

## Grand Junction Deanery's Liturgical Ministers experience spiritual renewal

By Ginny Revel

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

GRAND JUNCTION- The Grand Junction Deanery Network recently sponsored its annual bilingual Liturgical Ministers' Retreat at two locations within the far-flung Deanery.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Grand Junction hosted the retreat on Friday evening, January 26, and St. Mary in Montrose offered the program on Saturday morning, January 27. On both occasions the two-hour retreat was conducted in English by the Rev. Donald P. Malin, Parish Administrator of St. Mary. Ricardo Perez, Hispanic Affairs Pastoral



Rev. Don Malin, above, and Ricardo Perez, right, presented in English and Spanish, respectively, the Grand Junction Deanery Liturgical Ministers' Retreat on the theme: "Spirituality of Worship & Celebration."



Liturgical ministers at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Grand Junction gather in the sanctuary before the Liturgical Ministers' Retreat, l-r: Cheryl Morelli, hospitality; T.J. Morelli, hospitality; Emily Earnshaw, lector; and, Ramana Konantz, Eucharistic minister. Photos by Ginny Revel

Project, HAPP, Director, led the Hispanic community's renewal session. The theme of the 2007 gathering was "Spirituality of Worship and Celebration."

According to Frank Huber, Director of Liturgy and Music at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Grand Junction, approximately one hundred seventy-five liturgical ministers drawn from St. Joseph's parish, Sacred Heart in Fruita, St. Ann's Mission in Palisade and IHM crowded into the Friendship Room at the Church to participate.

Father Don Malin had previously led a one-day retreat for Hispanic liturgical ministers on November 18, 2006 at Our Lady of Fatima mission in Olathe. Another session in this series is scheduled for May 19, 2007. Connecting these two days of prayer and reflection for Hispanics was the Deanery's Liturgical Ministers Retreat.

All extraordinary Eucharistic ministers, lectors, children's lectors and members of the music, homebound and hospitality ministries in the Deanery received invitations to the retreat and were strongly encouraged to attend. The program offered them the perfect opportunity to enrich their spirituality, according to Deanery Coordinator Joyce Klava.

"The stresses of everyday life can overwhelm a person, causing him/her to feel "hollow," and having nothing left to give. The Liturgical Ministers Spiritual Renewal offered the attendees a means of replenishing themselves with God's abundant graces," Klava said. "Ministers who are vibrant and compassionate can more

easily share their spiritual passion for knowing and serving God and neighbor with the other members of the faith community."

Each of the two spiritual renewal sessions was opened with a communal bilingual service offering prayer, song and praise to God. The liturgical ministers then attended either the English or the Spanish lecture treating the theme of "Spirituality of Worship & Celebration." The presentations by Father Don Malin and Ricardo Perez were followed by a quiet time of reflection and sharing among the liturgical ministers. Discussions centered on various ways to deepen their personal commitments of service to the parish community, and ultimately to the Catholic Church as a whole, through their chosen ministries.

Perez approached the retreat topic by discussing how spirituality "connects the spirit and reality, connects our faith in God and the world." The Hispanic culture in particular lives its faith as a "face in our world, in our community, in our home and in the work place."

Because many are transplanted to a new land radically different from their native Mexico, Hispanics are challenged on a grand scale to recreate not only their secular life here in the United States, but also their spiritual life. Perez stated that they look to their Catholic upbringing to help them rediscover the native treasures of their faith and its teachings. They do this especially through the liturgy and adoration, as an expression of their spiritual life style.

In his presentation, Father Malin spoke about the need for every Christian to be focused on seeking the way of holiness. He pointed out that prayer is a major aid on this spiritual journey as we "remind ourselves who we are, whose we are, what is our call and how should we live."

The retreatants were reminded that they must be open and willing to listen to God's personal calling.

"As Jesus commanded everyone to love God and care for the well-being of their neighbor, our faith must go beyond mere belief and be translated into action," said Father Don.

