

Diocese of Las Vegas

DESERT CLARION



CCHD Announces 2006 Appeal

Catholic Campaign for Human Development "Breaking the Cycle of Poverty"



PHOTO FOR CCHD BY PETER HOWARD

In New Orleans, badly battered by Hurricane Katrina, hope is coming back at Café Reconcile, a popular restaurant that has offered inner city youth an alternative to life on the street since 2000. Café Reconcile was one of the city's first restaurants to reopen in late 2005. Once again it is creating jobs for local residents and young people, and the community is enjoying the tasty results of this award-winning restaurant. The Catholic Campaign for Human Development will distribute nearly \$9 million in 2006 to more than 300 projects, like this one, that work to break the cycle of poverty one community at a time.

"It is easy to slip into poverty in our prosperous country. Life is expensive and many of our neighbors live on the edge, a single paycheck from homelessness, one family medical emergency away from joblessness," said Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany, NY, today as he announced the annual appeal and collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD).

"Fortunately, the care and concern of the Catholic community, expressed through CCHD, is a compassionate and effective tool that helps people break the cycle of poverty." Bishop Hubbard is the Chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on CCHD. This year, the CCHD collection will be held November 18 and 19 in most dioceses.

CCHD is committed to the permanent elimination of poverty and injustice in the United States. Since

1970, the collection has helped CCHD support more than 4,000 small self-help programs initiated and led by poor people throughout the United States. The projects create sustainable jobs, preserve affordable housing, improve neighborhoods, enhance opportunities for youth, and allow people to find a way out of poverty.

According to national statistics, poverty now affects some 37 million people, or 12.7 percent of the U.S. population, which is one of every eight individuals.

"Because poverty does not respect boundaries of race, national origin, religion or geography, CCHD has funded projects in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands," said Timothy F. Collins, CCHD's Executive Director. "Over the years, CCHD has provided self-help grants to more than 7,800 projects, yet there

are always more legitimate requests than we can accommodate."

Most of CCHD's funds come from Catholics whose generosity is expressed during the annual parish-based CCHD collection. Other significant support comes from religious orders, foundations, groups, and parish organizations who share CCHD's interest in working in partnership with the poor. CCHD allocates the majority of the annual collection to community and economic development projects submitted to the national office for consideration. Individual dioceses retain 25% of the collection to fund local self-help initiatives.

More information on CCHD's nationwide effort to break the cycle of poverty and build community is available at the CCHD website at www.usccb.org/cchd.

Church Renovation

St. Patrick Finishes Project

TONOPAH - St. Patrick's Catholic Church recently completed a \$120,000 renovation project, primarily on the exterior of the buildings, in preparation for the 40th anniversary of the dedication of the church.

On November 11, the church will mark its 40th anniversary of dedication, with a special Mass and brunch to be celebrated on Sunday, November 12. The current church building is the parish's third, built in 1966, with the parish itself dating back to 1902. The work on the exterior included a complete paint job of the complex, a new red metal roof on the parish hall and church vestibule, repairs and lighting on the cross on the top of the church, new front doors on the church, four new windows in the parish hall, and two in the rectory. The parking lot also was patched and resurfaced, and repairs were completed to the fencing around the property. Interior work included a new furnace in the parish hall and a new kitchen in the rectory. A number of safety measures were taken, including a new awning with improved gutter

and drainage for the church and parish hall, new handrails for the parish hall, improved handicapped parking, and removal and capping of propane gas pipes that were no longer in use. The project was contracted by the Korte Co. of Las Vegas, although much of the work was done by local subcontractors. St. Patrick's Ladies Benevolent Guild also purchased a new statue of St. Patrick this spring. It was paid for with funds raised during the annual St. Patrick's Day dinner and raffle. It greets visitors as they enter the church. After reviewing photographs of the completed renovation work, the Most Reverend Joseph A. Pepe, bishop of Las Vegas, wrote to the Rev. Mark Gantley, administrator of the parish, "You did a very good job coordinating and insuring that these jobs were done correctly. I truly appreciate your commitment to these projects. The church and rectory look very nice." Bishop Pepe is scheduled to visit Tonopah personally on June 13 to celebrate the sacrament of confirmation. Bishop Pepe has been committed to strengthening the faith of his peo-

ple who live in rural communities, especially by establishing in 2004 the Nevada Rural Parish Fund, an annual collection to help support parishes such as St. Patrick's. As a small parish in a former silver mining community, St. Patrick's is not self-supporting and is subsidized by the diocese of Las Vegas.

"We are extremely grateful and indebted to Bishop Pepe for his generosity and support of us," Father Gantley said. "He approved everything that I asked for this spring. If it wasn't for him, this work could not have been done." Father Gantley has been working in the diocese of Las Vegas since 2001, on loan from the diocese of Syracuse. He was ordained as a priest in 1991. St. Patrick's parish encompasses Esmeralda county and northern Nye county, a territory which is all sparsely populated in the northwest corner of the diocese of Las Vegas. It has two mission outreach locations: St. Barbara's Mission in Round Mountain, a gold mining community 55 miles north of Tonopah, and Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission in Fish Lake Valley, a farming community 75 miles west



of Tonopah near the California border. Tonopah is situated half way between Las Vegas and Reno on U.S. 95 and is the home to the secretive

Tonopah Test Range, which at one time was responsible for the testing and development of the Stealth bomber.

Touch the Rock
Faithfulness Outpoured
Toca la Roca
Fidelidad a Chorros

Dioceses of Las Vegas

Diocesan Conference 2006

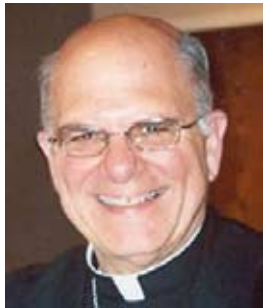
November 17th & 18th

Red Rock Casino Resort & Spa

For Registration Information, Please Contact your Parish Conference Publicity Contact or The Department of Faith & Ministry Formation at (702) 735-6044

BISHOP'S CORNER

JOSEPH A. PEPE



My Dear Parishioners,

Can a simple letter produce a bold response of solidarity? I hope so, because the lives and futures of 37 million Americans who are living in poverty are at stake.

For 36 years, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) has stood with poor and low-income people, helping them create permanent solutions to poverty. One by one people are joining local community groups to break the cycle of poverty - and Catholics across the country are part of that change.

