

## "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you." *Jeremiah 1:5*

(Please note: The following is a statement issued by Francis Cardinal George, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, that was endorsed unanimously by the body of Bishops at its November Meeting.)

"If the Lord does not build the house, in vain do its builders labor; if the Lord does not watch over the city, in vain does the watchman keep vigil." (Psalm 127, vs. 1)

The Bishops of the Catholic Church in the United States welcome this moment of historic transition and look forward to working with President-elect Obama and the members of the new Congress for the common good of all. Because of the Church's history and the scope of her ministries in this country, we want to continue our work for economic justice and opportunity for all; our efforts to reform laws around immigration and the situation of the undocumented; our provision of better education and adequate health care for all, especially for women and children; our desire to safeguard religious freedom and foster peace at home and abroad. The Church is intent on doing good and will continue to cooperate gladly with the government and all others working for these goods.

The fundamental good is life itself, a gift from God and our parents. A good state pro-

TECTS the lives of all. Legal protection for those members of the human family waiting to be born in this country was removed when the Supreme Court decided Roe vs. Wade in 1973. This was bad law. The danger the Bishops see at this moment is that a bad court decision will be enshrined in bad legislation that is more radical than the 1973 Supreme Court decision itself.

In the last Congress, a Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) was introduced that would, if brought forward in the same form today, outlaw any 'interference' in providing abortion at will. It would deprive the American people in all fifty states of the freedom they now have to enact modest restraints and regulations on the abortion industry. FOCA would coerce all Americans into subsidizing and promoting abortion with their tax dollars. It would counteract any and all sincere efforts by government and others of good will to reduce the number of abortions in our country.

Parental notification and informed consent precautions would be outlawed, as would be laws banning procedures such as partial-birth abortion and protecting infants born alive after a failed abortion. Abortion clinics would be deregulated. The Hyde Amendment restricting the federal funding of abortions would be abrogated. FOCA would have lethal consequences for prenatal

human life.

FOCA would have an equally destructive effect on the freedom of conscience of doctors, nurses and health care workers whose personal convictions do not permit them to cooperate in the private killing of unborn children. It would threaten Catholic health care institutions and Catholic Charities. It would be an evil law that would further divide our country, and the Church should be intent on opposing evil.

On this issue, the legal protection of the unborn, the bishops are of one mind with Catholics and others of good will. They are also pastors who have listened to women whose lives have been diminished because they believed they had no choice but to abort a baby. Abortion is a medical procedure that kills, and the psychological and spiritual consequences are written in the sorrow and depression of many women and men. The bishops are single-minded because they are, first of all, single-hearted.

The recent election was principally decided out of concern for the economy, for the loss of jobs and homes and financial security for families, here and around the world. If the election is misinterpreted ideologically as a referendum on abortion, the unity desired by President-elect Obama and all Americans at this moment of crisis will be

impossible to achieve. Abortion kills not only unborn children; it destroys constitutional order and the common good, which is assured only when the life of every human being is legally protected. Aggressively pro-abortion policies, legislation and executive orders will permanently alienate tens of millions of Americans, and would be seen by many as an attack on the free exercise of their religion.

This statement is written at the request and direction of all the Bishops, who also want to thank all those in politics who work with good will to protect the lives of the most vulnerable among us. Those in public life do so, sometimes, at the cost of great sacrifice to themselves and their families; and we are grateful. We express again our great desire to work with all those who cherish the common good of our nation. The common good is not the sum total of individual desires and interests; it is achieved in the working out of a common life based upon good reason and good will for all.

Our prayers accompany President-elect Obama and his family and those who are cooperating with him to assure a smooth transition in government. Many issues demand immediate attention on the part of our elected 'watchman.' (Psalm 127) May God bless him and our country.

### Prayer to End Abortion

Lord God, I thank you today for the gift of my life,  
And for the lives of all my brothers and sisters.  
I know there is nothing that destroys more life than abortion,  
Yet I rejoice that you have conquered death  
By the Resurrection of Your Son.  
I am ready to do my part in ending abortion.  
Today I commit myself  
Never to be silent,  
Never to be passive,  
Never to be forgetful of the unborn.  
I commit myself to be active in the pro-life movement,  
And never to stop defending life  
Until all my brothers and sisters are protected,  
And our nation once again becomes  
A nation with liberty and justice  
No just for some, but for all,  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen!

### Diocese seeking applicants for Superintendent of Schools

LAKE CHARLES - The Catholic Diocese of Lake Charles is seeking a Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the 2009-2010 school year.

The Superintendent, appointed by the Bishop, is the executive director of the Office of Catholic Schools and the chief administrative officer of the elementary and secondary schools in the Diocese.

Applicants for the position must possess the following qualifications: Must be a practicing Catholic for whom loyalty to Christ, His people, and the Church are of primary importance; and hold a philosophy of education consistent with Catholic conviction; must possess a master's

degree, preferably in education, from an approved university; must have at least five years of teaching or other school administrative experience, preferably in a Catholic school; and demonstrate leadership abilities in past or present educational assignments.

The salary for this position will be negotiable, based on the experience of the candidate.

The deadline for application is December 31, 2008.

For further information or to obtain application forms, contact: Rev. Whitney Miller, Ph.D., LPC, Secretary for the Ministry of Christian Formation, 411 Iris Street, Lake Charles LA 70601, (337) 439-7400.

### Office of Black Catholics sets Day of Reflection

LAKE CHARLES - The Office of Black Catholic Ministry of the Diocese of Lake Charles will sponsor a Day of Reflection and Action for African American Catholics on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at St. Louis Catholic High School.

