

THE "WHY" OF STEWARDSHIP

By: Fr. Mike Scully, O.F.M.Cap.



MASSES & SACRAMENTS

Saturday: 6:30 a.m.

5:00 p.m. (Vigil Mass)

Liturgy for little ones (Sept - May)

LifeTeen Mass - 1st & 3rd Sat.

Sunday: 7:30 a.m.

10:00 a.m.

Choir Mass (Sept - May)

Liturgy for Little Ones (Sept - May)

LifeTeen Mass - 1st & 3rd Sat.

Weekdays: 6:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

Holy Days: 6:30 a.m., 12:05 p.m., 5:30 p.m.

Christmas - 5:00 p.m. (Vigil) Midnight,
7:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m.

New Years Day - 5:00 p.m. (Vigil)
9:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturdays at 3:45 - 4:30 p.m.

Thurs. before first Fridays at 4:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Baptism:

Please contact the Parish Office.

Baptism Class generally first Monday
of the month.

Sacrament of Marriage:

Please contact Parish office no later
than six months prior.

Sacrament of Anointing:

Please contact the parish office
before entering hospital or for any
emergency anointing.

The beginning of stewardship

The beginning point of stewardship, and the necessity that you and I must give back to God comes about because of our understanding of what God has done for us. My wonder when people complain about "having" to give to the Church or to some charity is whether we truly understand what God wants of us.

If we truly believe that God has given us life, and continues to sustain the life we have with grace through Jesus Christ and the Spirit, then it will be a matter of **justice** that we will want to give back to God in some significant way. God is responsible for our lives - right now, every second. No matter when we are taking a breath, from the first moment of the conceived child to the last breath that comes at our deaths, until the eternal life that is waiting for us, God is giving us life.

To acknowledge the gift, we use the only thing we have - the life we have been given. God gives us 100% of life; our desire should be to give a portion of that life back to God. To "talk" about thanksgiving to God or giving back to God is too easy. We must work at "demonstrating" such a thanksgiving. Since life is defined in terms of time and money, with time and money considered as a unit, we talk of demonstrating thanksgiving by giving of our time and money.

The foundation of Christian stewardship

Jesus gives us the basis of this thinking as recorded in Mark's Gospel. I invite you to read this story of Jesus slowly once again.

It is **Mark 12:1-12:**

A man planted a vineyard, put a hedge around it, dug a wine press, and built a tower. Then he leased it to tenant farmers and left on a journey. At the proper time he sent a servant to the tenants to obtain from them some of the produce of the vineyard. But they seized him, beat him, and sent him away empty-handed. Again he sent them another servant. And

that one they beat over the head and treated shamefully. He sent yet another whom they killed. So, too, many others; some they beat, others they killed. He had one other to send, a beloved son. He sent him to them last of all, thinking, 'They will respect my son.' But those tenants said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' So they seized him and killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come, put the tenants to death, and give the vineyard to others." ... They were seeking to arrest him, but they feared the crowd, for they realized that he had addressed the parable to them. So they left him and went away.

The "man" who "planted the vineyard..." is God - God has planted and set up the vineyard that is our earth. We are the "tenant farmers" who were given that earth, farmers who developed further what the vineyard, our earth could produce. Then, as God could rightly do since it was God's in the first place, God asked for "some of the produce." But the "tenant farmer" - you and I - did not want to give anything back. We looked at it as if it were "ours." We even ignored the people God sent, one of whom was his very Son who was telling the story.

The ending to Jesus' story is not a pretty one. But it is just. I believe that Jesus is speaking in exaggeration, saying in effect, that the "putting to death" and "giving the vineyard to others" is what should happen, but God will not act that way. Instead God keeps begging us to be aware that we must give back to God. Recognizing the concept of stewardship and what it means for us accomplishes what God desires.

...continued from page 1

SOME "HOW'S" OF STEWARDSHIP

◆ *God tells us how to "give back" to God*

Once a person is convinced that she/he should give back to God, the next logical question is "how." Obviously, God is not an entity here on earth that can be readily seen and given to. So, God tells us how to "give back."

