

The Chronicle of Catholic Life

VOLUME 21, NUMBER 2

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE DIOCESE OF PUEBLO

FEBRUARY 7, 2007



MARRIAGE IS A VOCATION

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Many times when I ask engaged couples why they want to marry, they tell me that they have found their "soul mate." Although a secular term, I think it is a perfect way to describe a Christian marriage.

How wonderful the bond between two believers, now one in hope, one in desire, one in discipline, one in the same service! They are both children of one Father and servants of the same Master, undivided in spirit and flesh, truly two in one flesh. Where the flesh is one, one also is the spirit." (Tertullian, Ad uxorem. 2, 8, 6-7: PL 1, 1412-1413; cf. FC 13)

Jesus said "Have you not read that from the beginning the Creator made them male and female and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate." (Matt. 19:4-6)

Jesus so felt the importance of this bond between men and women that he performed his first miracle at the wedding at Cana. "The Church attaches great importance to Jesus' presence at the wedding at Cana. She sees in it the confirmation of the goodness of marriage and the proclamation that thenceforth marriage will be a sign of Christ's presence." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1613)

"By reason of their state in life and of their order, (Christian spouses) have their own special gifts in the People of God." (Lumen Gentium 11 § 2.) "This grace proper to the sacrament of Matrimony is intended to perfect the couple's love and to strengthen their indissoluble unity... Christ is the source of this grace." (Catechism 1642)

Christian marriage is a vocation, a call to follow Christ, a Sacrament. I encourage each one of you to invite Christ into your marriage, just as you invited Him to the wedding ceremony. There are always difficulties in life because of our human sinfulness; but if God is the foundation of the marriage, He will help see you through them. Bring God into your marriage by praying together, attending Mass together and especially receiving the Eucharist together.

The purpose of marriage is the mutual salvation of the soul. Thus Christian couples are very definitely soul mates. As St. John Chrysostom said: "I have taken you in my arms, and I love you, and I prefer you to my life itself. For the present life is nothing, and my most ardent dream is to spend it with you in such a way that we may be assured of not being separated in the life reserved for us."

During this month of February, I congratulate and affirm our married couples in the Diocese of Pueblo, those married one day, one year, 10, 25, 40, or 50 years and beyond. May God continue to bless and guide you as you grow in love for one another.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Arthur N. Tafoya, Bishop of Pueblo

MORALES CONTINUED ON PAGE 3.

Lorenzo Uribe Morales ordained to the priesthood

By Hew Hallock

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

CONEJOS — For Lorenzo Uribe Morales, faith is rooted in family - his natural family and his Catholic family in Christ.

"It is very important to have a Catholic family because they teach you to be a Christian. My family taught me to be a Catholic," Uribe Morales said.

"The dream of God is one family in the world," he said. "Through Christ, we are all one family as Christians."

On Jan. 13, Uribe Morales was ordained a priest in the Theatine Fathers by Bishop Arthur Tafoya. The ordination took place in Colorado's oldest parish; Our Lady of Guadalupe in Conejos, organized in 1858. It was the first ordination in the history of the parish.

"What a joy it is today to celebrate this historic occasion," said Bishop Tafoya in his homily.

Raised in Mexico City, Mexico, Uribe Morales credited his mother and her example of Christian faith and devotion as a prime reason for becoming a priest.

He began his road to the priesthood in a seminary preparatory school in Mexico City, in 1997.

At the request of Father Ramon Garcia, who told him of the need for priests in the United States, Uribe Morales came to this country to join the small community of Theatine Fathers. Here, he studied English in San Antonio, took courses in Denver, and did his novitiate in San Luis, Colo. at Sangre de Cristo parish with Father. Patrick Valdez.

Uribe Morales was invited to attend seminary in Brazil, where he spent five years studying philosophy and sociology and confirmed his vocation to work with the poor. "I decided to be ordained because I need to



Bishop Arthur N. Tafoya ordains Transitional Deacon Lorenzo Uribe Morales to the Priesthood.