The annual collection to support this domestic anti-poverty program of the Church will take place on the weekend of November 19. We send 75% of the donations to the CCHD national office to support anti-poverty projects across the country. We keep 25% here in our diocese of fund local self-help initiatives to benefit our local communities.

In our community this money is used to help finance our Diocesan Office for Social Justice that continues to work on ways that the Catholic Church can assist our community in alleviating poverty. Also, these funds assist the ACORN Project (Nevada Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now) in West Las Vegas to improve the lives of the residents in this area by working to provide living wage jobs to the unemployed, bringing services to the area such as grocery stores, and other businesses which will offer more job opportunities and help to alleviate the poverty of the neighborhood.

Please join in solidarity with the Catholic Campaign for Human Development to put an end to poverty in our nations.

May God bless you for your generosity.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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

Whole Community Catechesis

A new approach to Religious Education

In response to the Church's statement that the "proclamation of the Gospel always begins with the Christian community and invites [people] to conversion" (General Directory for Catechesis, #254), there is an exciting new structure for Religious Education that is emerging in the American Catholic Church - Whole Community Catechesis. It is a life-giving, vibrant, and community changing approach! Its focus and design is much broader than the "school house" framework with which most people are familiar. Whole Community Catechesis includes children but invites every member of the parish, regardless of age, to participate. Whole Community Catechesis is a way for all members of a parish community to gather to learn, share, reflect and celebrate.

Whole Community Catechesis is not a program but a process that recognizes one's formation in our Christian life is never complete. Whole Community Catechesis is an inclusive approach that can address the needs of families trying to share their faith with one another in today's society. It helps parents speak with their children about their own faith and God and helps to create Households of Faith.

The process of Whole Community Catechesis can be adapted to many programs and events that already happen within a parish. Because the Liturgy is central to catechesis, a significant

"Question of the Week" based on the Sunday Scripture could be included within the homily and in the parish bulletin as a springboard for parents, children and youth to begin talking about their faith, together. Sacramental preparation, parish retreats, holy day events, are other avenues to bring the wider community together.

On September 6, 2006, six members from the Diocese, Sr. Pat McGinley, Vicar for Faith Formation, Linn Bautista and Cathy Trawinski, Associate Directors for the Department of Faith and Ministry Formation, Juliann Dwyer, Director of Religious Education, St. Thomas More Parish, Mona Harris, Director of Religious Education, St. Francis de Sales Parish and Rob Holman, Youth Minister, St. Joseph, Husband of Mary Parish, attended a workshop hosted by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. The workshop was filled with opportunities of witnessing Whole Community Catechesis in action. Members of five parishes from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles spoke of their experiences over the past two and a half years working with Whole Community Catechesis and the amazing transformation that has occurred within their communities! After hearing these experiences, Rob Holman commented on how "their sense of family and community grew within their parishes" and "how people began to be more involved in their parish commu-

nity." Mona Harris said that "it brought to light the importance of faith formation for our entire parish community. The workshop provided hands on ideas and solutions on how to involve families in faith formation so it can be carried on in the home and not just in religious education classes. It strongly demonstrated that faith formation is an ongoing process and we need to eliminate the mind set of once our children receive their sacraments the mission is complete." Juliann Dwyer was also very moved by the experience of community that grew within the parishes as a result of Whole Community Catechesis. She said that she was "particularly impressed with the pastor who told his community that Whole Community was the way that formation would be in the parish. At first, with the newness of the process, there was a lack of understanding about what would happen and how, but as the parishioners became more comfortable with Whole Community Catechesis, excitement grew and there was a complete turn around of attitude and the transformation in the life of the parish is energizing for everyone!"

Church documents have stated that conversion to the mind and heart of Jesus is central in catechesis. Whole Community Catechesis provides a process to achieve that conversion.

THE EDITORS NOTE *Tim O'Callaghan*

Planting seeds for a better newspaper

The Desert Clarion presents many wonderful opportunities for Parishes, Catholic schools and Catholic organizations to get much needed positive press.

In order for the Desert Clarion to be successful it will take the entire Las Vegas Catholic community and all of its rural parishes as well to get behind it by submitting much needed articles and story ideas.

If you ever had or have a desire to be a writer this is a perfect opportunity for you to fulfill that desire and serve the church in our community.

It is the vision of the Desert Clarion to become independent and self funding. For this to hap-

pen it will require advertising revenues and grant monies to support a small staff and printing expenses.

The current plan is to publish every other month or six times per year until growth allows a monthly schedule. The ultimate goal is to become a weekly Catholic community newspaper. Although this goal may appear lofty it is certainly attainable.

There are nearly half a million Catholics in the Diocese of Las Vegas, that is an incredible market share that begs the attention of local retailers.

It is also the vision of the Desert Clarion to remain local, local and local until we meet the needs

of the local catholic community with a small amount of national news and events weaved in.

I have more than 25 years of experience in newspaper publishing right in here the Diocese of Las Vegas. I can easily sustain the current level of six editions per year and even 12 at the current eight pages per edition by myself. However, if we as the Catholic community want to have a dynamic voice for Catholics by Catholic we must all be willing to contribute. Therefore I'm sending my first plea to all Parishes, Catholic schools and organizations. You are the seeds we sow for tomorrow.

Diocese of Las Vegas
DESERT CLARION

www.lasvegas-diocese.org

Bishop Joseph A. Pepe
Publisher

Tim O'Callaghan
Editor

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WHY "PLAN B"

WON'T REDUCE ABORTIONS *Deirdra A. McQuade*

On August 24th, the Food and Drug Administration succumbed to abortion advocates and approved the sale of "Plan B" to adult women and men without a prescription. Planned Parenthood is now encouraging women to stock this "emergency contraception" in their medicine cabinet "just in case," saying it will obviously reduce the number of abortions.

But will Plan B reduce abortion rates? Is it just a contraceptive? And is pregnancy a medical emergency or a pathological condition demanding treatment? The answer to each of these, in a word, is 'no'.

Pregnancy is not an emergency. It's a sign that the fertility systems of the man and woman are working. If some consider pregnancy pathological, the treatment for this attitude is not a pill, but a much broader cultural shift that re-associates

sex with its natural consequences.

Is Plan B a contraceptive? It can be, but it can also cause an early abortion. Depending on when in her menstrual cycle a woman takes it, the drug can have any one of three effects: (a) it can have no effect because the woman is already naturally infertile three weeks out of four; (b) it can act as a contraceptive by preventing fertilization; or (c) it can cause an early abortion by preventing the embryo from implanting in her uterine lining.