It comes from Jesus and it comes in another one of his stories. Jesus tells it as truth and is contained in **Matthew 25:31-46**. After a series of statements concerning giving to others, Jesus makes a remarkable statement: **"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."** To me, Jesus' statement is fundamental. He had set up the story so that when he comes in glory at the end of the world (or at the end of our lives), it will be like a "final judgment" and that which will determine whether we have heaven or hell will be how we treated others during our lifetimes. That's quite a statement in itself, and Jesus even goes further - he points out that *he, Jesus* is actually the other person that we are treating. No other religious leader has ever done that, and it shows how important the "other" is in the Christian tradition.

◆ *Giving to others through the Church*

Therefore, when we give back to God, the primary way to do it must be by giving to others in some way. To me, that is what Church is all about. The Church you and I belong to must be involved in giving to others, especially those who are most in need of help. The Roman Catholic Church does exactly that by the "second collections" that we have at our worship services. In doing that, the Church is responding to Jesus' request to give to others as if those people were Jesus.

◆ *Giving to others through our "Assistance Fund"*

Also, it is my opinion that every local Church, like ours here at St. Joseph should be giving away a certain portion of what we receive in the regular collection. The regular collection is necessary for the

upkeep of the Church obviously, but I think there should be a portion of that given to the poor. We do that here - we take a significant percentage that we receive, and we give that money away to people who are needy. We call it our "Assistance Fund" and it is regulated by a number of parishioners and by me.

◆ *Giving to others through the "St. Thomas More Society"*

Another "how" of giving back to God by giving to others is by giving on behalf of our young people, especially our young people who are in Catholic education. St. Joseph parish has a strong tradition of supporting our Catholic schools. We continue to give over half of our budget every year to Holy Family Elementary School and Thomas More Prep-Marian High School. Now we are also involved in what is called in our community the St. Thomas More Society, a money-making project that will benefit directly our schools, especially the newly formed Thomas More Prep-Marian Junior High School. In order to make the junior high a reality, the Heartland parishes must make sure that the school can be operational. That money, of course, must be over and above our regular giving to Church and charity. St. Joseph parish strongly advises all of our parishioners to give to this special fund.

◆ *Giving to others using time and talent*

Fitting into this picture as well, and to my mind, even more important than the money area, is the use of our time and talent on behalf of others—the giving of our time and sharing our particular gifts with other parishioners or other people who are in need by volunteering at different organizations and the different schools for example.

Stewardship involves giving back to God, which in turn involves giving of ourselves on behalf of others.

ELLIS COUNTY MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE

By Carol Brull

The Ellis County Ministerial Alliance is an organization of 34 churches in Hays, Ellis, and Victoria. Its mission is to provide a forum to address the spiritual issues of the community, nurture understanding and cooperation among the churches, and provide fellowship for clergy and ministering persons. The ECMA was established 20 years ago as a not for profit corporation with Don Zimmerman, Will Hawthorn, Chad Anglemeyer, and Tom Brooks as the original trustees. Members gather for monthly meetings at participating churches.

The ECMA maintains the Second Mile Fund which is used to take care of local and transient needs in the community. It assists local Ellis County residents with rent, utilities, and other emergency needs. First Call for Help receives a grant from this fund to be distributed to the poor through a voucher system. To generate money for the Second Mile Fund, the ECMA sponsors the "Swinging for Support" Golf Tournament, takes up a free will offering at the Festival of Faith, have a Thanksgiving offering at all participating churches, and request the Second Mile Fund as a line item in annual church budgets.

The Festival of Faith is an annual event where people have the opportunity to gather in praise as a people of God. Members of area churches share their talents through music and entertainment, scripture, and inspiration at the Beach Schmidt Performing Arts Center each September. ECMA sponsors this event in cooperation with the Hays Area Chamber of Commerce.

The ECMA also hosts the annual Thanksgiving dinner held at the National Guard Armory. Last year, nearly 400 people enjoyed the food and fellowship this meal makes possible. This project is successful through the efforts of many volunteers who come together to cook, serve, and clean up so others can have a special holiday memory.

.....Continued on page 7



Advent/Christmas Schedule

Our Lady Help of Christians - Antonino
St. Anthony - Schoenchen
St. Catherine - Catharine

St. Joseph - Hays
Immaculate Heart of Mary - Hays
St. Nicholas of Myra - Hays

St. Francis of Assisi - Munjor
Comeau Catholic Campus Center

November 27, 2011 - First Sunday of Advent

St. Joseph - Advent Vespers/Benediction Service - 5:30 p.m.