Sharing Christ's Work-Compartiendo la Obra de Cristo

By John Chavez, BDF
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

PUEBLO- Consider your 'hand' or role in prayer, in creation, in creativity, in touching another fellow human being; consider the times you are touched by God.

These images can and perhaps should invoke powerful images. Consider the hands of the 102 year old woman on our BDF poster this year ~ consider her times of prayer, her struggles, her joy, her tenderness, her suffering ~ all she has given and shared, and all she continues to give and share ~ her human touch.

Jesus willingly served and gave us many examples in which to follow. Jesus did not do the work He did with an attitude of "what's in it for me?" and neither should we.

Our society today is one which promotes a self-serving attitude. This is opposite of the attitude we need to take when we embark on anything and everything we do.

Father Steve Murray, pastor of St. Peter's in Gunnison, remarked that "it is



important that we allow ourselves to wrap our faith around us as we go about Sharing Christ's Work and to always remember to begin our works with prayer."

This year's BDF theme *Sharing Christ's Work ~ Compartiendo la Obra de Cristo* calls us to share in Christ's work. And we do that by having a hand in ~ taking a role in continuing Christ's work.

One of the ways in which we can have a hand in sharing in Christ's work is through the Bishop's Diocesan Fund. In celebrating our 41st year of the BDF sharing in Christ's work is just as important as it always has been.

The reality of it, for us, is that it takes money to accomplish these works. Bishop Tafoya reminds us that "BDF is the ministry of the Church, it is the ministry of Christ, and it's about God. We are doing God's work when we share in Christ's work."

The BDF is a source, a resource, of providing spiritual needs throughout our

diocese. These spiritual needs, these ministries are many and varied. Many of the programs and events offered to you in your parish are the direct result of coordination with the Diocese. Father Marco Antonio Salinas of Mt. Carmel Parish in Pueblo discovered it was necessary to educate his parishioners on the importance of not only supporting their parish but also the BDF because the BDF allows the work of God to continue and grow for our Mother Church.

You are encouraged to share in Christ work ~ you are not alone in doing this ~ God is with you every step of the way. Be open and aware of how God is at work in your life and calling you, to use your God given talents of creativity, enthusiasm and dedication to be willing to be Sharing Christ's Work.

As Bishop Tafoya recently said at the 2007 BDF kick-off meetings, "Positive attitudes bring about positive results. If you think you can't do this or think your group is too small to accomplish such a daunting task ~ look at what Jesus did with 12 people.

You are messengers of faith, God needs you."



As Valentine's Day approaches, this graphic shows a brief summary of statistics involving marriage in the United States. According to the statistics, about 10% of all marriages that take place in the United States each year are Catholic. The average age of modern day brides is 25 and modern day grooms is 27. Of Americans 18 years and older, 57% of women are married and 60% of men. CNS graphic/Emily Thompson Designer-Emily Thompson Source- U.S. Census Bureau and The Official Catholic Directory 2006.

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4 Pueblo- Sisters' Appreciation, St. Pius, 4 p.m.
5-8 Mexico- Visit seminarians
14 Pueblo- Pueblo Deanery, (priests only) Meeting, 12 p.m.
15 Ordway- Celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 6 p.m.
16 Pueblo- Cathedral Mardi Gras Dinner, 6:30 p.m.
17 Canon City-Visit with Diaconate Candidates, Classes of 2007 and 2009.
19 Pueblo- Knights of Columbus Clergy Appreciation Dinner, Union Depot
21 Pueblo- Ash Wednesday Masses at Sacred Heart Cathedral, 12 p.m. and 5 p.m.
23 Pueblo- Appreciation Dinner, Sandalwood Hall
25 Pueblo- Rite of Election at Sacred Heart Cathedral, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Pueblo Knights to host Annual Clergy Appreciation Dinner on February 19

PUEBLO - The Officers and Members of Bishop Joseph C. Willing Assembly #90 and St Paul Assembly #2977 are pleased to announce that the Annual Clergy/Religious Appreciation Dinner will be held on February 19 at the Union Depot, 132 West B Street, Pueblo, Colorado. All State Officers, District Master, District Deputies, District Marshal, Grand Knights, Faithful Navigators, Brother Knights and the State Ladies Auxiliary Members are invited to attend. A cash bar will be available. Social Hour at 6:00 p.m. with dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Please note that the Appreciation Dinner will again include our Sisters and, as in the past, it is requested that our Brother Knights, even if they cannot attend, sponsor our Bishops or one or more of our Priests, Deacons, or Sisters - which includes paying for their dinner.

