

THE CATHOLIC WEEK

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Archdiocese hosts chancery, tribunal conference

MOBILE—Chancery and Tribunal officials from the Provinces of New Orleans and Mobile gathered in Mobile earlier this month for their annual conference. This year's conference, held December 2-4 at the Holiday Inn, Downtown, was hosted by the Archdiocese of Mobile and focused on the theme of "Living Our Catholic Faith: In Liturgy and Society." The Very Reverend Michael L. Farmer, V.G., who is the 2008 Conference President, acted as conference director, with he and his staff coordinating the various conference activities.

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HOLY FAMILY DEPICTED IN PAINTING BY CANADIAN ARTIST MICHAEL D. O'BRIEN—The Holy Family, Mary, Joseph and Jesus, are depicted in a painting titled "The Presentation in the Temple" by Canadian Catholic artist Michael D. O'Brien. The Christmas season begins with the Dec. 24 evening vigil and ends on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Jan. 11 in 2009. (CNS photo/courtesy of Michael D. O'Brien)

2008 Archdiocesan Year in Review

By Anne Baggett

JANUARY

Rev. Mr. Robert E. Kirby, Jr., Director of Catholic Charities announced that the 2008 Catholic Charities Appeal set a goal of \$4,000,000.

Rev. Msgr. Michael D. Kelly, a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Mobile who was living at the Sacred Heart Residence of the Little Sisters of the Poor, died in Georgia.

The Mobile Chapter Drexel Society Annual Women's Symposium was held at St. Joseph Catholic Church on Rotterdam Street in Mobile.

John J. Linehardt, a Knight of Columbus of Montgomery Council 893, was honored for more than 60 years of service to the church, community and order.

WHY Catholic? Retreats were conducted throughout the Archdiocese of Mobile.

A Pro-Life Candlelight Prayer Virgil, in regretful observance of the anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision, was sponsored by Alabama Citizens for Life.

Joe Arensberg, theology teacher at McGill-Toolen Catholic High School, was named "Teacher of the Year" by vote of the student body.

Father Adolfo Nicolas took the oath of office as Superior General of the Society of Jesus at the order's 35th General Congregation in Rome.

FEBRUARY

St. Margaret Church in Bayou La Batre celebrated its 100th anniversary, with the Centennial Mass celebrated by Archbishop Oscar H. Lipscomb.

Several councils of the Knights of Columbus showed their support of Archangel Radio by presenting a check to Joe Roszkowski, President.

Stephanie Walker, president of the Catholic Board of Education, presented Gwen Byrd a gift on the completion of 25 years of service as Superintendent of Catholic Schools.

Auxiliary Bishop Moses B. Anderson, S.S.E., of the Archdiocese of Detroit was the retreat master for the Lenten Mission at St. Joseph Church in Tuskegee.

The Serra Club of Mobile honored its charter members with a 25th Anniversary Dinner. Honorees were Archbishop Oscar H. Lipscomb, Bradley Donaghey,

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USCCB official welcomes federal regulations protecting freedom of conscience

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS)—With their Dec. 19 publication in the Federal Register, regulations that protect the conscience rights of health care providers are scheduled to become law two days before President-elect Barack Obama takes office.

The regulations are designed to ensure "that Department of Health and Human Services funds do not support coercive or discriminatory policies or practices in violation of federal law," according to the title of the final rule.

Deirdre McQuade, assistant director for policy and communications in the Office of Pro-Life Activities at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, praised the regulations in a Dec. 18 statement.

"Individuals and institutions committed to healing should not be required to take the very human life that they are dedicated to protecting," she said. "The enforcement of federal laws to protect their freedom of conscience is long overdue."

The regulations support three conscience provisions passed by Congress as long ago as the 1970s and as recently as 2004. They stipulate that no federal funds be given to health care institu-

tions that require providers to participate in abortions or sterilizations or discriminate against those who decline to participate because of their religious or moral beliefs.

The final rule notes that "religious and faith-based organizations have a long tradition of providing medical care in the United States, and they continue to do so today."