December 4, 2011 - Second Sunday of Advent

St. Joseph - Advent Vespers/Benediction Service - 5:30 p.m.

December 7, 2011 - Wednesday (Anticipated Masses)

Antonino - 7:00 p.m.
Catherine - 7:00 p.m.
IHM - 6:30 p.m. (Spanish)
Munjor - 5:30 p.m.
St. Joseph - 5:30 p.m.

December 8, 2011 - Thursday - Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)

IHM - 8:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
St. Joseph - 6:30, 12:05 & 5:30 p.m.
National Prayer Vigil for Life - 9:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. (*St. Joseph*)
St. Nicholas of Myra - 7:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

December 11, 2011 - Third Sunday of Advent

IHM - Communal Penance Service - 3:00 p.m.
St. Joseph - Advent Vespers/Benediction Service - 5:30 p.m.

December 12, 2011 - Monday - Our Lady of Guadalupe

IHM - Danza - 5:00 a.m. Mananitas - 5:30 a.m.
Breakfast 6:00 a.m., Mass - 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner, singing, and a raffle in the Activity Center

December 14, 2011 - Wednesday

Munjor - Communal Penance Service 7:00 p.m.

December 16, 2011 - Friday

IHM - Posadas at 7:00 p.m. in the Activity Center

December 17, 2011 - Saturday

IHM - Posadas at 7:00 p.m. in the Activity Center

December 18, 2011 - Forth Sunday of Advent

IHM - Posadas at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium
IHM - Evening Prayer - 9:00 p.m.
St. Joseph - Advent Vespers/Benediction 5:30 p.m.

December 19, 2011 - Monday

IHM - Posadas - 7:00 p.m.
IHM - Evening Prayer - 9:00 p.m.
St. Joseph - Communal Penance Service - 7:00 p.m.

December 20, 2011 - Tuesday

IHM - Posadas - 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium
IHM - Evening Prayer - 9:00 p.m.
St. Nicholas - Communal Penance Service - 7:00 p.m.

December 21, 2011 - Wednesday

IHM - Posadas - 7:00 p.m. in the Casa Mana
IHM - Evening Prayer - 9:00 p.m.

December 22, 2011 - Thursday

IHM - Posadas - 7:00 p.m. in the Casa Mana
IHM - Evening Prayer - 9:00 p.m.

December 23, 2011 - Friday

IHM - Posadas - 7:00 p.m. in the Activity Center

December 24, 2011 - (Saturday) Christmas Eve

Antonino - 4:00 p.m.
Catharine - Midnight Mass
Comeau Catholic Campus Center - 10:00 p.m.
IHM - 5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. (Spanish), and Midnight
Munjor - 9:00 p.m.
Schoenchen - 5:30 p.m.
St. Joseph - 5:00 p.m. (Children's Mass w/pageant),
11:30 p.m. Choir Prelude w/ Mass at Midnight
St. Nicholas of Myra - 5:00 p.m. (Family Mass), 11:00 p.m.

December 25, 2011 - (Sunday) Christmas Day

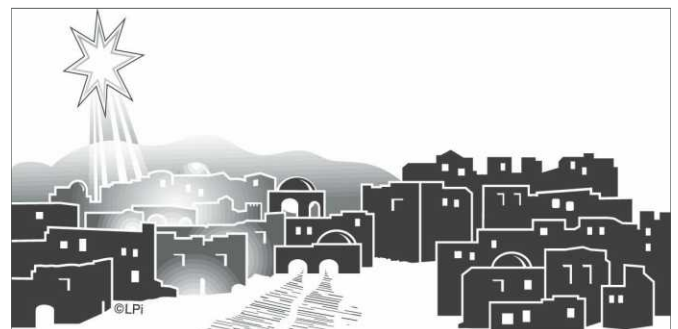
Comeau Catholic Campus Center - 9:30 a.m. (*NO 6:00 pm Mass*)
IHM - 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., *NO noon or 6:00 p.m. Mass*
Munjor - 10:30 a.m.
St. Joseph - 7:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m.,
St. Nicholas of Myra - 9:00 a.m.