The normal Knights of Columbus dress Code will be in effect - 4th degree Tuxedo w/social Baldric or dress slacks, tie and blazer.

Dinner speaker will be Mr. Joe Cervi, Sports-writer for the Pueblo Chieftain.

The cost is \$20 per plate. Please complete the reservation on the bottom of this sheet and return it, and your payment, to the address below.

Attendance is by RESERVATION ONLY and payment confirms your reservation. NO ADMITTANCE AT THE DOOR WITHOUT A PREPAID RESERVATION. ALL DONATIONS ARE FINAL. NO REFUNDS. NO EXCEPTIONS.

RSVP by February 15, 2007.

Name: _____
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Mail to: Butch Batchelder
3709 Holybrook Ln.
Pueblo, CO 81005

Donations for Clergy Formation

Donations toward Clergy Formation in the month of December, 2006: ■ Alfred & Angie Duran

The Chronicle of Catholic Life

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The next Chronicle will be March 7, 2007. Deadline for the February issue is February 19, 2006. Send submissions to: The Chronicle of Catholic Life, 1001 N. Grand Avenue, Pueblo CO 81003; e-mail savasquez@dioceseofpueblo.com.

Upcoming Events

Turn off T.V. Day set for February 14

Morality in Media has been sponsoring a TURN OFF TV Day since 1991, as a vehicle to protest offensive programming of glorified vulgar language, unmarried sex, crime, violence, religious insults, etc. No TV? What Can I Do? Why not celebrate Valentine's Day by giving your loved ones gifts money can't buy - quality family time. Perhaps you might consider the following:

Plan a family dinner or picnic, create a "togetherness" day - games, a walk in the park, trip to the zoo/museum, etc., volunteer - there are so many in need these days and the rewards you will reap are overwhelming. Most importantly, support MIM's efforts by contacting that broadcaster and advertiser to protest offensive programming. So long as we, the consumers, continue to view these objectionable shows, we will continue to be exposed to it.

"Addiction is an ugly word, but it is a reality. And what are the results of TV addiction? Deterioration. Deterioration of family togetherness, closeness. Deterioration of mind and spirit. We've lost the art of family conversation. We don't read. Our children are not stimulated to read. They are missing the great treasures, the literature of the ages. But the worst result of the addiction is a lack of interest in God and the Scriptures. Divine love as well as human love is leaving the home of the family addicted to television," said Father Morton A. Hill, S.J., founder of Morality in Media.

WW Marriage Encounter sets schedule

Find out how to make better choices to love your spouse on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. Married couples of all faiths are invited to attend this weekend experience designed to strengthen and enrich their marriage. The registration fee is \$50 per couple and a voluntary donation is requested.

The 2007 weekends will held at the Academy Hotel, 8110 N. Academy Blvd., in Colorado Springs on Apr. 20-22; Jul. 20-22; and Oct. 19-21.

Please call 719-591-9045 for more information or visit www.marriageencounter.net.

Search of Pueblo sets retreats schedule

Search of Pueblo has retreats scheduled for February 2-4, March 2-4, and March 23-25. These Search Retreats are for juniors and seniors in high school and older. An OCIA Retreat Journey into the Sacred is scheduled for February 16-17. This retreat is for those enrolled in the Catholic Right of Initiation or for persons wanting to attend a faith renewal retreat. For information, call 719-544-8246.

Pilgrimage with Father Alvarez offered

All are invited to come on a 5 day pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe with Catholic Journeys from March 22-26. Father Carlos Alvarez will be the Spiritual Director. The price from Denver is \$1197 which includes round trip airfare, hotel rooms and meals. Contact Barbara Moulds in Monte Vista for further information at 719-852-2807.