Those hailing Plan B's availability say that it "prevents pregnancy" and so isn't an abortifacient. But that depends on what your definition of 'isn't' is. They define abortion as the termination of a pregnancy, and say that a woman is pregnant only after the embryo implants in her uterus.

But prior to the embryo's nesting in the womb, while still "free floating" in the woman's reproductive tract, she is already "with child." If the growing embryo is caught in the fallopian tube too long or expelled from the woman's body due to an abortifacient drug, he or she dies, whether the mother is aware of it or not. Abortion is the destruction of unborn human life, not just the interruption of pregnancy after implantation. So in addition to being a contraceptive, Plan B may cause drug-induced abortions.

Will Plan B reduce abortions generally? The answer is still no. According to research in Europe and the U.S., increased access to "emergency contraception" has a negligible effect on the rate of unplanned pregnancies and abortions. Researchers are surprised at their own findings, as

are the activists who had hoped to bolster their contraception agenda in Congress. Kirsten Moore, president and CEO of Reproductive Health Technologies, admitted: "the experts had estimated that we would see a drop by up to half in the rates of unintended pregnancy and the rates of abortion. And in fact in the real world we're not seeing that."

So "emergency contraception" is a euphemistic misnomer; and this drug will not reduce abortions. When you include the possible abortifacient effect, it may even increase them.

For more information on the USCCB's long fight against this approval, visit www.usccb.org/prolife and click on "Morning-After Pill" in the issues list.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

New Years Eve Dinner Dance at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church

The Knights of Columbus will sponsor a New Years Eve Dinner Dance at the Parish Hall of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church at 1811 Pueblo Vista Drive.

The festivities will begin with Cocktails at 7:00 pm and Dinner at 8:00 pm. Music will be provided by Al and Timi. The cost will be \$ 40.00 per person. For Reservations and more information, contact Jim Hurja at 646-3628 or Tom Habermas at 233-1697.

Catholic Charities

Announces New Social Services Program for Disadvantaged or Disabled Youth and Senior Volunteers: The Foster Grandparent Program Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada announces the addition of their newest program, the Foster Grandparent Program, which provides special needs children inter-generational relationships with seniors. The program has a dual purpose—to enhance the lives of children with special needs through a loving, and caring relationship with a Foster Grandparent and to provide a high-quality experience that enriches the lives of the volunteers and the children they serve. The program is funded by the Corporation for National & Community Service and the Division for Aging Services. Further information can be obtained about the Foster Grandparent Program and how to volunteer by contacting Catholic Charities Senior Services located at 531 N. 30th Street, Las Vegas NV 89101, telephone 382-0721. “The Foster Grandparent Program is a perfect fit for our programs of social services helping infants, children, seniors, families and the homeless,” says Monsignor Patrick R. Leary, executive director of Catholic Charities. “We look forward to growing the program and offering our senior volunteers an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children in the Las Vegas valley.” The Foster Grandparent program offers support to child victims of abuse and neglect; tutoring children with low literacy skills; mentoring troubled teenagers and young mothers; and caring for premature infants and children with physical disabilities and severe illnesses. The Foster Grandparents play a role in the young person’s life as mentors, tutors and caregivers. Currently, there are 105 Foster Grandparents dedicating their time and talent to 38 locations throughout Clark County such as: Clark County School District, detention centers, day care centers, shelters and developmental centers. To become a Foster Grandparent, volunteers must be 60 years of age or older and meet certain income eligibility guidelines and be eligible to serve between 15-40 hours a week. Volunteers do receive a modest tax-free stipend to help offset the cost of volunteering. In addition, Foster Grandparents are required to attend quarterly training sessions, are reimbursed for transporta-

tion, offered some meals during service, receive an annual physical, and are provided with accident and liability insurance while on duty. Catholic Charities is one of the largest nonprofit social service providers in the state, offering the most comprehensive range of human services. Catholic Charities includes 25 diverse programs designed to help people, from infants, children, and families, seniors, regardless of race, religion, or creed.

St. Andrew Catholic Community

Is hosting a continuing education course for an introduction to the Old Testament for anyone who has an interest in reading, discussion, and learning.

The course consists of 9 sessions on the 1st Saturday of each month beginning in October 2006 through June 2007.

Continuing Education Credit (OPTIONAL) is available at a cost of \$25 per unit of credit or \$100 for 4 units of credit.

Registration Fee of \$100 (non-parishioners ONLY)

The Hebrew Odyssey of Faith An Introduction to the Old Testament

A Program for Adult Education taught by Dr. Daniel Smith-Christopher

Professor of Old Testament Loyola Marymount University Los Angeles, California.

Biblical Study is a journey, and one of the most important set of “maps” for that journey is the Old Testament/Hebrew Scriptures.

This course will introduce you to the Old Testament, even if you have never read the Old Testament before, or if you have read the Old Testament with reluctance—this course is for you.

This course will not presume any previous study of the Bible, but will presume an interest in reading, discussions, and learning!

Do not even THINK about coming to class without your Bible, a pen and note paper. Please bring a copy of the Bible that you can write in, make notes and write questions—in other words, not the “Family Bible”.

Recommended Bible Texts: Please have EITHER the New American Bible, OR the New Revised Standard Version only.

Please do not bring old versions, like the “King James”, etc. Please bring a copy that you feel free to write in, highlight, fold...in other words...use heavily!

Recommended Reading will be provided for each session, after the first introduction.

SESSION TOPIC Page
 (1) October 7, 2006 Preparing for a Journey through the Bible
 (2) November 4, 2006 Reading Genesis: The Beginnings
 (3) December 2, 2006 Moses and the Law
 (4) January 6, 2007 Early Israel and the Monarchy
 (5) February 3, 2007 The Prophets
 (6) March 3, 2007 The Exile, Wisdom, and Apocalyptic
 (7) March 31, 2007 Zechariah, Apocalyptic, and Enoch
 (8) May 5, 2007 “Advising the

Conquerors...”

(9) June 2, 2006 The Deutero-Canonical Books

Pro-Life Calendar

Coming Events

The next few months are filled with ministry, speakers, and events that will find Las Vegas awash with our efforts to restore a culture of life!

While October was Respect Life month in Catholic Diocese across the country, here in Las Vegas we have used that as a starting point for some wonderful activity throughout the next few months, and into the new year.

On November 16, 2006 First Choice Pregnancy Services, the newest pro-life pregnancy center in Las Vegas will hold their second fundraising banquet at the Renaissance Hotel, 3400 Paradise Rd. Fr. Greg Gordon, Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi and the Chaplain of the pro-life apostolate, will give the closing prayer. Call First Choice to see if there are still seats available.