December 31, 2012 - (Saturday) Solemnity of Mary

Antonino - 4:00 p.m.
IHM - 5:00 p.m.
Munjor - 7:00 p.m.
Schoenchen - 5:30 p.m.
St. Joseph - 5:00 p.m.
St. Nicholas of Myra - 5:00 p.m.

January 1, 2012 - Solemnity of Mary

Catherine - 9:00 a.m.
IHM - 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., Noon (Spanish), 6:00 p.m.
Munjor - 8:00 p.m.
St. Joseph - 7:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m.





Saint Gianna Beretta Molla
A Modern Saint to Challenge the Modern World
 By Fr. Barnabas Eichor, O.F.M.Cap.

Gianna Francesca Beretta was born in Magenta, Italy, October 4, 1922. She was the tenth of thirteen children in her family, only nine of whom survived to adulthood. When she was three, her family moved to Bergamo, and she grew up in the Lombardy region of Italy.

In 1942, Gianna began her study of medicine in Milan. Outside of her schooling, she was very active in the Church. She received a medical diploma in 1949, and opened an office in Mesero, near her hometown of Magenta, where she specialized in pediatrics. Gianna hoped to join her brother, a missionary priest in Brazil, where she intended to offer her medical expertise in gynecology to poor women. However, her chronic ill health made this impractical, and she continued her practice in Italy.

In December, 1954, Gianna met Pietro Molla, an engineer who worked in her office, ten years older than she. They were officially engaged the following April, and they married in September 1955. The couple had three children named Pieruigi, in 1956, Mariolina, in 1957, and Laura was born in 1959. Gianna suffered two miscarriages after the birth of Laura.

In 1961, Gianna was pregnant once again. During the second month, Gianna developed a fibroma on her uterus. After examination, the doctors gave her three choices: an abortion, a complete hysterectomy or removal of only the fibroma. Though the Catholic Church forbids all direct abortion even when the woman's life is in danger, Catholic teaching would have allowed her to undergo a hysterectomy, which would have resulted in her unborn child's death as an unintended consequence. Gianna opted for the removal of the fibroma, wanting to preserve her child's life.

After the operation, complications continued throughout her pregnancy. Gianna was quite clear about her wishes, expressing to her family, "This time it will

be a difficult delivery, and they may have to save one or the other. I want them to save my baby."

On April 21, 1962, Good Friday of that year, Gianna went to the hospital where her fourth child, Gianna Emanuela, was successfully delivered via Caesarean section. However, Gianna continued to have severe pain, and died of septic peritonitis 7 days after the birth.

Gianna was beatified by Pope John Paul II on April 24th, 1994, and officially canonized a saint on May 16, 2004. Gianna's husband Pietro and their last child, Gianna, were present at the canonization ceremony. The miracle recognized by the Catholic Church to canonize Gianna Molla involved a mother, Elizabeth Comparini, who was 16 weeks pregnant in 2003 and sustained a tear in her placenta that drained her womb of all amniotic fluid. Because a normal term pregnancy is 40 weeks, Comparini was told by her doctors the baby's chance of survival was next to none. Comparini said she prayed to Gianna Moll asking for her intercession and was able to deliver a healthy baby despite the lack of amniotic fluid.

Saint Gianna is a patron saint for mothers, physicians and unborn children. Saint Gianna is the inspiration behind the Gianna Center in New York City. It is the first pro-life, Catholic healthcare center for women in New York.



National Night of Prayer

DECEMBER 8/9, 2011
St. Joseph Church

9:00 p.m. Thursday to 1:00 a.m. Friday

National Hour of Unity is 12:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. (EST)

SCHEDULES
GIFT BEARERS - HOMEBOUND

Those who are scheduled to take up the gifts please arrive at least 15-10 minutes before Mass to notify the ushers that you are present to take up the gifts. If you are not scheduled to take up the gifts and would like to on a day when it is Usher Choice, please see the ushers before Mass.

Homebound: It is very important that if you can't make your Mass appointments, please find a sub to take communion to the homebound.