A follow-up gathering from the National Black Catholic Congress X in 2007, the morning will allow those attending to reflect and propose action steps on the eight National Black Catholic Congress principles of Spirituality, Parish Life,

Catholic Education, Youth and Young Adults, Social Justice, Africa, Racism and HIV/AIDS.

Black Catholics from throughout the Diocese are invited to attend the Day of Reflection so that they may go back to the respective parishes and plan individual action steps on a given principle which can be implemented in their own faith community.

For information please contact Deacon Edward Lavine at 439-7436.

### 40 Hours Devotion to be held in Eastern Deanery

LAKE CHARLES --- Churches in the Eastern Deanery of the Diocese of Lake Charles host the 40 Hours Devotion to the Blessed Sacrament promoting vocations to the priesthood and the religious life during December.

St. Lawrence Church in Raymond will be the site from 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8 through 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10.

The parishes of St. John Vianney in Bell City and St. Charles Borromeo in Fenton along with the chapel of St. John the Evangelist in Lacassine will be the sites for the remainder of the month. Dates and times for St. John Vianney are at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 16 continuing through Wednesday, Dec. 17. The Devotion at St. John the Evangelist Chapel will be

from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Dec. 18 and at St. Charles Borromeo from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Dec. 19.

### Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Friday, Dec. 12

LAKE CHARLES - The Most Reverend Glen John Provost will be the celebrant for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe beginning at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, at St. Henry Catholic Church.

Concelebrating will be the Rev. Daniel Torres, pastor of St. Henry, and the Rev. Arturo Lozano, S.J., Director of Hispanic Ministry, as well as other priests of the Diocese.



Members of the Barbe High School baseball team gave up part of their Thanksgiving holiday this year to do some sprucing up of the grounds of the Chancery Office of the Diocese of Lake Charles.



Deborah R. Frank

### Deborah Frank named President of St. Louis

LAKE CHARLES - Deborah R. Frank, a graduate of McNeese State University, will become President of St. Louis Catholic High School on January 1, 2009.

Ms. Frank, who has taught in parochial and public schools in Louisiana and Texas, most recently served as the Director of Federal Grants and Special Programs in the Crosby (Texas) Independent School District. From 2000 to 2007, she was principal of Crosby High School, having previously served as the school's assistant principal from 1998-2000.

She taught Science and English at Kingswood (Texas) High School in the Humble Independent School District and prior to that she was the seventh and eighth grade English Language Arts teacher at our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic School in Alexandria, La.

After earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from McNeese, she earned a Master of Education in Secondary Education and Educational Leadership from Stephen F. Austin University in Huntsville, Tx.

"I believe that my training and experience will allow me to meet the job responsibilities of President of St. Louis Catholic High School in a manner that the St. Louis community deserves and expects," Frank said. "I am pleased to accept this opportunity knowing in my heart that this is the work that I am now being called to perform."

"St. Louis has many fine traditions and a reputation for being a school in which students excel in every activity they undertake," she said. "It will be a privilege to serve in such an outstanding school and I am anxious to meet with the students, faculty, staff, and other stakeholders who have been instrumental in St. Louis' enormous success."

"I look forward to becoming a part of the St. Louis Catholic High School family as we approach the many challenges facing high schools today," Frank continued. "I will embrace, promote, and advance the mission and work of the school so that St. Louis will continue to be a place where excellent teaching and learning is the norm rather than the exception."

She holds a Texas Educator Certificate as a mid-management administrator for grades Pre-K through 12 as well as teaching certificates for Secondary Biology and English, both in grades 6 through 12. Frank also has certification for Professional Development and Appraisal System through the Instructional Leadership Development Program.

Frank is a member of the Association for

Supervision and Curriculum Development, National Association of Secondary School Principals, Texas Association of Secondary School Principals and Union Pacific Principals Partnership.

While at Crosby High School she facilitated instruction and programming that consistently resulted in average SAT scores being the highest of surrounding Class 4A high schools. She also wrote the application for and received a grant for Building Inclusive Schools program and acquire a Junior ROTC army unit that won highest honors in its first federal inspection during the spring of 2007.

Also during her tenure at Crosby, Frank initiated the Principal's Student Advisory Board, began "Meet the Principal" nights and implemented "Capturing Kids' Hearts" program and Teen Leadership classes.



Mrs. Genevieve Guzzino, left, speaks with Bishop Glen John Provost, center, and Rev. Ruben Buller, right, at the recent Msgr. Irving A. DeBlanc Remembrance Dinner. Proceeds from the event, held at Harlequin Steak and Seafood, benefited the 2008-2009 Bishop's Services Appeal.

### Did you know...

With Germany's invasion of Poland on Sept. 1, 1939, the conflict that was World War II began. The U.S. came into the war on Dec. 7, 1941 following the bombing of Pearl Harbor by the Japanese. The war ended officially on Sept. 2, 1945 after six years of conflict. During those six years three parishes were established by The Most Reverend Jules Jeanmard, Bishop of Lafayette, in the Southwest Louisiana area that would become the Diocese of Charles. The first was St. John Vianney Church in Bell City on Oct. 12, 1939 with Rev. Mathias J. Cramers as the founding pastor. On February 27, 1942, St. Joseph Church in Welsh was established under the care of priests of the Society of St. Joseph, who remained there until 2004. Rev. John F. O'Connell, S.S.J. was the first pastor. St. Margaret of Scotland Church was the third parish to be established during the war years, coming into being on July 16, 1945 with Rev. George Bodin serving as the founding pastor.

The year 1955 saw three parishes established by two Bishops. Do you know which parishes they were? Find out in our next Catholic Calendar.

The offices of the Diocese of Lake Charles will be closed Monday, Dec. 8 for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. They will reopen on Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 8:30 a.m.