On November 17-19, we will hold our 11th Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat for women and men who are suffering psychological and spiritual wounds from their choice of abortion. The retreats are held at the Life Giving Spring Retreat Center in Boulder City, if you or someone you know is suffering, please call 702-737-6517. If you would like to help, please call Kathleen Miller, we need prayer partners leading up to and during the retreat.

December 1-4, 2006, St. Francis of Assisi is hosting Father Thomas J. Euteneuer, President of Human Life International, you may recognize him from his appearances on cable news programs in response to abortion, euthanasia, and cloning issues. Father Euteneuer will say mass at 6:30 PM at the Shrine of the Most Holy Redeemer 55 E. Rene Avenue, followed by a presentation. On Saturday December 2, please join Father Euteneuer to pray for an end to abortion at 9 am at A to Z Abortion Services 1760 E. Flamingo Rd.

Nevadans for Life, Inc will be opening a home for unwed pregnant teens in the Las Vegas Valley by the first of the year. Living Grace Home will fill a huge void in providing a safe shelter for young, pregnant women who are given the frightening choice of the life of their unborn child, or a roof over their head. If you would like to help, call Nevadans for Life, Inc at 702-212-6472.

Finally in January we will host the 14th annual Lights for Life at the Lloyd George federal building, following a vigil mass at the Guardian Angel Cathedral, offered by Bishop Pepe, watch for the posters and bulletin announcements!

Kathleen Miller
 Chairman, Liaison Committee for Pro-Life activities, Diocese of Las Vegas

Respect life

The 7th Annual Booksale benefiting the Diocesan Pro-Life Liaison Committee of Las Vegas will be held April 28th & 29th, 2007 at St. Viator’s Parish Center. We will ask for book donations and

volunteers in the months ahead, in hopes of having the most successful sale yet.

We meet on the first Thursday of the month. If your parish does not have an active pro-life group, please join us at St. Viator Church in parish center- Fr. Anderson’s Room at 7pm.

A Letter of Thanks from Catholic Charities

Dear Friends:

Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada has celebrated 65 years of community service this year in Nevada. One of the main reasons we can celebrate is because of the support we receive from our caring community. Every year parishes, organizations, businesses, schools and individuals have provided selfless acts of kindness to help rebuild the lives of our clients. As our year long celebration comes to a close we would like to once again say thank you to all of our dedicated contributors. With your help we can continue to carry out our mission of giving help and giving hope and provide services to sustain the human dignity of all persons in need.

Throughout our twenty-five social service programs we provide assistance to infants, children, families, seniors and the homeless. With Thanksgiving and Christmas just around the corner we are in need of help. If you are planning holiday drives for the items below, please keep us in mind:

Turkeys
 Non-perishable food
 Christmas Toys
 Clothing

Winter coats
 Warm hats and gloves
 Toiletries
 Socks and underwear
 Children’s shoes
 Call Sharon Mann at 385-2662 for more information.

God bless you and thank you for your kindness and consideration.

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 2007 are:

January 26-28

May 4-6

July 27-29

October 26-28

For more information contact Wayne & Marcia at 566-8753 or Nick & Lori at 433-1132

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 Scholarships are offered on a first come basis.

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

National Adoption Day 2006 – November 18, 2006

National Adoption Day is a collective national effort to raise awareness of the 119,000 children in foster care waiting to find permanent, loving families. For the last six years, National Adoption Day has made the dreams of thousands of children come true by working with courts, judges, attorneys, and advocates to finalize adoptions and find permanent, loving homes for children in foster care.



Catholic Charities Adoption Services provides comprehensive services for adoptive families, adoptee, and birth families to explore the choices of adoption through ethical and pressure-free counseling. Call 385-3351 for more information.

Diocese of Las Vegas to Host NCCYM and the desert shall bloom

November 30 - December 3, 2006

The Las Vegas Strip will be filled, as 2500 Catholic Youth Ministers descend upon our city. They are here in Las Vegas, at the Riviera, for the National Conference of Catholic Youth Ministers! The NCCYM is the major connecting point for the profession of Catholic Youth Ministry in the United States. This biennial conference is filled with a variety of opportunities to grow in our knowledge, skills and abilities, as well as numerous opportunities to network, pray and celebrate with others in the field of youth ministry and adolescent catechesis. We welcome this enthusiastic group of Catholic ministers and as the host diocese, will do all we can to make them all feel at home.

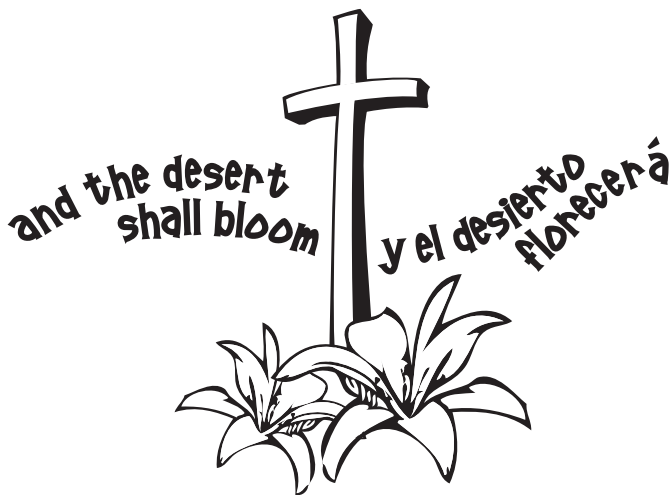


Liz Williams, Kathleen Amper, Marie Simons, Mona Harris, Rob Holman & Craig King

Diocese of Las Vegas
Parish Leadership to coordinate
Hospitality Committees for NCCYM!



Cathy Trawinski, Donnell Bayot, Greg Sinclair, Dorothy Distel, Zoe DeBlasio, Linn Bautista, Juliann Dwyer, Judie Dawson
front: Nashia Quinata & Rosie Arellano



National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry
November 30 - December 3, 2006
Las Vegas, Nevada

www.nfcym.org

25th Anniversary
NFCYM
1982 ~ 2007

National
Federation
for
Catholic
Youth
Ministry

During the NCCYM Conference, the NFCYM will begin celebrating what the Lord has done through the organization these past 25 years. This is an organization who takes seriously their mission statement:

"To serve those who serve the young Catholic Church"

In response to the Gospel, and it's pursuit of the mission and vision, this group of dedicated people act in accord with these values:

- the dignity and giftedness of each person
- the baptismal call of each person to discipleship and ministry
- the gifts and charisms of young people
- the richness of diversity
- the challenge of justice and peace
- the wisdom of share leadership

The Diocese of Las Vegas sends their prayers and good wishes to all who serve the young Catholic Church. May God abundantly bless the work of your loving hands and hearts.