November 24 - Thanksgiving
 8:00 - GB: Usher Choice

November 26 & 27
 5:00 - GB: Usher Choice
 7:30 - GB: Jake & Carolyn Maska
 HB: Alan Leiker, Sr. Mary Ann S.
 10:00 - GB: Scott & Amy Casper
 HB: Vickie Hawthorne & Andy Mattison

December 3 & 4
 5:00 - GB: Randy Walker Family
 7:30 - GB: Usher Choice
 HB: Barney Boos, Lisa Vonfeldt
 10:00 - GB: Usher Choice
 HB: Kathy Amrein, Darrin Atherton

December 7 & 8
 5:30 - GB: Usher Choice
 12:05 - GB: Usher Choice
 5:30 - GB: Usher Choice

December 10 & 11
 5:00 - GB: Usher Choice
 7:30 - GB: Wilfred & Eileen Leiker
 HB: Liz Schmeidler & Ernie Tallman
 10:00 - GB: Mitch & Julie Weber
 HB: Mike Gnad & Mary Morgan

December 17 & 18
 5:00 - GB: Jennifer Whitmer Family
 7:30 - GB: Usher Choice
 HB: Lucy Baier & Irvin Leiker
 10:00 - GB: Usher Choice
 HB: Lila Staab & Helga Stremel

December 24 & 25
 5:00 - GB: Usher Choice
 Midnight - GB: Brian & Annette Yost
 7:30 - GB: James & Mary Murphy
 HB: Sub Needed & Ernie Tallman
 10:00 - GB: Louis & Irene Normandin
 HB: Treva Benoit & Vickie Hawthorne

December 31 & January 1
 5:00 - GB: Ralph & Patty Wellbrock
 7:30 - GB: Usher Choice
 HB: Sr. Janet & Irvin Leiker
 10:00 - GB: Usher Choice
 HB: Mary Morgan & Lila Staab



SCHEDULES

GIFT BEARERS - HOMEBOUND

January 7 & 8

- 5:00 - GB: Usher Choice
 7:30 - GB: Usher Choice
 HB: Liz Schmeidler & Ernie Tallman
 10:00 - GB: Usher Choice
 HB: Mike Gnad & Mary Morgan

January 14 & 15

- 5:00 - GB: Doug & Melissa Ginther Family
 7:30 - GB: Usher Choice
 HB: Lucy Baier & Irvin Leiker
 10:00 - GB: Usher Choice
 HB: Treva Benoit & Lila Staab

January 21 & 22

- 5:00 - GB: Usher Choice
 7:30 - GB: Usher Choice
 HB: Alan Leiker & Sr. Mary Ann S.
 10:00 - GB: Usher Choice
 HB: Vickie Hawthorne & Andy Mattison

January 28 & 29

- 5:00 - GB: Gene & Rita Gabel
 7:30 - GB: Usher Choice
 HB: Barney Boos & Liz Schmeidler
 10:00 - GB: Usher Choice
 HB: Kathy Amrein & Lila Staab

February 4 & 5

- 5:00 - GB: Usher Choice
 7:30 - GB: Elizabeth Kreutzer Family
 HB: Barney Boos & Lisa Vonfeldt
 10:00 - GB: Robert & Ila Ruder
 HB: Kathy Amrein & Vickie Hawthorne

February 11 & 12

- 5:00 - GB: Mel & Frances Schreiber
 7:30 - GB: Usher Choice
 HB: Liz Schmeidler & Ernie Tallman
 10:00 - GB: Usher Choice
 HB: Mike Gnad & Mary Morgan

February 18 & 19

- 5:00 - GB: Usher Choice
 7:30 - GB: James & Tina Heier
 HB: Lucy Baier & Irvin Leiker
 10:00 - GB: Michelle & Bonnie McRae
 HB: Treva Benoit & Lila Staab

Advent Evening Vespers Benediction

Join us for Advent Vespers
each Sunday evening at 5:30 p.m. during
Advent in the church.



CAPUCHIN NEWS

by Fr. Charles Polifka, OFM Cap.



"THE BROWN ROBE BENEFIT"

Nineteen years ago Father John Lager, spurred on by some friends who organized "benefits" for other groups, came to me with the idea of a "Capuchin" benefit. It seemed like a fun and harmless idea at the time – especially fun. It would be an evening of socializing, meeting old and new friends, and (by the way) raising funds for our needs. And so, eighteen years ago, in the events center of the Denver Athletic Club, the first ever Capuchin Benefit was held.