"A trend that isolates and excludes some among various religious, cultural and/or ethnic groups from participating in the delivery of health care is especially troublesome when considering current and anticipated shortages of health care professionals in many medical disciplines and regions of the country," it added.

McQuade said that "Catholic health care providers will especially welcome this mark of respect for the excellent life-affirming care they provide to all in need."

But she added that Catholics are not the only ones who oppose "the deliberate destruction of nascent human life."

"All health care providers should be free to serve their patients without violating their most deeply held moral and religious convictions in support of life," McQuade said.

The Planned Parenthood Federation of America is organizing opposition to the rule, saying it threatens patients' rights and would restrict health care access.

"We look forward to working with President-elect Obama and leaders in Congress to repeal this disastrous rule and expand patients' access to full health care information and services—not limit it," said Cecile Richards, Planned Parenthood president, in a Dec. 18 statement.

Meanwhile, in another conscience-related decision, the Illinois Supreme Court ruled Dec. 18 that individual pharmacists and pharmacy owners have legal standing to challenge Gov. Rod Blagojevich's 2005 emergency order requiring them to dispense the emergency contraceptive marketed as Plan B or leave the profession. Two lower courts had held that they did not have standing.

Charmaine Yoest, president and CEO of Americans United for Life, called the decision "a huge victory for the freedom of conscience of all health care providers."

"Pharmacists now have proper recourse against a discriminatory law that would force them to check their constitutional rights at the workplace door," she said in a statement.

Chancery, tribunal conference

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Reverend Monsignor Michael L. Farmer, V.G., introduces Antony Barone Kolenc to conference attendees.

for those who are attempting to serve their Hispanic communities to “look beyond policy or standard formulae” and “think creatively” when it comes to fulfilling requirements for such things as parish enrollment, sacramental preparation, marriages and baptisms, and certification for ministry.

Sister Turek also had the opportunity to update conference participants on some of the current efforts that the USCCB is undertaking in Hispanic Ministry and to offer herself as a willing resource to assist in local efforts to broaden and enhance multi-cultural church endeavors.

Antony Barone Kolenc’s presentations centered around the judicial branch of the federal government with some specific profiles of those Supreme Court Justices who, together, make up an historic Catholic majority. He also offered his studied opinion on how the court may address many of the emerging legal issues regarding separation of Church and State, various life issues, gay marriage, freedom of speech, and institutional and personal freedom of conscience.

Describing the numerous current judicial rulings from various courts as a “mixed bag” of blessings and curses, Kolenc advocated continued watch-dogging of Supreme Court rulings by organiza-

tions like the USCCB and the Canon Law Society as well as encouraging greater activism and involvement on state and district levels where many preliminary but important battles are fought.

The New Orleans Province consists of the Archdiocese of New Orleans as well as the Dioceses of Alexandria, Shreveport, Lafayette, Houma-Thibodaux, Baton Rouge, and Lake Charles. The Province of Mobile consists of the Archdiocese of Mobile and the Diocese of Birmingham, as well as the Diocese of Jackson and the Diocese of Biloxi.



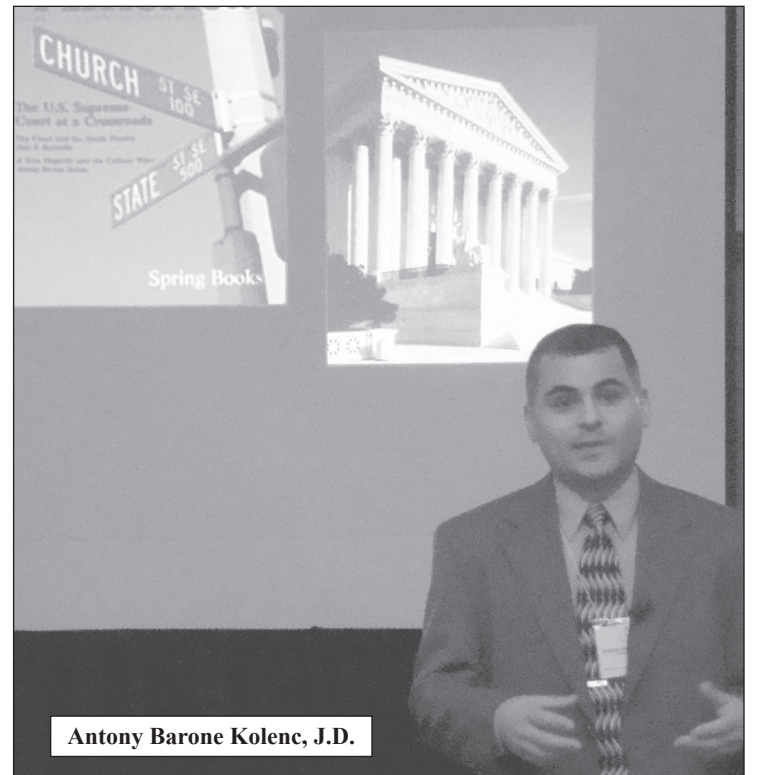
Sr. Doris Mary Turek, S.S.N.D.

