get up so early to go to feed the hungry. When I asked the students why do they go, the answers I got were from "curiosity" to "a good way to strengthen my faith", and "love to help others."

It has been a learning experience for many of these students. One student said, "Seeing the hungry and their friendly atti-

tudes really makes me appreciate what I take for granted."

Another young adult who moved recently to Las Vegas said, "It helps put things into perspective. Seeing these people make me realize that my life is not as bad as it seems - there are others with much tougher lives."

Another student summed up the general feeling of everyone who went to feed the homeless, "It doesn't take much to help another person out. I feel that my helping will brighten their day even for just a couple of minutes. Smiles are contagious.

Two hours and a little bit of manpower not much of a sacrifice" except rising so early on a Friday morning I interjected.

Our goal is to help the members of the community to first put the gospel into their daily life and secondly to make them realize that there are many social justice issues in our city. Melissa Bentaas, a UNLV senior summarized very well her experience and the experiences of others when she said, "Reflecting on my experiences with feeding the homeless, I have realized that the important part of volunteering is not just the time that you give or the manual skills that you provide but rather the smiles, the respect, and compassion that you show these people who unfortunately through the course of each day are treated like nobodies by the rest of the world.

What I am most thankful for receiving from my experiences in social justice events is ...this first hand realization of what it means to love your brothers and sisters, because we are all equals in the eyes of God."

Fr. Albert Felice-Pace, O. P. is the Director of Campus Ministry at UNLV.

St. Viator students feed stomachs & spirits

If you think it's difficult preparing lunch each day, imagine doing it for 120 people. Every two weeks, students in one of the classrooms at St. Viator School do just that.

The bologna and cheese sandwiches they make are given to St. Vincent's and are distributed the following day to the people in their Resident Work Program.

At the beginning of each school year, each K-8 class is assigned a date to make the sandwiches. As that date approaches, a letter is sent home to parents describing the project and encouraging students to earn money to help fund the program (the supplies for each session cost about \$140). Besides covering the costs, this allows the students to get into the mindset of helping.

When it's sandwich-making day, the students talk about

why they're doing this and pray for the recipients of the lunches. Then they go to the school lunchroom where all the supplies are set out -- enough bologna, cheese, and bread for 240 sandwiches (each lunch bag gets two), plus pretzels, cookies, oranges, and various supplies. The students work together and assemble the 120 lunches.

The driving force behind the program is Ms. Lori Bossy, who was a pre-K Aide at SVS when she started the Homeless Lunch Program in 1993. She has a strong connection to St. Viator: her four daughters graduated from there and she continues to coach JV girls' basketball.

The students don't just provide food, they help out the homeless by "feeding their spirit with hope and with the love of God," Ms. Bossy said. "I think that it's great to help



people in the community," she continued, "but mostly it's important to help children learn their role in being able to help others."

Marti Fasoline, a parent at St. Viator, has been a co-coordinator with Ms. Bossy since '98 and various volunteers have helped

through the years.

The proof of the program's success is in the pudding . . . or in this case, the sandwiches -- and in the students themselves. Faith Read, an SVS student who just completed her fourth time making the lunches, said "it feels wonderful, because

we help a lot of people and it makes us feel good and them feel good."

Whether these student sandwich makers ever become chefs -- much less start to make their own lunches -- they are definitely perfecting their skill in helping others.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

St. Francis of Assisi Derby Day Fashion Show

St. Francis of Assisi to Hold Kentucky Derby Day Fashion Show Luncheon

The St. Clare of Assisi Women's Guild of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Henderson will host its Fourth Annual Kentucky Derby Day Fashion Show and Luncheon on Friday, May 2, 2008, beginning 11 a.m. at the Four Seasons Hotel. The MC of the event will be Colleen May, anchor and reporter for KLAS-TV, Channel 8. Ms. May is also a parishioner of St. Francis of Assisi Church.