The various liturgical ministries provide the opportunity to answer God's call. In living and fulfilling his/her vocation, each person is endowed by God with natural abilities which are to be devoted to His service and to that of the Church. These gifts or talents are often reflected in the person's choice of liturgical ministry.

In special instances a person may be endowed by the Holy Spirit with extraordinary gifts which move him/her into a different level of ministry. Healing and prophecy are two examples.

According to Rev. Malin the Church provides the Liturgical Ministers, as well as all the laity, with a sacred treasury of aids to help them reenergize their spirituality and become more holy.

The exemplary lives of the Saints and Mystics offer wonderful religious models to imitate. The Sacraments, Scripture and Church teachings, and the employment of Sacramentals such as the Rosary and the Liturgy of the Hours in our daily devotions help us to make our lives holy. By living out the Corporal Works of Mercy we put action into our faith, he added.

The Grand Junction Deanery Network's Retreat offered a welcome oasis for the liturgical ministers. It provided a means for them to rediscover their passion and dedication to the will of God and the service of their fellow man, as expressed through their ministry.

"Attending the Liturgical Ministers Spiritual Renewal retreat has been very enlightening," according to Steve Dominguez, Eucharistic Minister at St. Mary in Montrose. "Hearing the presentation has motivated me to rethink the energy I put into my ministry and into how I follow Christ and His commandment to be of service to others."

The retreat sessions were closed with special prayers of blessing. As Father Malin and Perez dismissed the participants, they admonished them to "be fruitful and generous with their gifts." ¶

## Youngest brother of U.S. nun slain in Brazil speaks about her life, her work, her legacy

PUEBLO DEANERY NEWS

PUEBLO— David Stang, youngest brother of Sister Dorothy Stang, spoke January 28, in the Sunshine Room of Christ the King in Pueblo as part of the parish's ongoing justice series.

Two men shot Sister Dorothy, 73, in the face and head near Anapu, in the Brazilian state of Para. The killing occurred less than a week after the nun accused loggers and ranchers of threatening to kill rural workers.

A part of David Stang's heart will be always be in the dark, wet, Brazilian rain forest where Sister Dorothy Stang was slain February 12, 2005.

"I couldn't feel closure until I went to her grave, saw the places and the thousands of people she worked with," Stang said during a telephone interview from his home in Palmer Lake, Colo.

In Anapu Brazil, he stood beneath two beautiful trees that now form a sheltering roof over the grave of the Sister of Notre Dame de Namur.

Sister Dorothy lived in Brazil's Amazon region for nearly four decades, working to protect the land rights of peasants and speaking out on the ecological dangers of deforestation.

Two pistoleros and one go between have so far been convicted of the crime. Two ranchers who have been implicated as the authors of the crime have yet to be indicted. Sister Dorothy had been on a land-grabbers' death list for years. The day of her murder, the bounty reportedly had grown to \$19,000.

"My bond with my sister is not only her true witness to the Biblical belief to love and help the poor, but her missionary experience, as I worked with the poor in Africa for ten years helping them enter into the world's economy and so that Jesus loved them too," said Dave Stang.

He was in Brazil with his sister two months before she was murdered and saw, Senators, Legislators, friends coming up to her hugging her and telling her to be careful for she even then had a price on her head. At that time she received a "Human Rights Award" from the National Brazilian Law Association for her tireless work on behalf of the poor and landless settlers in the Brazilian rain forest that was under constant threat from unscrupulous loggers and ranchers.

"On Feb. 11 she called me from Anapu to give me a hug and to tell me she was going to Esperanza to show support for 12 families that had just been burned out of their homes and their crops," said Stang, noting, "She said, 'I am going with food and clothing as they have nothing and the children are standing in the rain. I am nervous about going, but the poor need support.'"

He found out on two weeks later when he arrived in Brazil that the police had refused to protect her on her trip and yet she still went knowing she could be killed. He also found out from the thousands who came up to hug him and cry their grief that she had built 36 schools, a fruit cooperative, a woodcraft cooperative, and

two "Projects of Sustainable Development" with 700+ families.