The two main presenters at the three day conference were Sister Doris Mary Turek, SSND, a multicultural specialist for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Secretariat for Divine Worship, and Antony Barone Kolenc, JD, noted author and adjunct law professor at St. Leo University in Florida.

Sister Doris Mary Turek focused on the growing Hispanic presence within the Southeastern United States, keying into

some of the challenges church administrators face in serving their needs within the broader community while maintaining respect for the numerous differences and nuances of their particular cultures, customs and religious experiences.

One of the biggest challenges for administrators and pastors is to develop authentic and non-threatening practices that stress attitudes of welcoming and advocacy. Sister Turek underscored the need



Antony Barone Kolenc, J.D.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for December 28, 2008
Luke 2:22-40

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the feast of the Holy Family, Cycle B, the prophecies of Simeon and Anna. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

PURIFICATION	SACRIFICE	A PAIR
PIGEONS	ISRAEL	DEATH
MESSIAH	CHILD	MASTER
PEACE	PREPARED	GENTILES
GLORY	DESTINED	A SIGN
A SWORD	PIERCE	ANNA
PHANUEL	ASHER	FASTING

PROPHECIES

C H I L D E R A P E R P
K D E S T I N E D U U L
W R S E D P G L O R Y E
L O A A S I G N I J O U
P W E S C E H F E D G N
F S M H P R I A P A E A
P A E E D C I N A N N H
P I S R A E L F G G T P
M A S T E R G H I A I E
O J I J I A L L E C L A
P O A A N N A D G H E C
N H H E P I G E O N S E

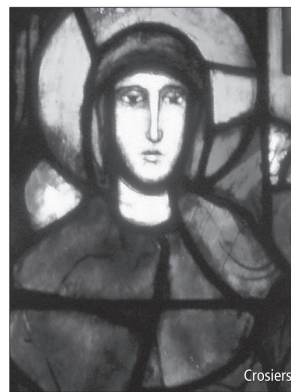
Melania the Younger

c. 383 – 439

feast – December 31

This wealthy Roman laywoman was married against her will to a relative.

Her religious devotion and austerity sparked opposition, but she eventually won over her



husband to her lifestyle. They sold property to aid the poor and the church and free thousands of slaves. When the Visigoths invaded, they went to North Africa, where she endowed religious houses, and in 417 to Jerusalem. After her husband died, Melania founded a women’s community on the Mount of Olives; she shared their life of prayer and good works, including book-copying.

Readings: Dec. 28 – Jan. 3

Sunday, December 28: *Feast of the Holy Family*

Sirach 3:2-7, 12-14
Psalm 128:1-5
Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17
Luke 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Monday, December 29

1 John 2:3-11
Psalm 96:1-6
Luke 2:22-35

Tuesday, December 30

1 John 2:12-17
Psalm 96:7-10
Luke 2:36-40

Wednesday, December 31

1 John 2:18-21
Psalm 96:1-2, 11-13
John 1:1-18

Thursday, January 1:

Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

Numbers 6:22-17
Psalm 67:2-3, 5-6, 8
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:16-21

Friday, January 2:

St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen

1 John 2:22-28
Psalm 98:1-4
John 1:19-28

Saturday, January 3

1 John 2:29-3:6
Psalm 98:1-4
John 1:29-34