Benet Hill offers classes, speakers series

Benet Hill Center - 719-633-0655

2577 N. Chelton Rd. Colorado Springs, CO. 80909

Senior Days of Enrichment presents "Discussions on Prayer" with Margit McCarthy on Feb. 9 at Learn how to make time for prayer in your daily life and how to incorporate John's narration of Jesus and the Samaritan woman into one's prayer life. Cost \$10 per person which includes a noon meal.

Introductory Workshop on Contemplative /Centering Prayer is designed for those who hunger for a stronger contemplative dimension in their lives. Sunday, Feb. 25, 1:15 - 5:15 p.m. at Trinity Methodist Church 701 No. 20 St. Cost \$30.

Spiritual Journey Course 4 a 6-week course, deepens personal transformation and moves into living a life of the Gospel Beatitudes that flow from the consistent practice of Centering Prayer. Prerequisites Course 1, 2, 3. Mondays, Feb. 19 - Mar. 26 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. or Tuesdays, Feb. 20 - Mar. 27, from 9 - 11 a.m. Cost \$70.

RAFFLE Support the Benet Hill Sisters and their work in spiritual education! Benet Hill Monastery is holding a "10 Chances to Win!" raffle featuring prizes such as a 7-day condo stay in Costa Rica (& \$1,000 for airfare), two garden packages, a "Downtowners" stay, fine art, gift certificates and more! Call Constance at (719) 633-0655 x 31 for more information about how to purchase the tickets: (1) \$20, (3) \$50 and (7) \$100.

Religious Discernment retreat offered

Vocational Discernment Retreat for single Catholic women 18-35 years of age will be held on March 23-25 (Sp.m. Friday to noon on Sunday) at the Little Sisters of the Poor in Denver, CO. No registration fee. Contact Sister Carolyn Martin, lsp, at vcdenver@littlesistersofthepoor.org or (303) 594-7420.

Official Appointments

Ms. Glenda Dunn has been reappointed to serve as a member of the Diocesan Pastoral Council. This appointment is effective December 20, 2006 and will remain in effect until August 31, 2007.

As per his request and in accord with the policy of the Diocese of Pueblo, the Reverend Monsignor Daniel R. Huber has been granted permission to retire from the active ministry on January 19, 2007. His faculties to celebrate the Mass and Sacraments within the Diocese of Pueblo remain in effect.

The Reverend Douglas Hunt, C.R. has been appointed to serve as Pastor of the St. Ignatius in Ignacio, CO., and its Missions of Sts. Peter and Rose in Arboles and St. Bartholomew in Bayfield. This appointment is effective January 19, 2007 and will expire on January 18, 2013.

The Reverend Joseph A. Vigil has been assigned to serve as Parochial Vicar of the cluster of parishes known as the San Juan Community (Holy Name of Mary, Del Norte, CO., and its Missions of St. Francis of Assisi, Valdeses; Holy Family, South Fork; and Immaculate Conception, Creede; the St. Francis Jerome, Center, CO., and its Mission of St. Agnes, Saguache; and the St. Joseph, Monte Vista, CO.). This appointment is effective January 19, 2007 and will expire on January 18, 2010.



Msgr. Daniel R. Huber



Douglas Hunt, C.R.



Rev. Joseph A. Vigil

Official Announcement

The Offices of Multicultural Ministry and Lay Formation in Spanish will be combined and called the Office of Immigrants and Hispanic Ministries. Directors: Sr. Hilda Mateo, Sr. Frances Aldama and Ron Roybal will continue in their current responsibilities. Celeste Beacham will be their Secretary.

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Representatives from diocese attend SWLC

Story and Photo by Doug Manley
Deacon Candidate, Class of 2007
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

OKLAHOMA CITY - Despite recent bad weather, 28 people from the Diocese of Pueblo traveled to Oklahoma City to attend the 45th Annual Southwest Liturgical Conference Study Week.