Calling All Coaches

From 11 am to 4 pm on Saturday, December 2nd at the Riviera, NCCYM has scheduled a "Sports & Spirituality Symposium". Coaches of any sport, any age group are encouraged to attend. This opportunity would be the perfect formation you could give yourself.

Dr. Richard Gaillardetz, Theologian, and Professor of Catholic Studies at the University of Toledo starts the day with a presentation billed "Sports - Spiritual Obstacle or Path to God?". Dr. Clark Powers, University of Notre Dame Professor of Moral Development is another speaker whose presentation is entitled "Play Like a Champion Today".

Come be a part of this gathering in Skybox 211-212 at the Riviera. The cost per person is \$25 for the entire day. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact the Department of Faith & Ministry Formation at (702)735-6044. Register today by sending your name, address and phone number along with payment to:

Diocese of Las Vegas
Attn: Sports Symposium
336 Cathedral Way
Las Vegas NV 89109

We are on the lookout!!
NCCYM would like to create "sacred space" at the entrance to the convention area at the Riviera for the conference. We are looking for some kind of fountain (flowing water) as a centerpiece to fill the area.

If you, or someone you know has access to a portable fountain that can be used for this purpose, please call Sister Pat at (702)735-6044.

We are also looking for use of desert plants for the space as the theme for the conference is "and the desert shall bloom".

**NCCYM Region XI
Gathering of Youth Ministers
from the dioceses of California, Hawaii,
Nevada, American Samoa and Guam.**
Come and meet your colleagues!
**Thursday, November 30th
5:30 - 7:30 pm
Catholic Center - Anderson Hall**
**Local Contact
Marie Simons (702)365-9243**

Hospitality ... Why do we do what we do?

Scripture is very clear on the subject of hospitality. Jesus himself not only taught it, but more importantly, He lived it. Hospitality is a most blessed service!

Theologically speaking, the purpose of hospitality is to prepare a welcoming space for encounters with God's word. How blessed are we to offer the lights and glamour of our city, and our hearts to these 2500 brothers and sisters in Christ.

Sit ... relax; have a cup of tea, and reflect of these scripture passages. Then, sign up to be a part of the hospitality committee for NCCYM.

Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received!
1 Peter 4 : 9 - 10

Additional Passages to reflect upon:

- ❖ Luke 10 : 38 - 42
- ❖ Genesis 18 : 1 - 10
- ❖ 1 Timothy 5 : 10
- ❖ Acts 16 : 15 and 34
- ❖ Acts 28 : 2 and 7



Call to Help ~ 300 Volunteers Needed!!

Blessed are they who give
2 Hours
of their time to this mission of hospitality!!

Shall I volunteer?

VOTE YES

Now that you've decided to volunteer,
Choose your dream job from the list below. Call the Department of Faith & Ministry Formation at (702)735-6044 and let us know what you'd like to cover, and ...
YOU'RE HIRED!!

All volunteer positions come with a job description ... and support! Call today!!

AIRPORT GREETER

Groups of 10 needed during high volume times; children welcome.
High Volume Times: Wed. 11/28 & Thurs: 11/29 ~ 10 am - 7 pm

LAS VEGAS BOUTIQUE & INFORMATION STATION

Located at the entrance to the convention area at the Riviera, the purpose of this "booth" is to share general information with our visitors, and provide conference memorabilia for retail sale.
Hours of Operation: Wed. 11/28 through Sun., 12/3 ~ All day and early evening

PHOTOGRAPHERS

One photographer is needed each day of the conference. Those choosing this job as their dream must supply their own digital or 35mm camera (sorry, no disposables!).

HOTEL GREETERS

Folks to direct our visitors to the proper tower on Wednesday & Thursday ~ easy to get lost!

CONFERENCE BAG STUFFER

The bag stuffing will take place at the Riviera on Tues. 11/28 from 7 - 9 pm

BABYSITTERS

Since we are a family friendly Church and town, a few of our visitors are bringing children. Skybox #201 will be the venue for "babysitting" service. You can do a great served, and enjoy the general sessions of the conference. The skybox overlooks the main convention area.

We are anxiously awaiting your phone call (702)735-6044

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Bishop Gorman High School

The Bishop Gorman Performing Arts Department is proud to announce that this year the annual fall play will be the classic *Tartuffe*. *Tartuffe* (or *The Imposter*) is an insidious hypocrite who weasels his way into a wealthy family's household. As the gullible patriarch, Orgon, is taken by the imposter's false piety and all the family's plans for true happiness are jeopardized. Recognizing *Tartuffe* as a fraud, Orgon's family goes to great lengths to expose this liar with tricks that enhance and celebrate Jean Baptiste Poquelin de Moliere's brilliant comedy.

The show is directed by Elena Ferrante-Martin and double cast with about 100 Bishop Gorman students involved in various aspects of the production. There will also be a *Commedia dell'Arte* Greenshow 20 minutes before curtain. This traditional theatrical introduction is directed by Chris-Ramos.

Tartuffe runs from November 29-December 2 at 7 p.m. with a Saturday, December 2 matinee at 2 p.m. at the Clark County Library 1401 E. Flamingo Road. Tickets are \$12 and are available starting November 1st at Bishop Gorman High School. For box office information contact Elena Ferrante-Martin at 702-792-1945, ext. 367

Is your school not listed?

Attention Schools of the Catholic Diocese of Las Vegas. If you would like to publicize upcoming events or school news in the *Desert Clarion* please email documents or inquiries to desert.clarion@mac.com

Students Helping Students at Saint Elizebeth Ann Seaton CS

Mrs. Laboy, Technology Teacher

St Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School is a place where older students help younger students review the curriculum through innovative technology projects. The Core Knowledge curriculum used at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School is sequential in nature, so subject matter builds with each passing grade. An excellent way for our Middle School students to both review Core



Knowledge content and demonstrate their use of technology programs is through creating content based projects for primary students. I feel blessed to work at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School, because my students truly want to make a difference in the lives of our younger students.

"We feel extremely happy to help younger students learn geography, while we become better technology students," explained 7th grade students Kelly Horell and Kylie Kircher. Their class is working on a Microsoft PowerPoint geography review for second graders. It is a twenty-five slide project formatted with maps and review questions.

