

CATHOLIC CALENDAR.

A page devoted to local Catholic interests

October 24, 2003

Vol. 29, No. 16

Lake Charles, La.

Internet Address: <http://lcdioocese.org>

The Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a sizable crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind man, the son of Timaeus, sat by the roadside begging. On hearing that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, son of David, have pity on me." And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he kept calling out all the more, "Son of David, have pity on me." Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take courage; get up, he is calling you." He threw aside his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus. Jesus said to him in reply, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man replied to him, "Master, I want to see." Jesus told him, "Go your way; your faith has saved you." Immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way.

Mark 10:46-52

How Mother Theresa's family has branched out

ROME -- Everyone knows about the Missionaries of Charity. Less known are the other branches of the religious family inspired by Mother Teresa's spirituality. Mother Teresa founded the Missionaries of Charity, the largest of the branches, in 1948. They number about 4,500 women religious.

The Brothers Missionaries of Charity were founded by Mother Teresa and Brother Andrew on March 25, 1963. They now number about 400. They are dedicated to charity works particularly suited to men: men's leprosiariums, homes for drug addicts, AIDS patients,

alcoholics and former prisoners.

The feminine contemplative branch of the Missionaries of Charity was founded by Mother Teresa and Sister Nirmala Joshi on June 25, 1976, in the Bronx section of New York. They work three to five hours a day with the poorest of the poor.

The masculine contemplative branch was founded on March 19, 1979, by Mother Teresa and Father Sebastian.

The Missionaries of Charity priests were founded by Mother Teresa and Father Joseph Langford on June 26, 1984.

The Ten Commandments

(Second of two parts)

Most people who are not regular readers of the Bible are quite surprised by what they actually find in Exodus. There is no place where the author says, "Here are the Ten Commandments." Instead what subsequent editors have designated as chapters 20-23 are filled with dozens of laws spoken by God governing the smallest details of Jewish life. Chapter 20, containing the Decalogue, the ten "words" of God, actually contains more than ten regulations. Readers might also be surprised by the fact that the Ten Commandments as they learned them are actually abbreviations of longer laws and that the "First" Commandment is not a command at all. It is a mighty statement, an announcement by God of the reason why these laws should be obeyed. It is as if God were saying to the Children of Israel and to us: Since I really am God and I have saved you, you must obey me. As Pharaoh Rameses II says of Moses in the film, "His God is God."

Here is the text. You will notice that the first three Commandments deal with the love we owe God and the remaining seven deal with the love we owe our neighbors. (The traditional list is in bold. Note that Jewish, Catholic and Protestant lists and wordings of the Commandments differ slightly. Cf. Exodus, 20, 1-24, another listing is in Deuteronomy 5, 1-22.)

"And the Lord spoke all these words: **I am the Lord your God** who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

You shall have no strange gods before me. You shall not make for yourself any graven image, nor the likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, nor of those things that are in the waters under the earth.

You shall not adore them, nor serve them. I am the Lord thy God, mighty, jealous, visiting the iniquity of the fathers onto the children, unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me. And showing mercy unto the thousandth generation to those that love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain. For the Lord will not hold him guiltless that shall take the name of the Lord his God in vain.

Remember that you keep holy the Sabbath day. Six days shall you labor and do all your works. But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. You shall do no work on it: nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your manservant, nor your maidservant, nor your beast, nor the stranger that is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and the sea, and all things that are in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore, the Lord blessed the seventh day and sanctified it.

Honor your father and your mother, that you may live long upon the land

which the Lord your God will give you. **You shall not kill. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house.** Neither shall you covet his wife, nor his servant, nor his handmaid, nor his ox, nor his ass. **You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.**

You shall not covet anything that is your neighbor's.

And all the people saw the flames and the mountain smoking, heard the voices and the sound of the trumpet. They were terrified and struck with fear. They stood afar off. They said to Moses, You speak to us and we will hear. But let not the Lord speak to us or we shall surely die. Moses said: Fear not. For God has come to test you so that the dread and fear of him might be in you and you should not sin.

And the Lord said to Moses, You shall not make unto yourself gods of silver or gold. You shall make unto me an altar of earth and you shall sacrifice your burnt offerings, your peace offerings, your sheep and oxen on it.