It was fun! We did make some money for our needs, but I remember that it was fun.

The event moved from the Denver Athletic Club to the Arvada Center and then to the Grand Hyatt. The name changed from the Capuchin Benefit to "The Brown Robe Benefit." Adele Arakawa, an anchor for Channel 9 News in Denver, joined the event fifteen years ago and has continued as Mistress of Ceremonies ever since. Denver Broncos owner Pat Bowlen and his wife Annabel, became our honorary chairpersons in year two and have done the same every year since then. The Martin Family Foundation, in more recent years, has become our Presenting Partner. And every year, the "fun" evening which began at the Denver Athletic Club in 1993, continues to do its magic and bring friends of the Capuchins together for a social and a fund raiser. It's still "fun."

Each year the friars engage in a project for the silent auction. One year it was painting rocks for gardens. Another year it was making fish. Still another year it was constructing bird houses. This year it was carving walking sticks. Of course, there are lots of other silent auction items that people bid on while they are socializing and renewing friendships with the friars and others.

The dinner is always too "petite" for me. But, heck, the people always seem

to like it, and I table hop to meet the guests while they are eating the petite meal anyway. I prefer a bigger hunk of meat. But the volunteers, along with a friar or two, always meet with the hostess at the Hyatt and choose a meal with a pretty "presentation." It has to be tasty, too, of course. A good salad that fits the particular theme of the year and a delicious desert accompany the meal.

Items for the live auction that follows dinner are limited to ten or eleven. Sometimes, like the monthly bread I bake, the auctioneer presents it twice just to make more money (and more work for me, of course). The auctioneer is a great comedian and does these benefits for other groups, too, so it makes for an entertaining time.

Another addition to the Brown Robe is the raffle. Trips. People buy chances on trips. It's still open until we have the Capuchins' Advent celebration at Colorado's Governor's Mansion on December 9. Winners of the trip to Rome and the trip to Cabo will be drawn during that evening. Check it out at the website, www.brownrobe.com. In fact, someone from Ellis County (Tom Schmidtberger) won the early bird drawing for a weekend at the San Diego Hyatt which was raffled the evening of the Brown Robe Benefit. You can see pictures on the website, too.

What do we do with the money? It goes mainly to help pay for our expenses in training new Capuchins. Some of it goes to ministries that we have with the poor. Somehow, it all seems to disappear into those two expense items.

Ellis County people are always represented at the Brown Robe. Everyone in the world is invited. We usually limit it to 450-500 guests. All are welcome! It's always fun.



CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

By Carol Brull

What was Christmas like for our senior generation of parishioners? Were there piles of gifts? Did people brave the cold, dark December night to go to Midnight Mass? What made it special?

"Christmas was all about family," stated Edna Giebler. "We went to Midnight Mass which was always packed. We would see family and friends that we had not seen for a long time. After Mass, we had a sausage breakfast before going to bed. We opened our gifts on Christmas morning."

"We had no or few gifts - not like it is now," shared Leon Wolf. We went to Midnight Mass and had a meal including galuskiess and other German foods when we got home. Christmas morning we got up early to do chores. Christmas was a time for food and family."

Rose Mary Karlin smiled as she remembered, "We didn't have gifts - just a stocking with nuts and fruit. We didn't have a tree. Remember, I'm 82 years old, and things were different then. I lived on a farm that was 12 miles from church, so we didn't go to Midnight Mass. We always went to Mass on Christmas morning."

"Christmas was a time for family and goodies we didn't have the rest of the year," recalled Gloria Pfannenstiel. "We had supper on Christmas Eve and opened presents. Then we went to Midnight Mass."

Marianne Kleiber grew up in Wisconsin where it was cold and snowy. She remembers sledding and skating. Her parents were immigrants from Germany and had little family in America. "We had many friends, and they were our aunts and uncles," she recalls. "We had

a lot of fun." At Christmas, her mother baked lots of goodies, especially German cookies that they gave as gifts. The family trimmed a tree and had presents. Occasionally the family attended Midnight Mass, but usually they went to the 5:00 a.m. Mass on Christmas morning.