The four-day event, January 17-20, titled "Dies Domini: Sunday, the Day of the Lord," was an opportunity for parish, diocesan and deanery liturgists and catechists to listen to and dialogue with scholars, colleagues, and co-workers in liturgy and catechesis about the meaning of Sunday, the Day of the Lord, and what it means to "Keep Holy the Lord's Day."

The Conference featured five national speakers on each of the five parts of John Paul II's Apostolic Letter on the topic, a series of 44 workshops on worship and liturgical music, prayer services, exhibits by national companies, a special performance by a children's choir, a banquet, and Mass with Archbishop Beltran of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

Held at the Cox Business Services Convention Center in the heart of a revitalized downtown all were also able to celebrate



The twenty-eight participants attending the 45th Southwest Liturgical Conference in Oklahoma City from Pueblo included diocesan staff, priests, deacons, deacon candidates, and other

people from the diocese interested and involved in liturgy, music, and catechesis. The Pueblo contingent was the largest group from any of the 45 dioceses represented except for the host group.

the statehood centennial.

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The Southwest Liturgical Conference is the oldest such program in the United States and includes dioceses from Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona. Kathy Carey from the Pueblo Worship Office and Father Kevin Novack from the Pueblo Worship Commission are on the board of directors. Among those attending from

Pueblo was Monsignor Dan Huber who was on the original SWLC board of directors, attending 43 of the 45 conferences.

Next year's study week will be in Tucson, AZ, on the theme of the Eucharist and Justice. An Hispanic Pastoral Musicians Conference will be held this July 26-29, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. For information visit www.swlc.org.

Called By Name for Vocations is a success!

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
Isaiah 43:1-3

PUEBLO — Do you know someone who... attends Mass every Sunday? prays every day? reads and studies the Bible often? shares faith without hesitation or embarrassment? recognizes the presence of God in life, in good times and in bad? is good at leading others in prayer? reflects on God's activity in his life? Do you know someone who... is informed about community and world events? is sensitive to the needs/ concerns of people, especially the less fortunate? speaks Spanish, or is open to learning the language? is open to learning about the culture of others? expresses thanks to God and other people frequently? is actively engaged in some ministry in the parish and/or campus? has a "can do" approach to helping others. Do you know someone who... is hospitable? gets along well with and enjoys other people? networks well with other people? has developed good self-esteem and appreciation without being self-centered? has the ability to keep a confidence? is able to trust and be trusted? develops and keeps healthy friendships? works well with and cooperates with other people?

Do you know someone who... accepts responsibility for his behavior? has a personal code of ethics and knows how to set and keep boundaries? knows and observes the Ten Commandments and the precepts of the Church? is able to spend time alone? has explored other vocational choices? is financially responsible? is good at managing his own health? enjoys doing a full day's work? shows a desire for holiness by living an honest life? is able to express emotions appropriately?

The Vocations Office of the Diocese of Pueblo has launched the "Called By Name" program, which asks parishioners to nominate individuals they feel would be good candidates for priesthood or religious life. Pastors, Deanery Priests or the diocese Vocations Director contact each to discuss their calling and invite them to attend an Information Night.

Deacon Jacob Shafer, Director of the Office of Vocations, said that those who have an interest are also invited to visit a Seminary College for an "Encounter With God" weekend or workshop on "Thinking of Priesthood."

For more information contact Deacon Jacob Shafer, jshafer@dioceseofpueblo.com, 1-800-354-2729 or 719-544-9861 or write to him at The Diocese of Pueblo, Office of Vocations, 1001 N. Grand Avenue, Pueblo, Colorado 81003.

Process to Becoming a Priest:

Inquiry -The initial inspiration and a question about vocation which arises in a person's heart. ■ Talking this over with a priest, a friend, or a family member. ■ Contacting the Director of Vocations at the Diocesan Center. ■ An interview with the Director of Vocations. ■ Information gathering, prayer and interviews with other formation personnel of the Diocese. ■ Beginning a process of discernment: "How is God calling me to fulfill my baptismal commitment? Is God calling me to be a priest?" ■ If so, there is a movement to the next stage - a stage which determines what must be done to move toward preparation or ordination. A bridge is crossed.