Gabriella Quarantello (grade 7) said, "Doing this project helps me review the PowerPoint program as well as my geographical facts!"

This year, Middle School students have created a third grade review of Astronomy, Kindergarten book of alphabet sounds, counting books to 100, and are currently designing Web-quests on Rome, Greece, and China. Our Student Council also uses technology to spread the word to younger students about upcoming events.

"It makes me feel good inside, knowing that I am helping younger students," said 8th grader Juliana Pedri.

When I announce a technology project for primary students, my Middle School students are very enthusiastic. As a class, we discuss which computer program is



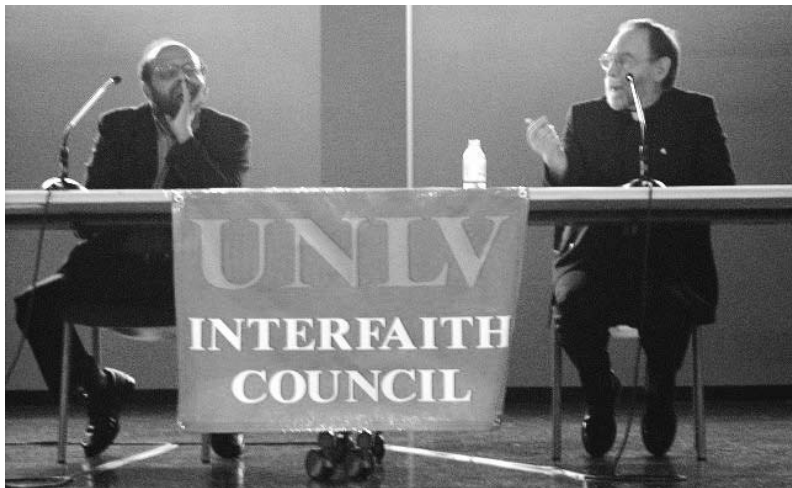
PHOTOS EDITED BY ROBERTO THOMAS, GRADE 7

best suited for the Core Knowledge subject matter, and further plan the project with regards to activity length and detail. These projects can be used each year by the primary teachers and students, so in effect; my Middle School students are leaving a wonderful legacy for future St. Elizabeth Ann Seton students. Student Patrick McCullough put it best when he said, "It is nice helping the younger students



have fun learning, because I had fun making projects using technology!"

UNLV Interfaith Council hosts First Faith Forum; "Papal Protest"



David Zeamer

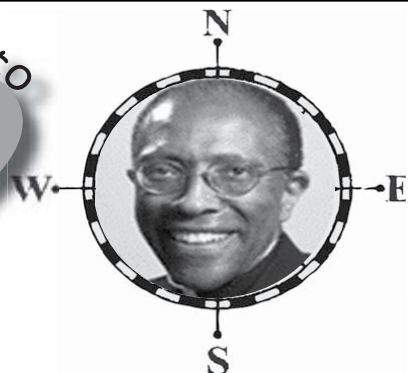
On Wednesday, October 4th the UNLV Interfaith Council hosted their first Faith Forum entitled, "Papal Protest: An Invitation for Discussion." The Faith Forum was a program created to open dialogue and discussion between the various religious traditions that serve the university community. In light of the recent controversy over Pope Benedict's quote of the 14th century Emperor Manuel II, I thought it only appropriate to use that as a launching pad for discussion between Catholics and Muslims. The forum was held at the Moyer Student Union, and it was moderated by Dr. Joseph Valenzano from the Communication Department. The event was attended by about thirty people. Fr. Albert Felice-Pace, OP, Director of the St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Newman Community at UNLV spoke on behalf of Catholics. The Muslim Student Association brought in Dr. Aslam Abdullah, Director of the Islamic Society of

Nevada, to speak on their behalf. The discussion ranged from the context of the Pope's speech to the perception of Islam held by Europeans. It ended with both parties declaring to pursue further dialogue so common misunderstanding can be avoided in the future.

The next Faith Forum is tentatively scheduled for Monday, November 27 at 11:30am at the Theatre at the Moyer Student Union. In celebration of World AIDS Day, the topic of this forum will be "The Religious Response to AIDS." Fr. Joseph O'Brien, OP, Director of the St. Therese Center, the official HIV/AIDS ministry for the Diocese of Las Vegas, will be the Catholic representative. For more information, please call 702-736-0887, email unlvnewman@yahoo.com, or visit us on the web at newman.unlv.edu.

David Zeamer is Associate Director of the St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Newman Community and President of the UNLV Interfaith Council.

Monsignor Ray East is coming West to
Conference '06
November 17 & 18
Red Rock Resort



If you follow the red brick road Nov. 17 & 18, it will lead to a gathering of God's people. These folks take seriously the call to discipleship and give their time to nourish this call throughout the events of the annual diocesan conference. The conference is a time to intensify our efforts to help the adults in our communities be touched and transformed by the life-giving message of Jesus, to explore its meaning and live in its light as faithful adult disciples today.

This is the Lord's work. However, we have the honor and privilege of hosting Monsignor Ray East as our keynote speaker to help open our eyes, hearts and minds to the power of the Spirit working in our lives.

Monsignor East is a nationally known inspirations speaker and revivalist as Executive Director of the Office of Black Catholics and Vicar for Evangelization of the Archdiocese of Washington DC. He is also the pastor of St. Theresa of Avila parish in South-West Washington, a vibrant African American Catholic community deeply engaged in a plethora of ministries for its members and for its surrounding neighborhood.

Father Ray East is the son of the late Thomas and Gwendolyn East. The grandson of Baptist missionaries to South Africa, he was born in Newark, New Jersey and raised in San Diego where he earned a degree in business Administration.

His position with the National Association of Minority Contractors took him to Washington DC where he later experienced a call to the priesthood and was ordained in 1981 by Cardinal Hickey.

Father East has worked in the areas of Liturgy, Youth Ministry, Initiation and Evangelization. On Friday evening, he will enthusiastically share his heart around the topic "Jesus Christ: The Great Evangelizer" and on Saturday morning, he will focus on "Liturgy: Forming the People of God."

Along with Monsignor East, we have eleven other workshop presenters. The topics include prayer, spirituality, Eucharist, scripture, ecclesiology, morality, Catholic identity and catechetics. Most of our presenters have been with us before, and are very anxious to join us once again, here at the Diocese of Las Vegas.

For our Spanish workshops, we warmly welcome back Sister Veronica Rivas, who was formerly a part of the Diocesan staff.

