



# OST NEWS

OBLATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Summer 2011 Volume 14 No. 3



*Archbishop Gustavo Visits  
Oblate School of Theology*

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Cover Photo: Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller, MSPS (center), pauses with (from left) Claudia Garza, Celina Garcia, Teresa Galan-Bruce and Priscilla Torres, OP, during a lunch March 29 at the Oblate Renewal Center on his first visit to the School.

# OST NEWS

Summer Volume 14 - No. 3

Editor  
**Lea Kochanek**

Managing Editor/Reporter  
**J. Michael Parker**

Layout Designer  
**Mario Porter**

Circulation Manager  
**Yolanda Garcia**

Proofreader  
**Sr. Margaret Petcavage, SSC**

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Oblate School of Theology, founded and sponsored by the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, is a Catholic graduate and professional school which provides education for the church's mission and ministry in the world.

The institution prepares persons for pastoral ministry through academic study and supervised practice. Through degree and certificate programs, the School strives to educate and form candidates for priestly ministry as well as lay ministries. The School offers opportunities for professional continuing education and personal spiritual renewal to those serving in church and society.

Oblate School of Theology models and fosters collaboration in ministry. It accomplishes its mission in cooperation with formation communities and other ecclesial and societal institutions.

The pastoral orientation of the School requires practical and reflective engagement with the multi-cultural, global reality of church and society. Drawing upon Oblate School of Theology's location and historical dedication to the Mexican-American presence in the Southwest, the learning, teaching, and research of the School pay particular attention to the diverse and rich Hispanic reality of the Americas.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### The Search for a Life-Giving Theology

Hans Urs Von Baltasar once wrote: “After a Mother has smiled for a long time at her child, the child will begin to smile back; she has awakened love in its heart, and in awakening love in its heart, she awakes also recognition.”

Awakening love and recognition within a child's heart is a result of more than just the mother's smile; her voice is also important. Mothers don't just cuddle babies and smile at them; they also speak to them. It's this, hearing the mother's voice beckoning the child to come outwards towards a bigger world, even when there isn't yet any real understanding of what's being said, that's vital in bringing a child to self-awareness and speech. We come out of the darkness and chaos of infancy precisely to the extent that we are called out by voices that cajole, caress, reassure and keep forever luring us beyond ourselves.

During the early critical months of a child's life, it's the mother's voice that does most of this. That's why the first language we learn is called our “mother tongue.” There are no “father tongues.” It's the mother's voice that first caresses us and lures us out of unthinking, inarticulate darkness. Rainer Marie Rilke says that an infant's journey into human awareness depends upon the mother's voice displacing “the surging abyss.”

Language philosophers agree. In their view, language structures consciousness and creates the very possibility of thought and feeling. Before we can use a language, we're trapped inside a darkness and chaos that leave us unable to think or speak as human beings.

We see this illustrated in the case of Helen Keller, who was born blind and deaf and was taught to speak only by the extraordinary efforts of a gifted teacher, Annie Sullivan. In a real sense, Annie Sullivan, Helen's teacher, broke open the world for her. By teaching her language, Annie Sullivan precisely brought Helen Keller out of darkness and chaos and opened up for her the possibility of freedom, thought, deeper feeling, self-expression, and the awareness of love.

Perhaps no image is more valuable than this to help us understand how the Word of God is meant to work in our lives. All preaching, teaching, theology and pastoral practice is really in function of letting God's voice become the smiling, beckoning, caressing, cajoling, luring voice of the mother, calling us out of fear, darkness, chaos and muted frustration to freedom, thought, self-expression and the awareness of love.

The purpose of God's word is not, first of all, to challenge us towards charity, social justice, morality, or even to the worship of something higher or to form community among ourselves, important though these are. Christ came, as God's incarnate Word, to bring us life, light and love. This means that Christ came to do what our mother tongue does: Namely, to call us out beyond the fear, darkness and chaos that prevent us from entering the world of self-expression, thought and conscious love.

Christ, as Word, is analogous to Annie Sullivan trying to help Helen Keller break through the chaos of being trapped inside herself, unaware of deeper consciousness, unable to speak and blocked from fully entering human life.

Religion, theology and preaching don't always understand themselves that way. In our theology schools, in our church circles and in our preaching and religious teaching, in general there is too little of Annie Sullivan and too much a using of God's word for every other kind purpose. For the most part, we will search in vain for an Annie Sullivan, who, with tireless patience, understanding and gentleness, is trying to coax us out of the darkness, inarticulateness, deafness and chaos into which we were born.

That's not to say that what passes today for preaching, theology and pastoral practice is not full of valuable truth, interesting insights and prophetic challenge. There's lots of good theology around. But more absent are the loving sounds and coaxing words, along with the gentle cadence, that we first heard from our mothers when they lured us into self-awareness. What's needed in theology, spirituality and church circles are caressing, gentle, beckoning voices that, with the patience and love of an Annie Sullivan, try to teach us how to speak and to enter a world whose complexity and hugeness dwarfs and frightens us. It's not easy to be led out of darkness.

The search for God is very much the search to hear the divine in our “mother tongue.” So, too, is the search for life-giving theology.

*Ronald Rolheiser, omi*

Ronald Rolheiser OMI  
President, Oblate School of Theology



**O**blate School of Theology conferred a Doctor of Ministry degree, 25 master's degrees and a Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology May 13 during its annual Commencement exercise in the Immaculate Conception Memorial Chapel. In addition, 12 seminarians received the Certificate of Advanced Studies for Presbyteral Ministry and two received the Certificate of Pastoral Studies.