"You would have to travel there to understand the difficulty of her work. It rains six months making travel impossible," he said. "It is very hot and the bugs eat on you. The local government, the police, loggers, ranchers, and pistoleros were against everything she did. To me this is true bravery and love."

That she was 73 years old and still so alive and vital is the unbelievable story. Sister Dorothy did all these things while also being the Eucharistic minister for the parish in the Prelature of Xingu, the largest Prelature in the World.

In her last year, she devised a makeshift, forest-style dam to bring water to run machinery in a flour mill. She taught people how to make and market baking flour from bananas. She also helped local women start a business processing and selling dried fruit.

"Often people think that development work and spiritual work are different. My sister and I both believe that you cannot pass up the beggar on the street and still be a Christian," said Stang. "The Catho-



Brazilians in Rio de Janeiro, protest the killing of Sister Dorothy Stang. After an international outcry,



Brazilian President Luiz Lula da Silva put 19,900 sq. mi. of Amazon land under federal protection.

COM PHOTOS

lic ranchers called her a witch, a gun runner, and no nun because she did not wear a habit. Her habit was her "good works" before all the people of God." At the two

trials in Brazil there was no accusation of gun running, which was obviously part of the whispering campaign by the ranchers to discredit her work.

St. Anthony's Press has published "Women in Church History" about twenty one women church leaders one for each century. For the twenty first century, Sister Dorothy is the leader.

"She had this brilliant smile," her brother said. "She has become an enormous symbol and a great protection for the forest. The people in the forest call her the "Angel of the Amazon". Others say she is not dead but has been planted. My heart breaks now for the people she left behind. They didn't want a martyr; they wanted her alive." ¶



HAPP photos- clockwise: Members of HAPP from St. Mary's Catholic Church in Montrose; l-r: Maribel McClelland and her daughters, Ricardo Perez, Director of HAPP, Tom Acker, retired Father John Kiernan and Joyce Klava, Grand Junction Deanery Coordinator; Hispanic youth group in Olathe; José Talavera, president of the HAPP board; and meeting of lectors for the Spanish liturgy at St. Mary's in Montrose.



### HAPP receives Catholic Campaign for the Human Development funds from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

By Ricardo Pérez, Director Hispanic Pastoral Project, HAPP. Grand Junction Deanery

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

GRAND JUNCTION - Hispanic Affairs Pastoral Project, HAPP, by its abbreviations in English, is an organization founded by Hispanic parish leaders in the Grand Junction Deanery. It works to provide practical, vital services to the local immigrant population who are predominantly Mexican. The goal is to aid social growth and integration into this culturally diverse county.

It currently receives financing from the Catholic Campaign for the Human Development, CCHD, of the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops.

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is the domestic anti-poverty, social justice program of the U.S. Catholic bishops.

Its mission is to address the root causes of poverty in America through promotion and support of community-controlled, self-help organizations and through transformative education.

**Founded in 1969, CCHD's pastoral strategy is empowerment of the poor through a methodology of participation and education for justice, leading toward solidarity between poor and non-poor as impelled by the Church's biblical tradition, modern Catholic social teaching, and the pervasive presence of poverty in the United States. This ministry for justice is rooted in our baptism and faith commitment.**

The grants, economic development, and education for justice programs of the Campaign, implemented in collaboration with local dioceses, are supported from an annual collection in U.S. Catholic parishes.

Parish communities involved in the process and plan of forming HAPP were Montrose, Olathe, Delta and Grand Junction. In the early years, strong support for the fledgling organization was given by Father John Kiernan and Joyce Klava, Grand Junction Deanery Coordinator.

Initially, these Hispanic communities assumed the leadership roles in organizing Spanish and bilingual liturgies and

other ministries through the training and support of the Guadalupanas Nuns. Just three years ago, they initiated a process that culminated in the first ministry plan to the Hispanic communities in the deanery encompassing the Grand Valley.

The funding for HAPP was obtained through a grant from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, CCHD, of the United States Conference of the Catholic Bishops, USCCB.

