



Durango Deanery Elect pose for a photo after the Rite on March 4 at St. Columba. Photo by Mary Therese Ralph

Durango Deanery celebrates the Rite of Election

DURANGO - The Rite of Election was celebrated on March 4, 2007 at St. Columba Church. Father Jim Koenigsfeld, V.F. presided and was assisted by Deacon Tom Bompkamp from Immaculate Heart of Mary in Pagosa Springs. The Elect from across the Durango Deanery included catechumens and candidates from: Immaculate Heart of Mary in Pagosa Springs; the Montelores Catholic Community; Sacred Heart and St. Columba both in Durango.

For catechumens, people not yet baptized, the final part of the journey began with a Rite of Election. For candidates, who are already baptized Christians, the start of Lent meant participating in a Call to Continuing Conversion. Many candidates were raised in a different faith. Some were baptized Catholic but never received first Communion as children or were not confirmed. Catechumens will receive baptism, confirmation and first Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. Candidates will enter full communion with the church by receiving confirmation and first Eucharist.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults spells out the formation of catechumens and the steps of their preparation for the three sacraments of initiation. For candidates, because they are already baptized, the program of formation and preparation is distinct, although there are often parallels with the RCIA and members of both groups often meet together in their parish formation programs.

The RCIA process consists of four stages, marked by three rites: the pre-catechumenate stage, which ends

after the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens; the catechumenate, which ends at the Rite of Election; purification and enlightenment, which culminates at the Easter Vigil with the reception of the sacraments; and mystagogy, which lasts from Easter Vigil to Pentecost.



Father Doug Hunt was Installed as the new pastor at St. Ignatius Catholic Church in Ignacio, CO. by Father Jim Koenigsfeld, V.F., Dean of the Durango Deanery on Tuesday, January 30. Photo by Mary Therese Ralph

Durango School hosts Findlater

DURANGO - St. Columba School parents and faculty will be treated to special presentations by nationally recognized speaker John Findlater. Offering both a parent program on Thursday, April 19, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and a faculty session on Friday, April 20 from 8 - 11:30 a.m., Findlater will inspire those gathered with stories and humor, as he draws attention to and promotes profound thought about what it means to raise Catholic kids in today's world.



John Findlater Photo by Kathy Williams/News-Messenger/Fremont, OH

His topics include: "Getting a Grip on Kids Today: Rearing Kids in a Crazy and Confusing World" and "The Prophet Margin: Making Your Catholic School Classroom a Dangerous Place To Be." Findlater shares over 30 years in Catholic school administration and teaching. He has spoken at the annual convention of the National Catholic Education Association, including the April 2007 gathering in Baltimore, and at diocesan gatherings across the country.

School Principal Edith Marie Hauser, OP engaged Findlater as part of her commitment to provide School parents with the tools and resources necessary to grow faithful families. Earlier this year she gifted each School family with a copy of the Loyola Press publication *Catholic Prayer For Catholic Families*.

Betty Werner, OP, Superintendent of Diocese Schools plans to attend the presentations and extends her encouragement for all Diocese administrators, faculty or parent leaders to join the Durango gathering.

A portion of the program costs have been generously funded through a gift from the Sponsel Family Estate. For more information about the Findlater or the upcoming sessions telephone 970/247-5527.

Crested Butte parish sets up pregnancy outreach

By Deacon John Stroop
Queen of All Saints Crested Butte, CO
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE OF CATHOLIC LIFE

CRESTED BUTTE- Can you imagine what a young girl must go through when she realizes she is pregnant?

First, it is often difficult for her to go to any adult, especially her parents, for sound advice. Queen of All Saints in Crested Butte believes it would be helpful if she could get good answers to her questions with a local call or by visiting a website that offers complete autonomy.

"Her Choice" is a voice system that anyone, who is considering an abortion or knows of anyone who is contemplating an abortion, can use to access a voice system via a local phone number or a website via the internet.

I found out about this ministry when I was living in Atlanta, so I spoke with Father Steve Murray, pastor, and he agreed it was an important outreach. An announcement about establishing was made at the parish weekend Masses with a request for funding. This initial collection netted over \$500 to establish and publicize the ministry.