One of the most surprising things about the way this dramatic passage from Exodus is written is the fact the primary motive given for obeying the Commandments seems to be fear. Obey or suffer the wrath of God. They are clearly not recommendations, or suggestions. They are Commandments! Yet if you

study them carefully, it becomes obvious that the Commandments have undergone a great deal of interpretation and adaptation. The Jewish Sabbath (Saturday), for example has become the Christian Sunday in celebration of the resurrection. And all the civil restrictions against working on Sunday have been abandoned. Now, for many people, including Catholics, Sunday is one of the busiest and most commercial days of the week. Not only is it not a day of rest. For many, it is no longer a day of worship and prayer either. There seems to be no consensus in the U.S. about the meaning of the Commandment not to kill when we face difficult questions such as modern warfare, capital punishment, abortion, and euthanasia.

The controversy concerning the Ten Commandments in the courthouse was news for only a day or so. It may become news again if the Alabama case, or the one in Austin, Texas, makes its way to the U. S. Supreme Court. But for faithful Jewish people, Christians, and others who revere the Decalogue the truth and meaning of the Commandments, "written with the finger of God" should be news every day. As long as the Ten Commandments are inscribed in our hearts and shape our daily lives, our communities will be stronger and our future will be better whether or not monuments of the Decalogue are allowed to stand in public places.



Bishop Edward K. Braxton

Lateran University inaugurates "Karol Wojtyla Chair"

VATICAN CITY - The Lateran University has inaugurated the "Karol Wojtyla Chair" in honor of the Pope's thought.

As part of the university's John Paul II Pontifical Institute for the Study of Marriage and the Family, the chair is established "to promote knowledge of Karol Wojtyla's thought, of its sources and fruitfulness in the realm of philosophical and theological anthropology, guaranteeing systematic in-depth study," an announcement said last week.

"The cultural period in which we live presents moments of uncertainty which posit a new stage in thought," before which believers must "allow a certain flexibility in knowledge of the world," Monsignor Rino Fisichella, rector of the university and president of the institute, explained at the inauguration, according to the Italian episcopate's SIR agency.

"We would like the chair to be a Benedictine endeavor, shaped by its two coordinates of 'ora et labora,'" added professor Stanislaw

Grygiel, the chair's director. Grygiel said that the idea is that the chair concentrate "on the great thematic nuclei elaborated by the one who would become Pope: the first dedicated to paternity, maternity and filiation; the second constituted by the call to Europe to breathe with two lungs; the third formed by that school of love for man indicated by truth, love and faith."

The chair was established to make known the intuitions, writings and literary output of Karol Wojtyla, for

years a professor at the universities of Krakow and Lublin. It will cooperate with other centers of the world studying the Pope's thought.

The chair will either be directly involved in or support research, systematic courses and lesson cycles, congresses, publications, seminars and other initiatives.

It will also promote the formation of young people by granting scholarships for research on specific topics.

32nd Annual Catholic Charismatic Conference Nov. 7-9

LAKE CHARLES - "Jesus, The Light of the World," (John 8:12) is the theme of the 32nd Annual Catholic Charismatic Conference. This family oriented conference will be held the weekend of Nov. 7-9, according to the Rev. Oris Broussard, Director of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal for the Diocese of Lake Charles.

The conference will be held at St. Louis Catholic High School, 1620 Bank Street. It will open Friday at 5 p.m. with registration and continues at 7 p.m. with the first general session. The conference will end with a 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday celebrated by the Rev. Ron Mathews.

The conference will feature three main speakers, Sr. Linda Koontz, Maria Vadia and Father Mathews with guest speaker, Mary Persad, giving her testimony Saturday afternoon.

On Friday, Sr. Koontz will deliver the opening keynote address based on the conference theme, "Jesus, The Light of the World!" She will also be speaking on "The Great Outpouring: You Ain't Seen Nothing Yet!" based on Acts 2:17 and Acts 1:8 during the Saturday 7:30 p.m. general session and will minister at the **prayer and healing service** that follows.

Sr. Koontz has been a sister of the Holy Name of Jesus and Mary since 1960. After teaching religion in Washington State for eight years, she was called again



Sr. Linda Koontz

by the Lord into a ministry that brings renewal to the hearts and minds of all whom hear her presenting the life-giving Word of God. She has ministered to the poor in El Paso and in Juarez, Mexico through "The Spirit of the Lord International Mission" bringing evangelization, healing and the Lord's zealous love to the poor.