From its first year, HAPP has received a grant of \$30,000 dollars that is budgeted for the following areas: 1. To educate and to promote the participation of the community in comprehensive migratory reform. 2. To support the processes of pastoral outreach and evangelization outlined in its Plan of Action. 3. To form and train an Hispanic leadership to initiate actions in response to the social doctrine of the Church in the renovation of the society. 4. To ensure communication and coordination with other communities of Spanish speech in the counties of the Grand Valley. 5. To look for ways to disseminate to the young population such subjects as Hispanic history, heritage and culture.

The presence of the CCHD in the Diocese of Pueblo is especially significant, according to Larry Howe-Kerr, the local CCHD Director and Director of the Office of Social Justice. "They provide resources to projects which develop the local community such as *"the Companions"* of San Juan Citizen Alliance in Durango; in smaller amount it has offered support to San Luis Valley Immigrant Resource Center de Alamosa, Deaf Gathering in Pueblo and Salt Creek Neighborhood, also in Pueblo."

According to Jose Talavera, president of HAPP's board of directors, "the funding by CCHD is the foundation necessary to have a comprehensive plan with projects. Thanks to CCHD, we have been able to host key events on comprehensive immigration reform, coordination with other agencies and institutions, trained leaders for the four communities who work together to meet the needs of the Hispanic community. We are a full Church of hope and optimism, but in the past we lacked the training necessary to properly welcome and integrate the Hispanic community to its rightful place within our Church and our society."

### HAPP recibe financiamiento de la Campaña Católica para el Desarrollo Humano, USCCB- CCHD

By Ricardo Pérez, Proyecto pastoral de Asuntos Hispanos, HAPP. Decanato de Grand Junction

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

GRAND JUNCTION - El Proyecto Pastoral de Asuntos Hispanos (HAPP, por sus siglas en ingles), es una organización fundada por líderes hispanos y sus parroquias en el Decanato de Grand Junction, como un servicio extensivo a las necesidades de una población inmigrante, predominantemente mexicana, en crecimiento y en proceso de integración a la diversidad cultural de este país. Durante varios años, esas comunidades hispanas trataron de organizarse para atender la liturgia y otros ministerios contando con el apoyo de las Religiosas Guadalupanas del Espíritu Santo, y aproximadamente 3 años atrás, ellos iniciaron un proceso de organización y coordinación que culminó con la elaboración de su primer plan del ministerio hispano de las comunidades hispanas del Decanato de Grand Junction. Las comunidades participantes fueron Montrose, Olathe, Delta y Grand Junction.

Gracias al apoyo del Padre John Kiernan a lo largo de estos años, como también de Joyce Klava, coordinadora del Decanato de Grand Junction, se obtuvo el financiamiento económico de la Campaña Católica para el Desarrollo Humano (CCHD) de la Conferencia de los Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos, USCCB. Desde su primer año de trabajo, el HAPP ha recibido un financiamiento de \$30,000 dólares, que sirven desde ya, para impulsar las siguientes áreas de trabajo:

1. Educar y promover la participación de la comunidad en la reforma migratoria comprensiva.

2. Apoyar los procesos de pastoral y evangelización sugeridos por su Plan de Acción.

3. Formación del liderazgo hispano, para aportar desde la doctrina social de la Iglesia en la renovación de la sociedad.

4. Facilitar la comunicación y coordinación con otras comunidades de habla español en los condados del Grand Valley.

5. Buscar formas de integrar a la población joven en los espacios sociales y eclesiales como sujetos de su propia historia.

La presencia del CCHD en la Diócesis de Pueblo es muy significativa. Ellos proveen recursos a proyectos de desarrollo comunitario tales como "Los Compañeros", del San Juan Citizen Alliance en Durango; en menor cantidad ha brindado apoyo a San Luis Valley Immigrant Resource Center de Alamosa, Deaf Gathering en Pueblo y Salt Creek Neighborhood, también en Pueblo. Papel clave en todo esto corresponde al director diocesano de CCHD, Larry Howe-Kerr quien es al mismo tiempo director de la Oficina Diocesana de Justicia Social.