Initial Formation - A commitment to accept responsibility to prepare oneself in mind and spirit for service as a priest in the Diocese of Pueblo. It includes active discernment of one's vocation with the help of the Bishop, the Director of Vocations, and other persons designated by the Diocese and/or the seminary one attends. ■ There are a variety of settings for this stage of formation. It may be a college or college seminary, working in a parish, working at a job which is not church related, being involved in some project serving the poor, etc. ■ The person chooses a spiritual director and commits himself to regular meetings with the director. The person commits himself to a Program of Growth, setting goals and making clear objectives for growth in his spiritual, academic, apostolic, personal and social life. ■ Each month he meets with the Director of Vocations who helps the person meet the expectations of the church for those seeking priestly ordination. ■ Psychological testing helps assess personal strengths for ministry and need for growth.

Theological/Pastoral - A commitment by the seminarian to that part of the priestly formation program that includes theological studies toward acquiring a master of divinity degree (M.Div). ■ The setting for this stage may be a major seminary or school of theology. ■ It also includes pastoral assignments and a quarter of CPE designed to develop ministering skills. ■ Commitment to an ongoing Program of Growth. ■ A monthly interview with the Director of Vocations (either in person or by phone) insuring contact with the Diocese and encouraging growth toward priestly ministry. ■ Ongoing spiritual direction and an annual directed retreat. ■ During this stage the Diocese is committed to providing financial loans when necessary for educational and other financial needs at this time of formation. ■ During this stage the seminarian will receive the Ministries of Reader and Acolyte in preparation for ministry of the Word and Sacrament. He also receives Candidacy, which formally commits him to the Diocese of Pueblo as a candidate for priestly ordination.

Morales ordained to priesthood



Newly ordained Father Uribe Morales, right, is presented by Bishop Arthur N. Tafoya on January 13 to the Our Lady of Guadalupe congregation in Conejos, Colorado's oldest parish church.

Morales Cont'd from page 1.

work with poor people," he said.

Uribe Morales asked that his ordination be held in a parish served by the Theatine Fathers that had never had an ordination. There were two in the United States, he said, one in New York, and Our Lady of Guadalupe in Conejos. He chose Our Lady. "I decided to do it in a small town," he said. "They are very, very kind in this community."

Placed to have been chosen for to host the ordination, members of Our Lady of Guadalupe opened their hearts and homes for this special event.

Members of Uribe Morales' family were put up in local homes and the parish hosted a celebration dinner with mariachi music following the ordination.

"It is so much joy," said parish member Dolores Mondragon. "It's an honor and a privilege for the deacon to have chosen us."

In the rite of ordination, Uribe Morales was presented to Bishop Tafoya before the altar where he was asked to express and clarify his intention to become a priest and to make a promise of obedience.

Uribe Morales then laid prostrate before the altar during a litany of the saints.

Asked to rise, Uribe Morales knelt in front of the bishop for the laying of hands. Bishop Tafoya placed his hand on Uribe Morales' head "for the action of the Holy Spirit in his consecration for the service of the people of God." All the priests in attendance followed suit giving their prayers for the new priest.

With consecrated oil, Bishop Tafoya anointed the hands of the new priest that "will consecrate, forgive and bless the faithful who approach to receive the sacrament." The priests followed the consecration by kissing the hands of their new brother priest.

In his homily, Bishop Tafoya thanks Uribe Morales' family for the gift of a priest. To Uribe Morales, the bishop reminded, "You have to serve, not to be served," he said. "Remember that always."

Pro-life agenda has a year of highs and lows

WASHINGTON (CNS) — It was a year when President George W. Bush used the first veto of his nearly six-year presidency to strike down legislation that would have expanded federal funding of embryonic stem-cell research.

But it was also a year when Missouri voters "lost a significant battle for the protection of human life," by approving a ballot question permitting any stem-cell research allowed under federal law — to the point of allowing human cloning.