Southern Wine & Spirits will be honored this year for its continued support of this event since its inception in 2005.

This year's much-anticipated spring event will feature the custom women's and men's hat designs of milliner Aaron Arrington, and the exclusive dazzling evening bags of Judith Leiber of the Forum Shops in Caesars Palace.

While all guests enjoy a complimentary mint julep or mimosa, the ladies, wearing their favorite Derby Day-style hat and gloves, will participate in the traditional hat contest and parade. The guests will also be treated to a silent auction with one-of-a-kind items, a "lucky horseshoe" sale of hand-made stained glass

horseshoes, as well as a raffle, and a live auction consisting of items that will surely spark enthusiastic bidding from the crowd.

Tickets are \$80 per person. Table sponsorships, at 10 people per table, are still available. All proceeds from this event will benefit the St. Francis of Assisi Church building fund which is financing the construction of the parish center, elementary school and church. The San Damiano Parish Center, which was the first phase of the building project, was completed in January 2007 and dedicated on April 10, 2007.

For more information about this event, please contact Lisa Heck at 702-617-0660 or complete the reservation form below and mail with your payment to the address listed:

Rachel's Vineyard Retreats

Southern Nevada Retreat

The next retreat is scheduled for November 7-9, For registration and information call Kathleen Miller 702-212-6472

Arizona Retreat

A Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreat for women & men struggling with the psychological &/or spiritual pain of abortion will be offered April 4-6, 2008 at The Nautical Resort & Confer-

ence Center, Lake Havasu City, AZ. Cost is \$200.00. Early registration discount & some scholarships available. For more information about the symptoms of post-abortion trauma visit Rachel's Vineyard at www.rachelsvineyard.org. Then contact us for local information or to register, Lisa 928-713-9504 or leexavc@cableone.net. All communication & participation are strictly confidential.

Theology on Tap

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Newman Center is sponsoring Theology on Tap which is open to all young adults and young at heart. First Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Ellis Island Casino and Brewery, 4178 Koval Lane (Koval and Flamingo) at the private room in the cafe. For more info call 736-0887 or 274-3734.

Scholarships offered by Regis University

Regis University, a Catholic University, is offering 15 scholarships each semester for Catholic students in mission focused programs such as Religious Studies, Teacher Education and Marriage and Family Therapy. The Scholarship are offered on a first come basis.

Call Regis Admissions at 702-990-0375 ext. 226 for more information.

Marriage Encounter for Good Marriages

"The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy." Recharge your marriage with a worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend.

The scheduled weekends for 2008 are:

May 16-18

August 8-10

November 7-9.

For more information contact Marcia and Wayne Kessler, at 702-566-8753, Nick and Lori Jurado at 702-433-1132, or visit <http://lasvegas.nv.wvme.org>

St. John the Evangelist

A New Beginning The Catholic community of St. John the Evangelist filled the Church at the 9:00 Mass on Sunday morning, February 3rd. It was not a special feast day or holy day that attracted the crowd which included visitors from other churches in Moapa Valley and Mesquite. Rather, it was the new beginning of retired life for the beloved Father Leo Coughlin that drew this congregation together. Fr. Leo said a fond fare-

well to his parishioners at this his last official Sunday Mass in Logandale as an active priest. After the service ended, Father spent some time answering questions from the children in the CCD program. At 11:00, he joined his guests in the assembly area for refreshments as various individuals paid tribute to the shepherd whose sheep will miss him greatly.

St. John's loss is St. Joseph's gain. Fr. Leo began his retirement-in-residence at St. Joseph, Husband of Mary. He will be celebrating Masses there and in other Las Vegas area churches from time to time.

If "inactive priesthood" bores you, Padre, you can always return to St. John's to help make tamales.

