

In Brief

Holy Father's Intentions

Pope John Paul II has announced the following general and missionary intentions for May and June of 2005:

May

For those who are persecuted because of their faith and justice, that they may experience the consolation and strength of the Holy Spirit.

That the Pontifical missionary works, desired by the Holy Father and the bishops for the evangelization of all nations, may help the people of God to feel that they are a living part of the *ad gentes* mission.

June

That, with practical gestures of Christian and brotherly love, our society may be close to the millions of refugees who live in conditions of extreme poverty and abandonment.

That the Sacrament of the Eucharist may be felt more and more strongly as the beating heart of the life of the Church.

New Institute to Form Lay Catholics

In the fall of 2005, the Augustine Institute in Denver, Colorado will open its doors to the first lay men and women desiring to obtain a master's degree in either evangelization and catechesis or Sacred Scripture. The Institute's mission is to form lay men and women in a Catholic world view that unites faith and life and prepares them to engage and transform the modern world. The Institute has the blessing of Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Denver, adheres to the teachings in *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* (John Paul II's apostolic constitution on higher education), and has a staff that includes Emmaus Road author Tim Gray and former CUF president Curtis Martin.

This unique graduate program unites many valuable elements that are often found separately in other Catholic schools. First of all, its focus is to combine practical

training with intellectual and character formation. Also, the Institute's master of arts in evangelization and catechesis differs from the master of arts in theology offered other places in that it focuses not only on theology, but also history, the arts, literature, and philosophical and social thought. The practical instruction is given so as to equip graduates to go out and form others in the faith through their work as directors of religious education, Catholic school teachers, and youth leaders. During their time at the Augustine Institute, the students will have the opportunity to live in houses of formation where Catholic culture and community life will be fostered. All of this is summed up in the Institute's motto: "The Catholic faith is not merely a creed; it is the following of the Incarnate God; it is a way of life!"

To find out more about the Augustine Institute, visit www.augustineinstitute.org or call (303) 715-3279.

In Memoriam: John Paul II

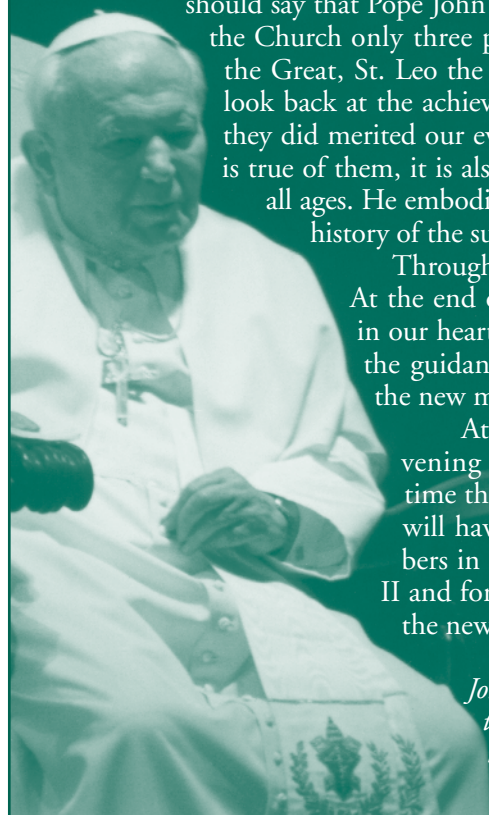
As this issue of *Lay Witness* went to press, we learned of the death of our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II. His pontificate has been a profound gift to the Church and to the world.

He truly was a holy and great man. Many people in the Church—including cardinals, bishops, priests, religious, and laity—are already referring to Pope John Paul II as "the Great." Most Reverend Thomas G. Doran, Bishop of Rockford, Illinois and an episcopal advisor to Catholics United for the Faith, puts it this way: "We should say that Pope John Paul II was a man for all ages. In the history of the Church only three popes have been called the Great: St. Gregory the Great, St. Leo the Great, and Pope Nicholas the Great. When we look back at the achievements of those pontiffs, we can see that what they did merited our everlasting recognition. If the appellation 'Great' is true of them, it is also true of Pope John Paul II. He was a pope for all ages. He embodied in himself all that is best in the bi-millennial history of the successors of St. Peter."

Throughout his life, John Paul II taught us how to live. At the end of his life, he taught us how to die. With grief in our hearts we mourn his loss, but with hope we look to the guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead the Church into the new millennium.

At the time of this writing, the cardinals are convening in Rome to elect a new pontiff, and by the time this issue of *Lay Witness* reaches our members, we will have a new pope. The CUF staff joins our members in praying for the repose of the soul of John Paul II and for the Holy Spirit's guidance for the Church and the new pope.