It was a year when the South Dakota Legislature passed the nation's first state law to ban nearly all abortions since the 1973 Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade* legalized abortion virtually on demand. But voters in the state overturned the law later in the year.

It was a year that offered hope that the partial-birth abortion procedure might one day be permanently banned, as the Supreme Court considered arguments against it. But it was also a year when abortifacient drugs such as the French abortion pill RU-486 and the Plan B "morning-after pill" gained wider usage, despite concerns about their risks to women's health.

The year 2006 brought highs and lows to those in the pro-life community working against abortion, stem-cell research involving the destruction of human embryos, the death penalty and other threats to human life.

When Bush vetoed the Stem-Cell Research Enhancement Act July 19, he said the expansion of stem-cell research that kills human embryos would present "a conflict between science and ethics that can only do harm to both and to our nation as a whole."

In a message for Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 1, Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore said signs of progress in the pro-life effort included the "enthusiastic involvement in pro-life education and activism" by young people and the growing number of them "committed to living chastely until marriage, a trend that has contributed to the continuing decline in abortions."

The cardinal, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, also cited growing public sentiment against "the policy of virtually unlimited abortion," and especially against partial-birth abortion, and "increased opposition, particularly among committed Catholics, to the use of the death penalty."

But he said negative developments included FDA approval of RU-486 and of over-the-counter sales of Plan B, as well as the "exaggerated or fraudulent claims" made by proponents of embryonic stem-cell research.

More disappointments came in November, when Missouri voters, by a narrow margin, approved a constitutional amendment expanding embryonic stem-cell research in the state and South Dakota voters repealed a law banning most abortions there.

Archbishop Raymond L. Burke of St. Louis said that the Missouri amendment "will come to be regarded as the bellwether of human cloning" and "will further erode respect for all human life."

The South Dakota law, repealed by a 56 percent margin, had drawn national attention as a possible challenge to the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision.

Voters Nov. 7 also defeated measures in Oregon and California that would have required parental notification before a minor's abortion, and approved an advisory referendum in Wisconsin that could lead to the reinstatement of the death penalty in that state.

The day after the election, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the appeals of two lower court rulings that found the 2003 Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act to be unconstitutional because it does not include provisions allowing its use to protect a woman's health.

The court's decision in those cases will not come until 2007. But earlier in the year, the high court rejected for the third time the use of racketeering laws against abortion protesters.

Other life-related developments: ■ Amnesty International considered dropping its neutrality on abortion, prompting the USCCB to urge the organization not to risk "its own well-deserved moral credibility" by taking such a step. ■ U.S. bishops approved a document that encourages married couples who use artificial contraception to return to church teaching and learn how natural family planning can benefit the marital relationship. ■ Catholic organizations went to court in New York to overturn a law requiring religious employers to provide contraceptive coverage in employee health plans. ■ The bishops of New Jersey expressed support for the state's temporary moratorium on executions and urged a commission created to examine the flaws in the death penalty system to make the moratorium permanent. ☩



A woman joins pro-life demonstrators in front of U.S. Supreme Court. CNS photo

CHARITY CONNECTIONS: Catholic Charities of Pueblo reaches out

OUR MISSION: To help the people who live in southern and western Colorado live whole and healthy lives.

Christmas blessings from our supporters!

PUEBLO_ Each year a portion of Catholic Charities' budget is supplemented by a grant from the Bishop's Diocesan Fund. Through your gifts to the BDF we are able to help those who are in the greatest need. I want to share a story with you about one of those families.

Recently I received this letter:

"To Whom It May Concern:

Let me open by saying I thank God for Catholic Charities and what it stands for. I am a 55-year-old father of a three year old boy that I've been taking care of since he was seven weeks old. He's in very good health and I know I owe that all to Debbie at Catholic Charities who gives me parenting classes on what to expect and information I need for nurturing my son.

From day one she was always very nice and pleasant; she was never late; she always called to confirm; always conducted herself well, spoke clearly, dressed nice and neat; always had a nice smile and she always got along well with my child. Thank God for Catholic Charities and thank God for Debbie!"