Dominican Laity

A chapter of the Dominican Laity is being formed in the Diocese of Las Vegas. Catholic men and women from all walk of life belong to the Dominican community to pray, to study and to be a service to others by following the charisma of St. Dominic. If you are interested, please join us on Saturday, March 29 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Newman Center, 4765 Brussels St., Las Vegas. For more info call Fr. Albert at 736-0887 or 274-3734.



Diocese of Las Vegas

Save the Date!

Diocesan Conference

Nov. 14 & 15, 2008

Green Valley Ranch Resort
Henderson, NV

Mark your calendar now for the Diocese of Las Vegas' annual Diocesan Conference being held this year at the beautiful Green Valley Resort in Henderson, Nevada. This year's conference theme comes directly from the Synod of Bishops...

The Word of God as a Symphony



La Palabra de Dios como Sinfonía



Department of Faith & Ministry Formation

T (702)735-6044 / F (702)697-5917

www.lasvegas-diocese.org/faith_ministry_formation.html

Cathedral Happenings

By Rick Minch

Thanks to the Knights

Many thanks to the Knights of Columbus for the sale of Christmas ornaments to benefit the 2007 Christmas Midnight Mass LIVE telecast on KLAS TV Channel 8. A check for \$2,000 was presented to Michael La Rocca, Executive Producer of the telecast, by Paul Dendary, Nevada State Deputy of the Knights. Additionally, the Rev. Van Skee Assembly of the Knights sponsored the broadcast of the Christmas Concert and Midnight Mass on

All Talk Radio, which was available in 174 countries around the world. We are very grateful to the Knights of Columbus for their participation at Guardian Angel Cathedral in service to our Bishop!

Bishop's Dinner Meeting

The next meetings of the Bishop's Dinner committee will be held on Tuesday, March 11th and Tuesday, April 8th, at 6:00 pm in Anderson Hall. Please contact the Chairman, Edgar Valazquez, at (702) 813-2657 to serve on the committee. The 2008 Bishop's Dinner will be held on Friday, Oc-

tober 24, 2008 at Palace Station. Proceeds from the dinner benefit Music, Media and the Arts at Guardian Angel Cathedral.

Cathedral St. Joseph's Table

The 3rd Annual St. Joseph's Table at the Cathedral will be held on Saturday, March 15th. Bishop Joseph A. Pepe will celebrate mass at 12:10 pm, followed by the procession of the statue of St. Joseph to Anderson Hall (directly behind the Cathedral) and the blessing of the St. Joseph's Table. The table will be open from 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Donations will be accepted. Join us for Food,

Music and Dancing in the Italian Tradition. Proceeds will benefit the Christmas Midnight Mass telecast. Viva San Guisepp!!!

Lent and Holy Week Schedule at the Cathedral

Fridays during Lent: Stations of the Cross following the 12:10 pm mass

Palm Sunday: Vigil Masses on Saturday, March 15th at 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm; Masses on Palm Sunday, March 16th at 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am (Pontifical Mass with Bishop Pepe), 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm

Tuesday, March 18th: Chrism Mass at 6:00 pm

Holy Thursday, March 20th: Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at 5:00 pm with Bishop Pepe

Good Friday, March 21st: Stations of the Cross at 12 noon; Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3:00 pm with Bishop Pepe

Saturday, March 22nd: Easter Vigil Mass at 7:00 pm with Bishop Pepe

Easter Sunday, March 23rd: Masses at 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am (Pontifical Mass with Bishop Pepe), 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm

Regis' Catholic studies meets growing demand in Southern Nevada

In fall 2006, Jesuit-based Regis University-Las Vegas launched its Catholic studies specialization to prepare students to work in lay capacity within the Catholic community.

Since its inception, many adults in the Diocese have taken part in the university's Catholic Studies program, either the degree specialization or the certificate, proving its growing need within the Southern Nevada community.