Fr. Mathews, a frequent presenter on Radio Maria, will end the conference Sunday with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and will be the celebrant at the 10 a.m. Mass with the homily based on "Service: Faith Without Works is Dead" based on James 1:17.

Fr. Mathews was ordained a priest in Feb. 1975 and received the Baptism in the Spirit in June 1976. He has served in the Dioceses of Alexandria and Shreveport and has been in the Charismatic Renewal since 1967 beginning with his involve-

ment with prayer meetings as a seminarian. He is often sought out for spiritual direction and his ministry has been particularly blessed with the gift of healing. He has also been spiritual advisor on 25 international pilgrimages since 1985 and has a special devotion to the Holy Eucharist, Our Blessed Mother and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, where spiritual healing takes place. Fr. Mathews is currently assigned to positions as Chaplain to the Central Louisiana State Hospital and as Catholic Chaplain at the



Maria Vadia

Federal Penitentiary in Pollock.

Maria Vadia will speak on "Let your Light Shine!" based on Matthew 5:14 at the Saturday morning 10 a.m. general session. She will also be the speaker at the 2:45 p.m. session Saturday speaking on "Prayer: You Don't Know How to Pray as You Ought!" based on Romans 8:26. At age 10, Maria and her family fled Havana, Cuba. She was educated in Catholic schools



Mary Persad

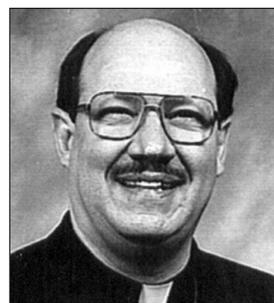
but raised as a "Sunday" Catholic in Miami, Fla. Married to a wealthy man, Maria had all that the world could offer yet she knew something was missing. She was baptized in the Holy Spirit in 1987 and consecrated her life to the Lord Jesus Christ and to the preaching of the Gospel. She ministers the Word to prayer groups including The King Jesus Prayer Group which she led for 10 years as well as at the Miami Women's Detention Center and the Genesis House, a home for homeless AIDS victims. Maria is the founding coordinator of the Miami Chapter of Magnificat, and currently serves as an advisor to the Magnificat International Ministry in New Orleans. In spite of great adversity, the Lord has been a mighty warrior in her life (Jeremiah 20:11).

Mary Persad will share her testimony at 2:45 p.m. Saturday. She has served the Catholic Charismatic Renewal for the past 27 years. Mary is a lay missionary and has been an assistant to Sr.

Koontz in the Spirit of the Lord International Mission, an outreach to the poor in the Charismatic Renewal.

A one-day Life in the Spirit Seminar will be held on Saturday under the direction of the Charismatic Renewal team. This seminar uses the basic message of Christianity in a step-by-step program for spiritual renewal that brings one into a closer relationship with Jesus.

The Teen Mini-Conference (ages 12-19), the Ministry for Youth (ages 8-11) and the Ministry for Children (ages 5-7) will be held



Rev. Ron Mathews

on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The teen Mini-Conference will be staffed with a team of teens under the direction and ministry of Michael Henry. Michael is a Christian singer, songwriter, recording artist and motivational speaker. He ministers through retreats for youth and adults, concerts presentations/missions and through his campus ministry at Notre Dame High School in Crowley. Michael is energetic and

spirit filled. He focuses on reconciliation, building and maintaining Church and embracing God on a personal level.

Ruby Kinkelaar will minister to the children and will oversee the ministry to the youth. The Kinkelaar family conceived, implemented and staffs the Children's Church in St. Paul Parish in Elton. Ruby is also a CCD Teacher and Follow-Me Home facilitator as well as being a staff member of the teen retreat team and Joy Ministries. During the day Saturday the conference speakers will also minister to the teens, youth and children.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered Saturday at 6 p.m. All General Sessions and Masses will be preceded by 30 minutes of praise and worship music as well as ministry by the Word Gift Team. Prayer teams will be available after each general session and Sunday morning Mass.

This **family-oriented** conference is open to all - no one will be turned away. You may attend all the sessions or just the ones you choose. There is a recommended registration donation of \$15 per person, \$30 per family and \$5 for **unaccompanied** teens. Love offerings will be received during the conference to cover not only conference expenses but also the Charismatic Renewal Center's expenses for 2004. For more information or for easy directions from I-10 or I-210 contact the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center at 337-439-1898.