Let me tell you some more about the man who wrote this letter.

John is a Pueblo native; graduated from high school and worked at the Steel Mill until he developed asbestosis and had to go on disability. John's no saint. He's had a rough and tumble life, and had fathered six other children who are now all adults. He's struggled with substance abuse, had a few brushes with the law and hasn't always made the best relationship choices. I guess you could say, John is very human, just like the rest of us.

Shortly after his youngest son Duane was born, Duane's mother was sent to prison and John found himself solely responsible for his newborn son. Catholic Charities' was appointed by the Social Security Administration to manage the baby's benefits. When John



Photo illustration

for Duane and how to develop a strong, healthy and loving bond between them. Meanwhile, he continued to work with our Money Management team, Peggy and CoCo to live on a budget, pay his bills and plan for Duane's financial future.

It's been nearly three years and John and Duane are still with us. John has invested in a life insurance policy and two savings bonds for Duane. He continues to participate in La Familia Fuerte. Duane is turning three and will register for pre-school next year, hopefully through Head Start, where Catholic Charities also provides the counseling services. So we will have yet another set of eyes watching over them.

Looking back, it's clear that Duane's birth was the beginning of John's rebirth. John tells us Duane saved his life. I believe him. But John has also taught us something very important about Faith and Redemption. I also believe, for all that Catholic Charities has done for John, he has given us a gift too, perhaps even greater than what we gave him. ☩

Sincerely,

Jayne Mazur

Executive Director, Catholic Charities of Pueblo



Catholic Scouting helps youth discern vocations

(CNS) — Participating in Boy Scouts is a great way for youths to meet people in all walks of life and help them discern their own vocations, says Msgr. John B. Brady, a 65-year veteran of Scouting.

In an interview with Scouting, a family magazine published by the Boy Scouts of America, Msgr. Brady said jamborees — nine-day national or international gatherings of Scouts and their leaders — provide opportunities for vocational discernment "not equaled in any other environment."

"At each of the seven jamborees on which I have been privileged to serve on staff, I have had the opportunity to help about 1,000 Scouts discern their life's calling," he said. "Other jamboree staffers, such as doctors, surgeons, optometrists, engineers, pilots, military personnel and the like, have shared their professions and experiences with Scouts who consult them."

He said the "excitement, enlightenment, reverence and camaraderie" of a jamboree combine to increase youths' openness to thinking about what direction their life should take.

Msgr. Brady recently received the National Catholic Scouting Committees 2006 Silver St. George award, for "significant" service at the national level.

There are currently some 9,500 Boy Scout units chartered by Catholic institutions in the United States, serving more than 305,000 Scouts.

Speaking of jamborees as occasions for vocational discernment, he said, "This happened in my own life. Msgr. Robert Brown, the chaplain of the second jamboree, held at Valley Forge, Pa., in 1950, helped me to discern that God was calling me to be a Catholic priest."

He said that Scouts have to meet personally with one of the camp chaplains sometime during the jamboree in order to qualify for the "Duty to God" segment of the jamboree patch. He cited Scouting as a "power-

SCOUTING NEWS



Msgr. John B. Brady, left, helps Boy Scouts make rosaries to be sent to soldiers in Iraq. Participating in Boy Scouts is a great way for youths to meet people in all walks of life and help them discern their own vocations, says Msgr. Brady, a 65-year Scouting veteran. CNS photo

ful program" to help meet the goals that the U.S. bishops set out in their 1997 document on Catholic youth ministry, "Renewing the Vision."

"The goals," he said, "are these: to empower the young to live as Christ in our world; to draw them to responsible participation in the life, mission and work of the faith community; and to foster the personal and spiritual growth of each young person."

He added that Scouting is especially effective in fostering all-around personal and spiritual growth, "Taken together, the Scout oath and (Scout) law — beginning with 'duty to God' and ending with 'a Scout is reverent,' two bookends for the Scouting program — comprises one of the world's best tools to challenge young people to live by the highest standards that God expects of the human beings he places on this earth." ☩