For more information, please contact your local parish conference publicity coordinator, or call the Department of Faith and Ministry Formation at the Catholic Center at (702)735-6044.

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**Diocesan Conference
Nov. 17 & 18, 2006
Red Rock Resort
Las Vegas**

Diocese of Las Vegas Launches Lay Ecclesial Ministry Program

On the weekend of Sept. 23rd & 24th, 83 women and men from around the diocese embarked upon a two year Lay Ecclesial Ministry Program that consists of sixteen intensive weekend sessions and two spiritual retreats. Regis University Green Valley Campus graciously hosts the program weekend sessions, which consists of two tracks, one each in English and Spanish.

The Lay Ecclesial Ministry Program will follow the vision of and for lay ecclesial ministry formation as stated in the November 2005 document of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), entitled Co-Workers in the Vineyard. In addition to the Sacred Scriptures and Church Tradition, wide recognition will be given throughout the program on the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, and recent teachings of the Magisterium as well as Catholic Social Teaching. The curriculum, pedagogy and methods

will cover the areas of intellectual, human, spiritual, and pastoral/ministerial formation.

Pope John Paul II reminded us that the Church of the Third Millennium needs to encourage all the baptized and confirmed to use their God-given gifts and talents to build the kingdom of God. The call to Lay Ecclesial Ministry, however, might be seen as a smaller group of the faithful. The document characterizes lay ecclesial ministry in the following way:

Authorization of the hierarchy to serve publicly in the local church

Leadership in a particular area of ministry

Close mutual collaboration with the pastoral ministry of bishops, priests, and deacons

Preparation and formation

appropriate to the level of responsibilities that are assigned to them

Father Allan Deck, S.J., Ph.D., S.T.D., President of the Loyola Institute for Spirituality along with Sister Pat McGinley, SSJ are coordinating this leadership program knowing it will form competent and trained leaders for the Diocese of Las Vegas.



Mr. Carlos Carrillo; Fr. Allan Deck



Roger West, Billy Ferguson, Tim O'Callaghan



Roger West; Carolyn Leontos; Sherri Redfern



Susan Provost; Dan Maier



Linda Lysakowski; Patrick Fitzsimons; Mary Wagner

St. Thomas More Women's Retreat



Twenty-nine women from St Thomas More Catholic Community in Henderson traveled to the Serra Retreat Center in Malibu, California on the weekend of September 8, 9 & 10 for our annual Women's Retreat. Opening with Louis Armstrong's rendition of *It's a Wonderful World* we were instantly drawn into the retreat theme, "Wonders of God's World - the Adventures of Our Soul." In shared meals, lectures, conversations and quiet time we explored our own experiences of wonder from childhood through adulthood.

Retreat presenters Fr Michael Doherty, OFM & Sr Susan Blomstad, OSF shared their knowledge with us, but more importantly, shared themselves. Their own stories of wonder helped us to draw from our own lives to recognize and acknowledge the wonder of God in all things.

The last formal talk of the retreat was entitled,

"What Do You Take for Granted?" We were asked to reflect on six things that are awesome truths of our faith - the wonders of life with God. The two most prevalent items on each person's list were the unconditional love of God and the opportunity for forgiveness.

The word retreat means to step back in order to see something from a new or different perspective. We owe it to ourselves to make time to refocus and refresh our personal spirituality. On a list of quotes given to us from the website spiritualityandpractice.com we read, "We can never be astonished, awestruck or surprised when we are either overwhelmed or underwhelmed. Feeling the first, we don't notice the subtle blessing in our surrounding; we don't take the time to stop and smell the roses." Our experience at Serra Retreat was truly a 'stop and smell the roses' one.

Parish Leadership In-Service Gathering held at Catholic Center



Theresa Wyckoff

On Thursday, October 12, Directors of Religious Education and parish Youth Ministers gathered in Anderson Hall at the Catholic Center. Parish Leadership meets every month to support each other in their specific ministry. This month's guest speaker, Theresa Wyckoff, a member of the Education Department at the Community College of Southern Nevada, gave a wonderful and practical presentation on "The Professional Portfolio: A Roadmap to Success!"

The professional portfolio is a way to visually document one's

best work, to assess professional development and to track accomplishments and successes. Although artists, writers and architects have used portfolios for decades to showcase their work, teaching or professional portfolios originated in the 1970's with the Canadian Association of University Teachers.

Theresa identified three simple steps in developing a portfolio: collect all relevant material and keep in a box in a safe place; sort through the material that best represents your work; and assemble in a three ring binder.

The Department of Faith and Ministry Formation thanks Theresa Wyckoff for sharing her insights and expertise.

The next Parish Leadership In-Service gathering will be on December 7. Vikki Shepp, the National Director of Catechetical Training and Sales for Twenty-Third Publication, will present their new formation program for catechists and Catholic school teachers, INTO THE FIELDS. Pastors, Catholic School Principals, Directors of Religious Education and Youth Ministers or their delegates are invited to attend.

What you should know about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development

What is the Catholic Campaign for Human Development?

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is the national program of the Catholic Church in America that works to eliminate poverty in the United States.

Established in 1970 by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Campaign helps Catholics to put both Scripture and Catholic social teaching into action.

CCHD's mission is twofold:

1. To raise funds that support organized groups of poor and low-income people working to develop economic strength and political power. 2. To educate Catholics about the need to implement the Church's social teaching by addressing poverty in the United States and promoting a greater sense of solidarity with the poor.

CCHD is unique because the projects it supports are controlled by the poor and low-income people it serves.

The Campaign's goal is to build community empowerment by helping individuals and families to help themselves. The promotion of solidarity among people of different social and economic backgrounds is also a key objective. All funded projects must involve grantees in developing a sense of self-determination that counteracts the attitudes, habits, and structures that perpetuate the cycle of poverty.

For 36 years, the Campaign has served as a significant vehicle for social change in the United States by addressing the root causes of poverty, empowering those it serves, and building solidarity across economic lines.

Grant programs—Empowerment and participation



PHOTO FOR CCHD BY PETER HOWARD

At Dolores Mission Parish in Los Angeles, children who once walked in fear of gang violence after school, now laugh and chatter on their way home. The difference is the Safe Passage program, initiated by parish volunteers who have united to protect local children by walking them safely home from school. Nearly 13 million American children live in poverty, but this community is leading its children to a better future. The Catholic Campaign for Human Development will distribute nearly \$9 million in 2006 to more than 300 projects, like this one, that work to break the cycle of poverty one community at a time.