"We would walk to church through the dark with snow falling. It was gorgeous." She also recalled being bundled up one year to see Santa at the local hospital.

Eddie Herman said, "We always looked forward to the tree and visiting family - especially grandparents. We had our Christmas at home on Christmas Eve. Eddie also recalled visiting his grandmother who lived in a two room house in Liebenthal.

Willie Pfeifer smiled and said one word - Christkind. The Christkind, as stated in Heritage of Kansas: The Volga Germans, "was usually the mother of the family who would choose an evening a few days before Christmas during which the children were gathered in one room, and then would rattle the screen on the outside of the window. The purpose of this was to draw the children's attention and then show them different presents while she was hidden from their sight. The idea was to impress upon the children that good children will receive many fine gifts at Christmas." I remember my own mother, Henrietta Dinkel, speaking of the Christkind visiting her family, and she always knew it was my grandmother because she forgot to take off her wedding ring.

Some Christmas traditions have changed through the years while others still remain the same. Christmas is still a time to celebrate the birth of Our Lord by attending Mass and spending time with family and friends.



MATRIMONY

Leon Legleiter & Carrie Heier
John Whitmer & Jennifer Losey
Jack Dennis & Jessica Torluemke

BAPTISMS

Wyatt Thatcher Herman
Son of John Toth & Laurie Herman

Braelyn Marie Grandy
Daughter of Christopher & Raleen Grandy

Bentley Brooklyn Pfannenstiel
Son of Luke & Kim Pfannenstiel

Oliver Jude Stoecklein
Son of Chad & Kimberly Stoecklein

Jarett Taylor Leiker
Son of Taylor & Sara Leiker

IN MEMORIAM

Harlan F. Murphy
Ralph F. Sanders
Clara Marie Sack
Benita E. Lippert
LaVera "Vera" F. Schukman

NEW PARISHIONERS

Chris & Raleen Grandy
Laurie Herman
Jeanette Stewart
Charlie & Lisa Krull
Joe & Julie Miller
Brian & Ryan Pfannenstiel
Luke & Kim Pfannenstiel
Chris & Sandra Viegra

St. Joseph's Communal Penance Service

Monday, December 19
7:00 p.m.





Veterans Ensure Colleagues in Arms Remembered

By Cindy Hertel

Although legislation was passed in 1954 to approve Nov. 11 as Veterans' Day, its origin can be traced to Armistice Day, commemorating the end of WWI. On Nov. 11, 1918, an armistice between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month and was believed, at the time, to be the end of "the war to end all wars."

Unfortunately, nearly a century later, we know that world conflict did not cease with the cessation of WWI. Also tragic is the fact that many have lost sight of the meaning behind Veterans' Day, a day set aside to honor those who put their life on the line—and many who sacrificed their lives—to protect the freedom that we cherish.

Undoubtedly, it was our Vietnam Veterans who most intensely felt the sting from our nation's lack of appreciation, so much so that it has been chronicled in movies and songs, like the lyrics from Poison's "Something to Believe In": "Twenty-two years of mental tears cries a suicidal Vietnam vet who fought a losing war on a foreign shore to find his country didn't want him back."

Fortunately, it is from ashes that flowers frequently bloom, and it is often our veterans who lead the charge to ensure that both veterans and our present day soldiers receive due honor and appreciation. This was certainly evident in our own community when CW2 Bryan Nichols was welcomed home in August.

Lambert Staab, a Vietnam veteran who served in the U.S. Army from 1966-68, started the Hays chapter of American Legion Riders five years ago to honor our military, and it was Staab who organized the motorcycle brigade for Nichols. "Our bylaws say that we (American Legion Riders) cannot participate in a funeral unless requested, and it was Doug, Bryan's dad, who called me and asked if we would ride," Staab said. "Of course, we didn't hesitate."

The American Legion Riders participate in funerals for veterans upon request and also in sending soldiers off and welcoming them home. It's important, Staab said, that the

soldiers and their families know that we care about them and appreciate their sacrifice.

John Keberlein, a St. Joseph parishioner who served in U.S. Army from 1967-69 and belongs to the 72-member Hays chapter of American Legion Riders, agreed with Staab: "Back in my day we didn't see any type of appreciation. We want to let our soldiers know we care about them and support them."

