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Bishop blesses oils, chrism for anointing, sacraments

PUEBLO — Bishop Arthur N. Tafoya, following a Clergy Day of Prayer on March 27, joined the priests from the Diocese of Pueblo in renewing their priestly promise of obedience during the annual Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Pueblo.

He also blessed the chrism and the three oils. Chrism is used in baptismal anointing, confirmation, priestly and episcopal ordinations, and during the dedication of churches. The other holy oils are used in the anointing of the sick and for catechumens.

They were carried to the altar in glass urns by groups of catechumens, youths preparing for confirmation, the sick and deacons about to be ordained in the Diocese of Pueblo.

In his homily, the bishop spoke about the challenges of the priesthood.

In administering the sacraments, the bishop said, the priest “no longer represents himself and no longer expresses himself,” but speaks and acts for Christ. For that reason, he said, priests must continually configure themselves to Christ.

“The liturgies of Holy Week and Easter are a reminder that Christ has won “the supreme battle between light and darkness, between life and death,” Bishop Tafoya said.

The liturgies are not simply “a remembrance of a past reality,” he said. “Even today Christ vanquishes



Bishop Arthur N. Tafoya blesses the oil, chrism at the Chrism Mass celebrated March 29 at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Pueblo. He also delivered the homily during the annual Chrism Mass.

sin and death with his love. Evil, in all its forms, does not have the last word. The final triumph is that of Christ, of truth and of love.”

The bishop urged Catholics to participate in the liturgies aware of their own darkness, faults and respon-

CHRISM MASS CONTINUED ON 13.

Local Catholics raise funds to help Holly tornado victims

HOLLY- Pueblo Bishop Arthur N. Tafoya presided over the Palm Sunday service of the small, faith-filled Catholic community of St. Francis of Rome who gathered together to grieve, reflect and pray following the damage and death from a tornado that tore through their town without warning.

The tornado hit Holly, Colorado, a southeastern town, four miles from Kansas, Wednesday, March 28 at 8:11 p.m. without warning, cutting a path 7 miles long and four city blocks wide through the center of town. Nearly one third of all the homes sustained damage, 29 were destroyed, 19 more suffered major damage and were uninhabitable, 11 people were injured and one died.

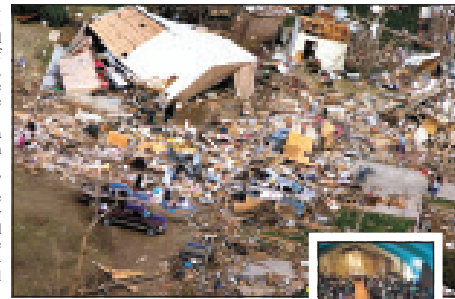
“I wanted to be with the people, to listen to their stories and to celebrate their lives of faith,” said Bishop Tafoya. “I wanted to show my support to all the people who are struggling with losing their homes and property.” He spent Saturday and Sunday in this rural town off U.S. Hwy 50.

In addition, Bishop Tafoya sent a letter to all the parishes in the diocese requesting a second collection to aid the families in rebuilding their homes and community.

“We wanted to show our support to all people who are struggling with losing their homes and property,” said Pueblo Bishop Arthur N. Tafoya, who had called for the collections be taken up at the earliest possible time. “The diocese will give the monies to help meet local needs to rebuild.”

There were no strangers that night and the days that followed, according to Msgr. William Doll, pastor, as neighbors checked on each other and families gave thanks for their lives in this farming town of about 1,000.

On Thursday, volunteers and rescue crews arrived to clean up the debris, help residents look for their be-



Debris left behind by a tornado that struck Holly can be seen in this aerial view. Mourners stand as the casket of Rosemary Rosales is wheeled down the aisle of St. Francis of Rome Catholic church in Holly.

Photos courtesy of The Chieftain by John Jaques and Chris McLean

longings and hand out food. People descended from neighboring towns and from as far away as Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

“Many of the people helping regularly attend our weekend Masses from Kansas, said Msgr. Doll, adding that some came with chainsaws and other heavy equipment which aided in removing fallen trees and demolishing what remained of heavily damaged homes.

From a helicopter, his car, and on foot, Governor Ritter surveyed the devastation, promising assistance with the community’s appeal to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. FEMA, state and local officials conducted damage assessment. And, within a week, some 50 mobile homes and travel trailers were approved by FEMA to help provide housing.

HOLLY TORNADO COLLECTION CONTINUED ON PAGE 5.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

In my Easter letter to you, I wrote: “Christ gave us the Eucharist to nourish and strengthen us and fill us with His love, and in turn He expects us to love and serve one another with humility.”

Pope Benedict XVI has written an Apostolic Exhortation



Father elevates the host and chalice during Mass CNS photo

on “The Eucharist as the Source and Summit of the Church’s Life and Mission.” In it he tells us “The worship of God in our lives cannot be relegated to something private and individual, but tends by its nature to permeate every aspect of our existence. Worship pleasing to God thus becomes a new way of living our whole life, each particular moment of which is lifted up, since it is lived as part of a relationship with Christ and as an offering to God.”

If we think in those terms, every aspect of our lives must be an act of worship. Pope Benedict XVI gives us concrete examples of how to do this. “In the memorial of his sacrifice, the Lord strengthens our fraternal communion and, in a particular way, urges those in conflict to hasten their reconciliation by opening themselves to dialogue and a commitment to justice. Certainly the restoration of justice, reconciliation and forgiveness are the conditions for building true peace. The recognition of this fact leads to a determination to transform unjust structures and to restore respect for the dignity of all men and women, created in God’s image and likeness.”

He continues: “The justified concern about threats to the environment present in so many parts of the world is reinforced by Christian hope, which commits us to working responsibly for the protection of creation.”

I encourage you to live the Eucharist every moment of every day. Not only must we help our less fortunate brothers and sisters – the homeless, the immigrant, the prisoner, the poor, the unborn – but we must speak out against injustice and persecution and work for change in our world. We must do all that we can to protect the environment, not only for ourselves, but for generations that will follow us.

Living the Eucharist is not easy when our secular world tells us to “do things my way” or “grab all the gusto you can.” We are constantly bombarded with messages of me, me, me and what I want and need. Living the Eucharist is not a call to live well, acquire new and better possessions or stay in our comfort zone. Instead we are challenged to serve one another, to put other’s needs before our own.

Let us pray together: “Keep your church alert in faith to the signs of the times and eager to accept the challenge of the gospel. Open our hearts to the needs of all humanity, so that sharing their grief and anguish, their joy and hope, we may faithfully bring them the good news of salvation and advance together on the way to the kingdom.” (Eucharistic Prayer III: Jesus, Way to the Father)

May God bless you and guide you to live the Eucharist.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

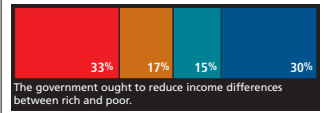
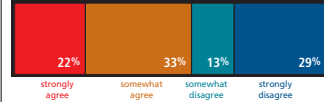
Arthur N. Tafoya
+ Arthur N. Tafoya
Bishop of Pueblo



Photo by Andrew Photography

Government’s Role

The United States should begin a program that allows illegal immigrants to earn permanent residency in the United States.



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