CCHD has provided more than 7,800 grants to community programs in the past 36 years. It is one of the largest private funders of anti-poverty programs initiated and led by poor people in the United States. CCHD supports community-controlled organizations that create jobs, businesses, affordable housing, child care, and many other solutions to poverty. Campaign funds are raised in Catholic parishes during CCHD's annual national collection, held in most parishes on the weekend before Thanksgiving.

CCHD funds two categories of projects: Community Organizing projects help people work

together to address the needs of their community by seeking solutions to local problems and finding ways to improve lives and neighborhoods. These projects help group members to develop skills as community leaders and to secure access to available resources.

Economic Development projects assist poor and low-income members of community groups to develop new businesses and create jobs.

Grants are awarded on the basis of organizational need, not religious affiliation. A CCHD grant often serves as "seed money," enabling organizations of low-income people to attract sup-

port from other sources, such as churches, foundations, businesses, and individuals.

Many CCHD grantees have grown from small, local groups to national organizations that tackle major social and economic problems and advocate for just policies and laws affecting the poor. Such organizations have been instrumental in securing passage of federal and state legislation on issues such as affordable housing, health care coverage, education for homeless children, just conditions for migrant workers, and survival of family farms. CCHD grant staff can share successes from specific states or regions of the country. Contact us.

Education—Building solidarity

When the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops created CCHD, they understood the need to integrate support for community organizations with education about poverty and injustice. CCHD's educational programs and processes assist dioceses and parishes in raising awareness of poverty in the United States, connecting that awareness to our Catholic social tradition and teaching, and transforming the awareness into active solidarity for justice.

CCHD offers a "Journey to Justice" retreat process, a Catholic Social Teaching and Economic Life training, youth and young adult programs, and faith formation and reflection resources. CCHD is also a major partner in JustFaith, a 30-week parish-based justice formation process with a focus on poverty.

Recent projects funded by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development

The Deaf and Deaf-Blind Com-

mittee on Human Rights, North Olmsted, Ohio, is a membership organization that addresses the hardships members face in accessing medical care, securing housing, and finding employment with a living wage. They have worked to help doctors understand their responsibility to provide interpreters for their deaf patients and encouraged the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the local welfare office to maintain operational TTY (text communication) phones to provide access to those who are deaf.

The San Francisco Organizing Project (SFOP), San Francisco, California, addressed the issue of affordable housing in a city where average rents in the city are far out of range for many seniors on fixed incomes. SFOP built 36 new apartments for seniors that are safe and affordable. SFOP's work extends beyond this one development. They also won city support to set aside 15 vacant or underutilized properties to develop housing for homeless and low-income families and individuals.

Win-Win Cleaning, Dorchester, Massachusetts, a cleaning cooperative, helps Vietnamese immigrants make inroads into the lucrative commercial cleaning business. The company has recruited and trained eight entrepreneurs who serve businesses ranging from large offices to local builders' spec houses. Members undergo intensive training in basic and advanced cleaning as well as administrative functions that include tax reporting, record keeping, and time management.

The Messengers on Martin Luther King Drive...

St. James the Apostle making a difference with its youth

Nestled on a street and appropriately built on Martin Luther King Drive is St. James the Apostle Catholic Church. This church lives and celebrates the multicultural families who worship there. From the unique ministries, it's famous Gospel Choir, cultural celebrations and fundraisers, to the unique bi-lingual CCD and youth ministry programs.

St. James the Apostle has close to 160 youth enrolled in its CCD and Youth Ministry programs. Actually there are two programs, unique to this faith formation program. On Saturdays, there is a CCD program tailored to children of Hispanic and Latino families who speak Spanish. Spanish speaking Catechist (called teacher ministers) offer classes to children from Pre-K to 5th grade.

On Sunday's, classes are offered in English. These classes also have instruction from Pre-K to high school. The entire CCD program has a theme for the 2006-2007 school years called "The Messengers". Grace De Pass, Director of Religious Education says the program is centered this year on teaching the youth that they are full members of the church and are needed now in ministry. Youth are involved in catechesis and community service during the year. "We are teaching them to be messengers for Christ with their families and within the church." During the year, the youth will be allowed to share their faith with family and through out the community. In the last two months, the youth are already making an impact and understand the importance of their faith.

The entire volunteer program is support-

Look for The Messengers of St. James the Apostle to be very active in the community during 2007

ed by teacher ministers who are wonderful examples of faith in action. This volunteer support includes a prayer staff who prays for each youth in the program, parents who supply snacks (from foods from the Bible) and prepare them, and volunteers helpers that make sure teachers ministers have what they need. "St. James is a very giving community with strong support for their youth", says De Pass, "they make my job easy!"

Visitors to St. James will notice a scripture of the week written on the sidewalk in chalk both in English and Spanish. Parents and youth stop to read the scripture and are asked to listen for the scripture at mass and to continue to discuss it during the week. The liturgical based program (from Phlaum Publishers) is based on the liturgical year and the Gospel of the week. Each youth in the program has their own Gospel Weekly that explains the scriptures, offers games, plays, and news relevant to the gospel of the week.

"The entire CCD Program is studying the same theme, but at their age level", says De Pass, and the parents are responsible for continuing the conversation and prayers at home". Youth in the program have already donated canned goods and socks as part of their weekly sharing in ministry.

Some of the extra events in October for the CCD program includes a Bible party (where as everyone dresses like someone in the Bible).

The CCD program is about celebrating Christ in our lives daily, and the program began the year with two days of celebration. "We believe in celebrating the child as a member of our church" says De Pass, "we want them to feel at home here and be active messengers of the Gospel." As part of National Make a Difference Day on October 28, all the youth in our program as well as the faith community will be assembling "day bags" for the homeless. "Day bags" are bags that contain food items that form a single meal for someone who is homeless. These items include pop top cans of drinks, meals, meats, pasta, crackers, chips, jello or pudding, water, and eating utensils. The project will be registered with the National Make a Difference office for a possible award. Donations are being sought from the community and it is the hope that the youth will make and distribute 200 bags to the homeless during that same weekend. Projects addressing the needs of the homeless will continue with Thanksgiving and Christmas food drives.

Look for The Messengers of St. James the Apostle to be very active in the community during 2007. During the summer of 2008, the entire confirmation and youth program will journey to World Youth Day in Sydney, Australia. Planning and fundraising will begin in early 2007. Feel free to come and visit us and be part of our faith formation program! For more information on our programs please feel free to contact us at: 702-648-6606

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