

STEWARDSHIP

September 23rd.....\$1,137 St. Vincent De Paul.....\$600

Bobcat Catholics like you provide more than half the resources necessary to bring students of Texas State closer to Christ. Contact Tom Deming, Development Director, anytime to join our mission at 512-738-5920 or tdeming@txstatecatholic.org

AS LITTLE CHILDREN
Mark 9:30-37

In the aftermath of his second prediction of the passion, Jesus catches his disciples arguing about which of them was the greatest. This prompts the Master to instruct them with one of his paradoxical one-liners: "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." Jesus is here going counter to any culture by saying that in his group the most desirable status is that of servant. Then, as a visual aid, he stands a child in their midst, puts his arms around it, and says "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me." At first, this seems to us like an easy invitation. A cute child is always appealing. But that is not Jesus' point. Children had the lowest status of all in those first century societies. Being "servant of all" means being servant of the

least, of which this child is an example. But then Jesus proceeds to place this serving of the least in the widest possible perspective. When one serves the least, "in Jesus' name," that is, acting explicitly as his disciple, one is also acting out one's relationship with Jesus. What is more, one is not simply dealing with Jesus. One is also living out the covenant relationship with the Creator, the One who sent Jesus. We are to pay special attention to those who are left out because that is the only sure way to serve all. And acknowledging that our most casual human contacts are meant to be seen as part of the divine-human covenant is a prime antidote to our tendency to allow our desire for basic needs to turn into violent competition for all that we can get. Recognizing the Giver can tame our getting. Today's Second Reading (James 3:16-4:3) comes at the same issue from a different angle. Here is James' analysis: "You covet but do

not possess. ... You do not possess because you do not ask. You ask but do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions." He is saying that the remedy for disordered desires is prayer, not because prayer is magic but because prayer places itself in the world of the covenant, acknowledges the Giver, and opens the heart to a healing of our addictive desire.

from Fr. Dennis Hamm, SJ

REFRESHMENTS after the 10 a.m. Mass. Please sign up in the lobby for a date and help with this ministry.

NFP Natural Family Planning Class teaches the CCLI Sympto-Thermal method of NFP. Course consist of 3 classes that teach you how to observe your body's signs to identify when you are fertile or not. Tuesdays Oct 2, Nov 6 and Dec 4 at 7-9:30pm in the OL Wisdom library. Register <http://register.ccli.org/> or contact

Bishop Joe Vasquez' interview with the *Catholic Spirit* concerning sexual abuse in the Church can be found on the Austin Diocese website austindiocese.org/bishops-interview-working-together-to-end-sexual-abuse

"At this point of tremendous pain and suffering in our church, my prayer is that all victims of abuse may be consoled and wrapped in the loving arms of Christ. May we hold the leaders of our church, including myself, accountable for our actions and our errors. And may all of us, clergy, religious and laity, work together to end sexual abuse in the church and beyond."

-- Bishop Vásquez

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST
Come share your faith over a meal with other men in our parish. Wednesdays 7- 8am. Please bring your Bible and \$5 (for the meal). RSVP to Victor Felan noel.texas@gmail.com
Tom Deming
tdeming@txstatecatholic.org



RIVER WALK FOR THE POOR

Saturday October 6th
This supports the efforts to help the poor and needy. SVDP has been supporting the San Marcos area for about 40 years. Packets are NOW available from OLOW Organization Leaders. Contact Warner Davis 512-787-1454 or email warnerdavis@yahoo.com

"Encountering Christ"
We have a tremendous opportunity to come together as a Diocese and ensure our faith and important ministries remain vibrant for future generations of Catholics. The Diocese of Austin has launched "Encountering Christ", \$85M capital and endowment campaign. You will hear more about this campaign in the coming weeks. For now, here are three things you can do to begin.
1. Volunteer. We need as many parishioners involved as possible for an effort of this magnitude.
2. Listen to our volunteers and prayerfully consider their request for your support.
3. Consider making a sacrificial gift.

Bulletin Submissions
bulletin@txstatecatholic.org
Send content, questions, suggestions, etc.
Deadline: Wednesdays 5pm

WE PRAY
Please join us in prayer for the members of our parish in need of healing and spiritual support.
"Pray for one another...effective prayer can accomplish much." James 5:16