"As a Jesuit university, we have an obligation to the Las Vegas Diocese, and the community as a whole, to offer degrees that are relevant to the diversity of the interfaith community," said Keith Evans, campus director for

Regis' two Las Vegas locations. Our degree specializations in the religious studies program seeks to help fulfill that obligation. "We previously offered a Catholic studies certificate, which was quite popular, so we knew the demand was there and it is."

The Catholic studies specialization is offered through the school's religious studies degree, which also includes specialization options in biblical studies, peace and social justice and spirituality. The specialization also gives students the essential historical knowledge and understanding of the contemporary Catholic Church in the United States.

Evans said that through degree programs like these, students receive the education and support needed to make positive changes throughout the community and throughout the world.

Many students participating in the academic religious studies program are from the Las Vegas Diocese, especially because they are eligible for the 45 Catholic tuition scholarships Regis offers each year to Las Vegas Diocese adult students wishing to pursue mission-related degrees.

Mission-related programs include religious studies, education, marriage and family therapy and nonprofit management. Education and religious studies are offered at the undergraduate

level and all four programs are offered at the graduate level.

The scholarships cover each recipient's tuition for a course, worth anywhere from \$1,005 to \$1,275 depending on the student's major. A maximum of 15 scholarships are available per semester. Each scholarship student is limited to a total of three scholarship courses. All scholarship applications must have the signature of a parish official (DRE, etc), Dr. Marc Gonzalez, Director of Faith Formation, and a final approval by Regis.

For more information about Regis' Catholic studies and Catholic scholarship program or other Regis programs, please visit regislasvegas.org or call

702-990-0375.

Regis University, which has campuses in Green Valley and Summerlin, offers more than 25 bachelor's and master's degree programs in business, education, humanities, liberal arts, marriage & family therapy and social sciences and is continually ranked by "U.S. News and World Report" as one of the top universities in the West. The school's rich 130-year Jesuit tradition seeks to provide values-centered undergraduate and graduate educations and to strengthen its commitment to serve the world.

MINISTRY from page 1

an annual workshop and day of reflection where we pray together, study together, review new procedures, and practice putting on, and taking off the miter. We also review that year's Chrism Mass and Confirmation schedule. At this year's workshop on February 7, 2008, we will even be studying procedures on the Funeral of a bishop. Yes, a Master of Ceremonies is even responsible for the implementation of that.

Individually we continually study the Ceremonial of Bishops, the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, review documents, study liturgy, and watch Masses on television from other dioceses and Rome where a MC is present. We all get along very well and close friendships have developed from this ministry.

As a group we laugh at God's sense of humor. He could not have chosen a more diverse group of people to serve Him, His Church and His Bishop.

I began serving our Bishop on November 16, 2003. In addition to my responsibilities as Principal MC, I also serve as Director of

Liturgical Ministries for the Cathedral. Prior to my vocation in church ministry, I spent 32 years in the entertainment industry, ten of which I spent with the Miss America Pageant. I was an actor, singer, dancer, producer, and choreographer. Originally from Buffalo, New York, I never realized that my show business experience was God's way of preparing for work in the Church.

Our Associate Master of Ceremonies is Al Paduano. Al began serving Bishop Pepe in April of 2004. A native of Brooklyn, New York, he has been a volunteer at St. Joseph Husband of Mary Parish since it began in 1989. Al is the Altar Server and Usher Ministry coordinator. He has worked in the casino industry for over 29-years, and prior to that he worked in the EDP department for a bank. He is a graduate of Cathedral Prep Seminary High School, and also attended Cathedral College of the Immaculate Conception.

Our four assistant MC's are Shirley Hamilton, Tony McGilton, Carol Marshall, and Rick Minch. Shirley moved to Las Vegas 26-years ago from Orange County, California, to take a position of

Human Resources Analyst with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. Now retired from Metro, she is a member of Our Lady of Las Vegas parish and also works in ministry at the Shrine of the Most Holy Redeemer. Shirley has three daughters who are also very active in church ministry. She began serving our Bishop three years ago.