Visit our website to view a tribute page to John Paul II. For more information or for answers to your questions on the faith, call our Catholic hotline at (800) MY-FAITH or contact us via our website: www.cuf.org.



Only Priests May Anoint the Sick

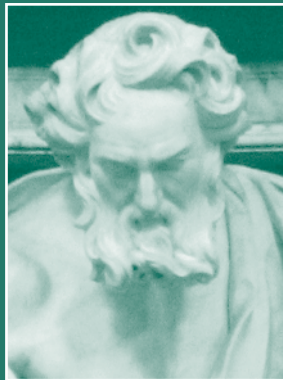
On February 11, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) issued a doctrinal note regarding the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. Doctrinal notes are issued by the CDF in order to clarify some point of doctrine, generally in response to trends of thought or abuses in some area of doctrine.

This doctrinal note was issued in response to requests by some groups, deacons, and bishops desiring permission to allow deacons and lay people to administer the sacrament when there is no priest available. The note denies this request and reaffirms that only a validly ordained priest may administer the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. According to the note, "This doctrine is *definitive tenenda*. Thus, neither deacons nor lay people can exercise this ministry, and any such action would constitute simulation of the sacrament." *Definitive tenenda* means that this is definitively declared doctrine, not subject to change or discussion.

For answers to your questions on this or any Catholic teaching, call our Catholic hotline at (800) MY-FAITH or visit www.cuf.org.

St. Philip

St. Philip, like Saints Peter and Andrew, was from Bethsaida in Galilee. After Christ called Philip to follow Him, Philip led Bartholomew (Nathaniel) to Christ: "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote" (Jn. 1:45). Later, when some Greeks approached him and said, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus" (Jn. 12:21), Philip and Andrew told Christ about them.



According to a second-century tradition, St. Philip, accompanied by his three daughters, preached the Gospel in Phrygia (western Turkey). He was crucified in the city of Hierapolis.

St. Philip is sometimes portrayed with loaves and fish, for before Our Lord multiplied the loaves and fish, he asked St. Philip, "How are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" (Jn. 6:5). St. Philip is also sometimes depicted with a snake, for according to one ancient account, his prayers destroyed a snake worshipped by the Phrygians. The Church celebrates the Feast of Saints Philip and James the Less on May 3.

Rest in Peace, Terri

On March 31st, it was announced that Terri Schindler-Schiavo had died. Terri was approaching her fourteenth day without food and water when she passed away. Terri was 41, a Catholic, and a woman with a disability. Throughout the week leading up to her death, she had been denied permission by the civil courts to receive Viaticum (Holy Communion for the dying). Many within the right-to-life movement describe her starvation and dehydration as America's longest judicially sanctioned execution.

Michael Schiavo, Terri's estranged husband, reportedly did not allow the disabled woman's family near her deathbed during her dying moments. Fr. Frank Pavone was with the Schindler family at the time of Terri's death. Father's words were blunt, but revealing of the mind-set propelling Terri's execution:

"Unfortunately, just 10 or so minutes before she died, we were told we had to leave the room because there would be an assessment of her condition and her husband Michael wanted to be in the room," Fr. Pavone stated. He then added, "Michael Schiavo had rejected requests from Bobby Schindler to be with his sister in her dying moments. [Michael Schiavo's] heartless cruelty continued until the end."

David Gibbs, a pro-life attorney who worked tirelessly to save Terri's life, spoke on behalf of the Schindler family: "The family's faith is stronger than ever. They are clinging to God and to each other." According to Mr. Gibbs, "The Schindler family will continue fighting for a culture of life."

—by Pete Vere

Pro-Life Society of Priests Formed

Fr. Frank Pavone, the national director of Priests for Life and CUF advisory board member, announced that he is founding a community devoted to the formation of priests, deacons, and seminarians dedicated to defending the unborn and spreading the Gospel of Life. The society will be based in the Diocese of Amarillo, Texas, under the authority of Bishop John W. Yanta. In his announcement, Fr. Pavone stated, "This is a pivotal moment in time. . . . God is raising up numerous disciples ready to devote their entire lives to ending the tragedy of abortion." Fr. Pavone will continue in his capacity as national director of Priests for Life. For more information about this new community, call (888) PFL-3448 or email vocations@priestsforlife.org.

National Directory for Catechesis

The Holy See has approved the *National Directory for Catechesis*, produced by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The Congregation for Clergy reviewed the document and approved it for use in the United States. The *Directory* is a reference for catechists and catechetical texts.

When the USCCB approved it in June of last year, they said that its purpose is to provide fundamental theological and pastoral principles, offer guidelines for applying those principles, and define the nature, purpose, and general content of catechesis. The *National Directory* is due to be published on May 1st. ■