Según José Talavera, presidente de la mesa directiva del HAPP: "el financiamiento de CCHD, es la base para tener un proyecto y un plan y gracias a ellos hemos podido realizar actividades claves en el tema de inmigración, coordinación con Instituciones, capacitación a líderes y lograr la unidad de cuatro comunidades trabajando juntos con los mismos objetivos".

Somos una Iglesia llena de esperanza y optimismo, pero falta mucho por hacer para que la comunidad hispana tenga el lugar que le corresponde dentro de la Iglesia y la sociedad a la que pertenecemos desde los principios de nuestra historia.

## Beginnings Plus Institute coming to the Pueblo Diocese

GRAND JUNCTION- The Diocese of Pueblo in partnership with The North American Forum on the Catechumenate is hosting The Initiation Experience: Beginnings Plus with a rural flavor June 21-24 at St. Mary, Montrose.

The North American Forum on the Catechumenate is an international network of pastoral ministers, liturgists, catechists, and theologians. Since 1981 the Forum has united and supported pastoral ministers in the U.S., Canada, and beyond.

The Forum is dedicated to making a fully implemented Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults a reality for all. It supports the reconciliation ministries implicit in the Rite. The commitment is to evangelization and conversion through catechesis, liturgy, discipleship, and mission, as well as, celebration of all cultural gifts.

"The goal of the institute is to present the vision of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults," said Kathleen Carey, Director of the Office of Worship and Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Pueblo.

The Beginnings Plus Institute is a four-day institute on initiation that invites participants to experience the conversion process of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults through presentations, reflection, faith sharing, and celebration of adapted liturgies of initiation. Participants in the institute include parish leaders (clergy, catechists, liturgists, musicians, social outreach & justice), as well as other parishioners, such as sponsors, who assist in the parish's ministry of initiation.

The institute's overall goal is to present the vision of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

To achieve this, the Beginnings Plus Institute has several specific objectives: ■ To provide a process in which the participants experience the flow of the steps and periods of the Rite ■ To help participants learn skills/techniques critical to implementation of the Rite ■ To invite participants to deepen their own faith in Jesus Christ ■ To challenge participants to explore the connection between good liturgy and good catechesis ■ To deepen understanding of the journey of conversion to Jesus Christ.

"The overall flow of the institute is based on the pattern of periods and steps from the Rite. These are situated within a prayerful and reflective process that engages participants deeply," said James M. Schellman, Executive Director of the North American Forum on the Catechumenate.

Each day is devoted to one of the periods of the



Kathleen Carey, Director of the Office of Worship and Spiritual Life for the Diocese of Pueblo.



Rite. Because the institute is experiential as well as visionary, each day is structured according to a particular dynamic:

**Mornings**— ■ Mystagogical reflection on the liturgy of the preceding evening ■ A brief introduction to the period of the Rite covered that day ■ An experience of some aspect of that period ■ A time of reflection with a partner for the week

**Afternoons**— ■ Liturgy preparation ■ Time for reflection, reading, and rest ■ Exploration of some practical application of the vision

**Evenings**—Liturgical Celebration ■ This community's experience of central symbols of the initiation rites ■ The centrality of liturgy in our own lives and in those in the catechumenal process ■ Recognition of liturgy as the privileged place of catechesis. Please visit [www.naforum.org](http://www.naforum.org) © The North American Forum on the Catechumenate

Clergy, liturgists, catechumenate teams and catechists are encouraged to attend this institute.

Registration forms are available online at the North American Forum on the Catechumenate website. Click on calendar and then Pueblo, CO. Forms will also soon be available in all parishes. Contact Kathy Carey in the Worship Office for further details at 1-800-354-2729, ext. 117 or [kcarey@dioceseofpueblo.com](mailto:kcarey@dioceseofpueblo.com).

## Leadership Team for Beginnings Plus Institute Diocese of Pueblo June 21-24, 2007 St. Mary's, Montrose

Sister Gael Gensler, OSF, is pastoral associate for St. Julie Billiard Parish, Tinley Park, IL. She has been involved in adult initiation for twenty-five years. Gael served on the Forum staff and is a Forum Team member. She is a coauthor of the Foundations in Faith series (Resources for Christian Living) and presents and writes on initiation topics.