The outpouring of support for Nichols and his family was something to remember say those who were there.

"I rode from the airport to the funeral home," Keberlein said, "and I will always recall the Legion riders from other states and the number of people lining the highway and streets."

"The respect was overwhelming," Staab said. "From Hays to Palco, people were lined up to pay their respect. There were even county road graders with flags on them."

Nichols' siblings Nicole and Monte said two images are especially engrained in their memories: "One image is the drive from the airport through Hays to the funeral home and seeing the entire route lined with both young and old, flags and signs of support displayed all while a UH-60 hovered above. The second one is pulling onto the TMP campus and seeing the hundreds of Patriot Guard and American Legion members posted to protect the ceremony. The air was still (a rarity in Hays) and absent of any noise. The experience was the most awe-inspiring display of support for our family."

Fr. Earl Befort, who co-celebrated the Mass of Christian burial for Nichols, said he will not forget the outpouring of appreciation and respect shown to Nichols. "The service at Al Billinger Fieldhouse was something to remember: the eulogies, the 'Battle Hymn of the Republic' sung by the choir, the TMP students so somber and respectful; they all showed such tremendous love for Bryan," Befort recalled. "And the sheer number of people was amazing. Along every intersection on 183, people were there with flags, and it seemed like

every person in Plainville and Zurich lined the streets with their heads bowed."

Nicole and Monte added: "Bryan had no idea the impact he left on those who were lucky to have known him. I'm sure, aside from being a bit embarrassed at all the fuss over him, he took comfort in seeing us all share a laugh or two about the man we love so much. The stories make it clear just how many lives Bryan unknowingly touched with his humor and companionship. The stories and dedications presented at the conclusion of the funeral service by his friends say it all. I'm sure Bryan enjoyed them and laughed right along with us."

As we continue to pray for peace in our world, it is also important to remember those who protect our nation as the Hays area did for Bryan Nichols. During this month to honor veterans, we say thank you to Bryan and to all our veterans and their families who have sacrificed so much.

*Families of veterans many request participation by the American Legion Riders by contacting Lambert Staab at 785-623-0921.

ELLIS COUNTY MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE

Continued from page 2

"One", a publication which appears in the Hays Daily News one Sunday each month, is a cooperative effort between the ECMA and the newspaper. Four years ago, Pat Lowry, editor of the newspaper, approached the ECMA about sponsoring a source of good news for the community. The editorial board meets once a month to discuss themes, etc. The newspaper gives ten per cent of the advertising in "One" to the ECMA.

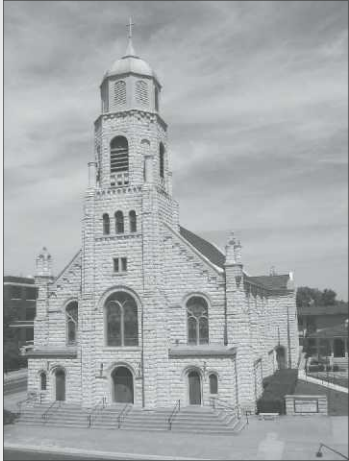
The National Day of Prayer held the first Thursday in May at the Ellis County Courthouse is another prayer opportunity the ECMA provides the community.

The Ellis County Ministerial Alliance offers an opportunity for faith communities to work together. "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20.

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Puzzle

Unscramble these words from today's Gospel:

| | | |
|----------|---------|-------|
| wise men | king | Mary |
| child | star | gifts |
| born | worship | dream |

| | |
|----------|--|
| wsie mne | <u>w</u> <u>i</u> <u>s</u> <u>e</u> <u>m</u> <u>e</u> <u>n</u> |
| brno | — — — — |
| knig | — — — — |
| derma | — — — — — |
| cildh | — — — — — |
| wrsohpi | — — — — — — |
| Mrya | — — — — |
| gfsti | — — — — — |
| srta | — — — — |

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Sharing the Gospel

Imagine Jesus goes to your church today. After church, Mary and Joseph find him on the altar telling stories from the Old Testament to the priests and the Sunday School teachers. Mary and Joseph would be amazed. They would want Jesus to come home. Jesus would love his parents so much that he would go home with them. He will stay with them until he grows older, wiser, and stronger.