Tony McGilton is currently the Archivist for the Diocese of Las Vegas. He is a member of St. James the Apostle Parish where he is part of the Liturgy Team, and teaches Liturgical Ministries. Tony was born in Croton on the Hudson, New York, but spent most of his life in San Jose, California where he was also the Archivist for that Diocese. Tony is retired from IBM where he was a computer programmer, analyst, and strategic planner. He is also a veteran of the United States Marine Corp. and has been serving Bishop Pepe for three-years as well.

Carol Marshall's career in advertising spanned 30-years, the last ten was spent at American Express as Director of Direct Marketing managing a staff of

50. Hailing from New York City, Carol commuted 4-hours a day and had little time for anything else other than work and commuting. She always gave of her treasures, and promised herself when time permitted she would give of her time, and talent. Since moving to Las Vegas in June of 2004, she has kept that promise, volunteering at our Cathedral whenever and wherever she is needed. Carol states that she has never felt the peace she feels now. She began serving our Bishop in November, 2005.

Rick Minch began serving Bishop Pepe in the summer of 2007. Rick also serves at the Cathedral as a Lector, Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, and Public Relations Director. Additionally, he is very active in his home parish, Our Lady of the Valley in Pahrump. Rick is a native of Euclid, Ohio. Prior to moving to the Las Vegas area he worked for over 30 years in professional sports with the Cleveland Indians, Los Angeles Kings, the 1998 U.S. Olympic Ice Hockey Team and the 2000 Stanley Cup Champion New Jersey Devils.

Our Las Vegas seminarians

also work and are trained as Master of Ceremonies as part of their studies. John Assalone, our senior seminarian, has served as MC for Bishop Pepe for many functions. When he was home in 2005-2006 for his "Pastoral Year," John handled most of the Confirmations and the television Masses for the homebound. Sam Martinez is currently training in the ministry of Master of Ceremonies, and our college seminarians will be working with us as they continue their studies.

Since the Master of Ceremonies needs to be ten steps ahead of everyone else, it is sometimes difficult for us to pray during a liturgical function. We have come to the conclusion that our prayer is to afford our Bishop the opportunity to focus completely on his prayer.

Bishop Pepe once told me a story about a particular Cardinal that posed this question to his Master of Ceremonies on Palm Sunday morning. Testing the MC's knowledge of protocol the Cardinal asked, "In which hand do I hold my palm branch?"

Yes...we have to know that too. The answer is...the left.

EASTER from page 1

permitted on this day. This liturgy begins after sunset and anticipates the resurrection of Jesus, and concludes the "three day liturgy" that began on Holy Thursday. Be aware that this is not a typical Saturday vigil

Mass for Sunday. It begins with a ceremony of light in which the new paschal candle is lit for the first time and processed into the church, followed by extensive prayers and Scripture readings. Then follows the blessing of the baptismal font so that holy wa-

ter is again available and there may also follow the reception of new members into the Church through baptism and confirmation if there are candidates that have been in preparation for this. It is a beautiful ceremony rich in symbol and meaning,

and is a full Mass fulfilling the Easter Sunday obligation, but be aware that there are additional and lengthy rituals that will take more time than a usual Sunday Mass takes.

All are invited to participate as fully as possible in

these special celebrations and all Catholics should make the effort to do so. In them we find our identity as children of God, ransomed from death at great price, and a truly gracious opportunity for renewal of Christian life.

2008 Spring into the Arts

Guitar Jam - April 10



**SEUSSICAL
THE MUSICAL
APRIL 17, 18, 19
24, 25, 26**

Spring Acting Showcase

The Foreigner - May 2, 3



Spring Music Concert - May 16, 17

All tickets on sale March 15, 2007.

**For more information contact Elena Ferrante-Martin
Department Chair, Fine and Performing Arts
(702) 732-1945 ext. 4214
eferrante-martin@bishopgorman.org**