The cost to set up is minimal-about \$50/year. The next and most important step is to get the phone number into the public's hands. In the Crested Butte, Gunnison, Montrose area we took out a DEX Yellow Pages directory ad that reaches people in multiple counties. It cost about \$450/yr. The ad goes into the 'Abortion Alternatives' section which is right before the "Abortion Providers."

We also created business card using www.vistaprint.com and distributed them to churches and schools in the area that would accept them. Bill boards are also effective but we haven't tackled that yet.

"Her Choice", a National Post-Abortion Awareness Campaign, is a Christian Pro-Life organization dedicated to educating America to the trauma that abortion causes. Sharing testimonies with those considering abortion helps those who have had an abortion start to heal and is persuasive in preventing new abor-



tion. The "Her Choice" phone system allows the straight forward, emotional testimonies of anonymous victims of crisis pregnancies to share their abortion experiences with people now considering what to do with an unwanted pregnancy.

The goal of "Her Choice" is to save lives and change the way Americans view abortion. The person calls and is given a menu that lets them listen to: [1] Personal testimonies of women, and men, who have aborted their children; [2] Personal testimonies of women and men, faced with abortion, who have let their children be born; [3] Descriptions of what happens in the abortion procedure; [4] Facts about abortion; [5] web sites that offer help; [6] connection to a counselor.

If you want to know more go to www.herchoice.org or call: Paul Larson at 952/461-4000 or Chuck Scholler at 208/388-1699 or e-mail chuck@praysoft.com. These folks set up and maintain the system. The number we use in our area is 970/497-2739 which is also a local call as far as Grand Junction. If it's not a local call for your area, call Chuck and he will set up a local number for you.

The same group also maintains a website, www.herchoice.org where one can also listen to recordings made by people who have faced the abortion question. These are real life abortion-related testimonies made by people who were in situations similar to what you or someone you know may be in now. They will tell you about the pressures they were under, the paths they chose and the results of their choice. Call the number or visit the website and see if it wouldn't help you or someone you may know who is considering an abortion. Maybe it will save the life of the baby and prevent years of anguish for the parents.

HolyTrinity sets St. Joseph's altar

TRINIDAD- The Solemnity of St. Joseph is celebrated in a variety of ways all over the world. The most well-known tradition is the St. Joseph Table or St. Joseph Altar, started in Sicily.

Following close up St. Patrick's Day comes the traditional feast day of St. Joseph, the patron and protector of the family.

Everyone loves St. Joseph Day in Sicily. The rich prepare a great buffet dinner where traditional dishes are served. And who are the guests? Who are the lucky ones to enjoy all this food? They are the ones whom St. Joseph would invite: the poor.

Sometimes the celebration is a cooperative village effort with buffet tables in the open square opposite the cathedral. Wealthy families contribute the food. Everyone is welcome to share in the feast which rich and poor receive the blessing of St. Joseph and his blessed food.

To honor St. Joseph, Catholics prepare "St. Joseph Tables" filled with beautiful and often elaborate foods, including meatless dishes such as stuffed artichokes, pasta and fish, as well as breads, cookies, pastries, cakes and other delicacies.

St. Joseph Tables are placed in both churches and homes. Each table is blessed by a priest and presided over by a statue of St. Joseph. A stalk of lily blossoms, votive candles and a lace tablecloth are typically used to decorate the feast table. The table is created as an offering of thanks for favors asked of St. Joseph

TRINIDAD DEANERY NEWS



Father Matthew Wertin of Holy Trinity blessed the St. Joseph's Table and the gathering. The food was then donated to Trinidad's Soup Kitchen. Photo by Larry Carnes

(favors such as the return of loved ones from a war).

Notices are posted in newspapers and in other media inviting the public to view and partake of the traditional meal of pasta Milanese. Participants often leave donations at the table.

Special groups such as orphans, the elderly, or the homeless are invited to share in the feast. The dinner begins with a play in which the "Holy Family" take the leading roles. At the end of St. Joseph's Day, leftover food is sold or given away, and any money earned is donated to the poor.

On March 19, Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Trinidad celebrated the Feast Day of St. Joseph, the Patron Saint of Sicily. The Trinidad Italian Club hosted a traditional St. Joseph's Table in Holy Family Hall. Father Matthew Wertin, of Holy Trinity Parish, blessed the food and the gathering. The food from the table was then donated to Trinidad's Open Door Soup Kitchen.