Father Tim Fitzgerald, a priest of the Diocese of Des Moines, has helped form initiation ministers with parishes and dioceses for more than twenty years. He is director of the office of lay ecclesial ministry in his diocese. Tim is the author of Infant Baptism: a Parish Celebration and Confirmation: a Parish Celebration.

Father Ed Koharchik, CSP, is a priest with the Congregation of St. Paul (Paulist Fathers) and currently is a campus minister at the University of Texas in Austin, TX. He also has served as a parish director of liturgy and music in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, where he has been a clinician for various diocesan events.

Nelson Bonet is Religion and Social Studies teacher for middle school at St. Stephen's Catholic School in Miramar, Florida, as well as the Middle School Coordinator. Nelson also serves with Amor en Accion, a missionary group in Miami. He was previously director of catechumenate for the Archdiocese of Miami (FL)



Sister Gael Gensler, OSF.



Father Tim Fitzgerald



Father Ed Koharchik, CSP



Nelson Bonet

Essay Winners, 1-r: Sir Knight Al Deroo, Junior Winners - 3rd Runner-up Megan Bauer, 2nd Runner-up (not pictured) Ricky Oakley, 1st Runner-up Cheyenna O'Brien, Champion Andrew Bell, Council 1062 Grand Knight Jim Yankovich, Elementary Winners - Champion Ben Shettler, 1st Runner-up Jalen Dalla, 2nd Runner-up Hayley Kuykendall, 3rd Runner-up Maddy Brillhart, Sir Knight Bob Herrera



## G. J. Knights award Essay Winners

GRAND JUNCTION - Frs. Dominguez & Escalante Knights of Columbus Council 1062 of Grand Junction hosted their annual "Keep Christ In Christmas" essay contest. The topic for this years essay contest was; "The Road To Peace Begins With Forgiveness... And Ends At The Nativity".

An awards banquet to recognize the winners was held Friday Night, December 22, 2006 at St. Joseph's Parish Hall. Over 100 people attended the Dinner, and afterwards were entertained as the young authors read their winning essays and received their awards.

This year there were 2 divisions, an Elementary, Grades 1 through 4 and a Junior Grades 5 through 8. 132 essays were submitted from youth around the

Grand Valley. Winners are Elementary Division were all from the 4th Grade and included: - Champion Ben Shettler, 1st Runner Up Jalen Dalla, 2nd Runner Up Hayley Kuykendall, and, 3rd Runner Up Maddy Brillhart. In the Junior Division winners were: Champion Andrew Bell, 6th Grade; 1st Runner Up Cheyenna O'Brien, 5th Grade; 2nd Runner Up Ricky Oakley, 6th Grade; and, 3rd Runner Up Megan Bauer, 7th Grade. The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Runner Up winners received Religious Christmas theme statues. Champion winners received the traditional 14 piece Fontanini Nativity Sets.

The Knights of Columbus is an international Catholic family fraternal service organization with nearly 1.7 million members in over 12,500 local councils.

## GJ Knights Ladies Auxiliary present check

GRAND JUNCTION- Frs. Dominguez & Escalante Knights of Columbus Council 1062 of Grand Junction assisted their Ladies Auxiliary in a fund-raiser called 'Bottles for Babies'. Parishioners were asked to take an empty baby bottle (or 2 or 3) home and return them filled with loose change. Prizes were offered for the first bottle returned, the bottle with the most money, and for the most bottles returned by one person or family.

Only one prize was claimed, so virtually 100% of the money



Council 1062 Grand Knight and Ladies Auxiliary President Jim and Christal Yankovich present check to Pregnancy Center Director Trula Mays, center.

raised went to the Pregnancy Center which operates solely on donations and the goodwill of the Community. The fund-raiser

was such a success, that plans are already underway to make this next "Bottles for Babies" even bigger and better