

Durango celebrates lay formation program graduates

DURANGO – A group of eighteen people celebrated their successful completion of the New Wine Lay Formation and Leadership program at St. Columba Catholic Church in Durango on October 28.

In Bishop Tafoya's absence, Father Jim Koenigsfeld was the main celebrant at the Mass. He was assisted by Deacon Tom Bomkamp, one of the participants in the *New Wine* program.

This is the third of four groups to celebrate this year. The first group of eleven completed June 3 in Pueblo, and the Montrose group celebrated on August 26.

Ten people in the Durango group completed three years of study and received a medallion and certificate signifying their graduation from the program.

Eight members completed the second part of the program and received a certificate for their work. This group of eight will be taking classes from January through June to complete the requirements of the *New Wine* program. Graduate and certificate ceremonies took place at St. Columba Parish and were followed by a festive dinner reception with family and friends at the Palace restaurant in Durango.

The Leadership Ministry Formation program, called *New Wine*, offers basic foundations in theology, pastoral skills and personal faith development.

It is very similar to classes offered in the former Level II program that was in place in the Diocese during the 90's. Level II was offered in Salida, and participants traveled to that location for classes.

The *New Wine* program is organized in a way that can be more easily offered in local settings. Trained teachers, including pastors, religious, and lay volunteers with theology backgrounds taught in both programs.

Graduate celebrants completing part I and II of the



New Wine Lay Formation and Leadership Program Graduates in Durango, back row, l-r: Chuck Muckenthaler, Michael Looman, Father Jim Koenigsfeld – celebrant, Kathrene Frautschy, Margaret Ledford, and Michaela Dasteel. Middle row, l-r: Edward Simons, Patty

Muckenthaler, Helen Looman, Deacon Tom Bomkamp, and John Listemann. Front row, l-r: Lauri Wilson-Lacy, Sharon Rowe, Gloria Adams, Enza Bomkamp, Clarence Abeyta, Thelma Hotter, and Agnes Dale. Not pictured – Kate Ott.

New Wine program represent parishes in the Durango Deanery: St. Columba in Durango - Agnes Dale, Michaela Dasteel, Kathrene Frautschy, Thelma Hotter, Margaret Ledford, Michael Looman, Chuck and Patty Muckenthaler, Edward Simons; St. Margaret Mary in Cortez – John Listemann.

Certificate recipients completing part II include: St. Columba in Durango – Clarence Abeyta, Helen Looman, Lauri Wilson Lacy; Sacred Heart in Durango – Sharon Rowe; Immaculate Heart of Mary in Pagosa Springs – Gloria Adams, Deacon Tom and Enza Bomkamp; St. Rita of Cascia in Mancos – Kate Ott.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS



Karen Midkiff, center, and representatives from the Mercy Health Foundation in Durango accept a check for \$1,600 for new wheelchairs from Grand Knight Amos Cordova and the rest of Council #1408 of the Knights of Columbus in Durango, Colorado.

Durango Knights' Council gives time and money to local charities

DURANGO – The Knights of Columbus from Council #1408 in Durango have given \$12,184 to local charitable and benevolent activities in the 2005-06 fiscal year according to the organization's Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity.

The figures were released by Knights of Columbus Grand Knight Amos

Cordova. "This contribution represents a remarkable outpouring of generosity – not only in money but in personal commitment on the part of Knights in Durango," Cordova said.

In addition, the Council has recently approved a \$1,600 contribution to the Mercy Health Foundation to buy four

wheelchairs for use at Mercy Hospital. The Council has also approved contributions to assist two local charities that support special populations in our community. They have donated \$750 each to Special Olympics and Community Connections to continue their fine work in providing services and activities for people with intel-

lectual disabilities.

There are 93 Knights of Columbus members in Council #1408.

The Knights of Columbus is an international Catholic lay organization with more than 1.7 million members in the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and other countries.



LaNavidad en tiempos duros

LaNavidad Continued from page 8.

Les conté a mis colegas en la sala de redacción sobre esa familia tan necesitada y estos, duros hombres y mujeres, también sintieron compasión. Varios días antes del día de Navidad llevé los \$100 a la familia, acompañado por varios reporteros con cajas llenas de comestibles para que la familia tuviera ambos alimento y techo el día de Navidad. Las memorias de muchas Navidades nublan pero esa permanece grabada. No estábamos mucho mejor económicamente que la familia que ayudamos. Nuestra celebración ese año fue muy simple, pero nunca nos pesó haber respondido a su grito por auxilio.

Nuestra ayuda, sin embargo, sólo postergó el resultado final, porque cuando la mamá me llamó otra vez en Enero no le pude ayudar y fueron desahuciados. Pero nos consolamos que para entonces hallaron

refugio con su familia en una comunidad rural 120 millas al norte hasta que el esposo hallará empleo de nuevo. Para nosotros lo importante había sido que en al observar el nacimiento que cambió la historia 2,000 años atrás cuando los ángeles cantaron, "Gloria a Dios en las alturas y paz para los pueblos en el mundo," ese matrimonio y sus hijos pudieron compartir en la maravilla y alegría de ese acontecimiento trascendental.

El novelista mexicano Carlos Fuentes escribe que en el mundo hispano la familia es la "red de seguridad" en tiempos de dificultades. "Y ¿cuándo ha habido tiempos que no son difíciles?" pregunta Fuentes. Pero a veces requiere tiempo, como en este caso, para que la familia coloque sus muebles de otro modo para hacer el espacio en su hogar para los miembros de la familia que se han lanzado al cruel ambiente urbano de América y han fracasado.

A Christmas memory of hard times

Christmas Continued from page 8.

took up a collection. Several days before Christmas, therefore, I took the \$100 to the family, accompanied by several other reporters with boxes of groceries so that the family would have both food and shelter Christmas Day.

Memories of countless other Christmases have blurred, but this one remains sharply etched. We were not much better off than the family we helped. Our celebration was rather simple, but we never regretted having responded to that cry for help.

Our help, of course, only postponed the final outcome, for when the mother called me again in January I could not help her, and they were evicted. But it was comforting that by then they were able to find shelter with their families

in a rural community 120 miles away until the husband could find a job.

For us, the important thing was that, on that day so long ago when the angels sang "Glory to God in the highest and peace to the people on earth," that married couple and their children could sense a little of the wonder and joy of the birth that changed the course of history.

The Mexican novelist Carlos Fuentes writes that in the Hispanic world the family is "the security net" in times of trouble. "And when have the times not been troubled?" he asks. But it sometimes takes time, as in this case, for a family to rearrange its furniture and make room by their hearth for family members who have ventured from their traditional community into the crueler world of urban America and failed.