Air Force Chaplain (Major) John Franklin Tillery received the Doctor of Ministry in Clinical Pastoral Education. His doctoral thesis is titled *Trauma to Transcendence: A Pastoral Model for Caregivers of Returning Warriors*. Master of Arts (Theology) recipients were Elizabeth Ann Byron, Reto John Davatz, OFM Conv., Mariano Heriberto López Corona and Jacqueline L. Walter. Clifford Lawrence Knighten Jr. and Cecilia von Bertrab received the Master of Arts (Spirituality).

The Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry was conferred on Rosa M. Adair, Ana Maria Fietze-Elizondo, Jocelyn A. Quijano, PBVM, Anita Schori and Colleen Tschoepe. Candidates receiving the Master of Divinity were Lucino Cruz Pena, OMI, Reto John Davatz, OFM Conv., Timothy Do, Darnell Davone Dotson, Richard Ward Kirkham, López Corona, Raul Adán Pérez Mendoza, Peter Tro Phan, Homero Rodríguez Benítez, Alejandro Orlando Sáenz, Joe Stephens and Sunilkumar Thumma.

The Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology is to be presented later to López Corona. It is offered through OST's affiliation with St. Paul University in Ottawa and accredited by the Holy See's Congregation for Catholic Education.

Pena, Davatz, Do, Kirkham, López Corona, Pérez Mendoza, Phan, Rodríguez Benítez and Sáenz also received the Certificate of Advanced Studies for Presbyteral Ministry. John P. Nolan and Philip D. Petta received the Certificate of Pastoral Studies.

Father Ron Rolheiser, OMI, president, conferred the academic hoods and Father J. William Morell, representing Father William Antone, OMI, the newly appointed provincial of the United States Province of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, conferred the diplomas. Father Morell, OST president from 1995-2004, was acting provincial of the Oblates' U.S. Province from last September until Father Antone's appointment early in May.

Dr. Wendy Wright, professor of theology at Creighton University in Omaha, gave the Commencement Address. According to her website, her expertise is in the history of spirituality, family spirituality, spiritual direction and the Catholic devotional tradition. Her academic work has focused on the Salesian spiritual tradition founded by St. Francis de Sales and St. Jane de Chantal. She has written numerous books on the tradition, family spirituality and other spiritual topics.

In her address, Wright challenged the 2011 graduates to "shape and liberate the imaginations of the faithful" by inviting them into an "antiphonal love song between the human and the divine."

She urged them to imitate St. Francis de Sales, whose spirituality she has studied and written about extensively. He offered a vision that could shape the imagination of his listeners, a vision beautiful and compelling. He spoke persuasively, heart to heart, of the infinite love of God which longs to be loved in return. He evangelized by liberating the imaginations of his flock, just as his imagination had been liberated when, through the lens of *The Song of Songs*, he had come to know that life was best understood as a love song sung antiphonally between the human and divine.



## 27 Graduate from LMI, IFP



Sixteen men and women received certification for lay ministry May 14 from Oblate School of Theology's Lay Ministry Institute, and 11 were given credentials from the Instituto de Formación Pastoral in a Morning Prayer and Graduation ceremony in the Immaculate Conception Memorial Chapel.

LMI graduates included Rick Alarcon, Patti Jo Bliss, Scott Byers, Mary Crockett, Cynthia Edwards, Marisa Knuffke, Azucena Owens, Lupie Padilla, Dawn T. Perez, Victoria T. Perez, Kimberly Pruski, Laura Ramirez, Manolo Razuri, Maria G. Rodriguez, Monica Villarreal and Robert Villarreal.

IFP graduates in the English class were Lisa Arriazola, Jesse Rocha, Rebecca Rocha, Mario Torres, Shirley Torres, Fermin Conrad Urteaga and Santa Vazquez. In the Spanish class, graduates were Hortencia Lopez, Magdalena Rodriguez, Oscar Rodriguez and Magdalena Torres.

Father Robert Wright, OMI, was master of ceremonies. Presenting the certificates to the candidates were Scott Woodward, interim academic dean; Rita S. Velasquez, IFP director; and Bonnie LeMelle Abadie, LMI director.

Commencement speaker Wendy Wright, professor of theology at Creighton University, urged graduates to trust the innate wisdom of the people to whom they minister, to approach others with gentle hearts and to look for grace in the margins.

## Bain, Morrissey given Honorary Degrees

Oblate School of Theology conferred two honorary degrees May 13 during its 2011 Commencement exercise. The Rev. Homer Bain, a United Methodist minister in San Antonio, received a doctorate of pastoral leadership; Father Frank Morrissey OMI, professor emeritus of canon law at St. Paul University in Ottawa and a world-renowned canon law scholar, received a doctorate of humane letters. The OST administration toasted the two at a dinner for about 50 people May 12 at the Oblate Renewal Center.

The Rev. Bain was director of education for the Ecumenical Center for Religion and Health and pastor of several United Methodist churches. He has published in the area of pastoral counseling and family therapy and has been an adjunct faculty member at OST. He founded the Metropolitan Congregational Alliance in San Antonio, now MetroAlliance.

Dr. Scott Woodward, interim academic dean, said that Bain has always lived his ecumenical commitment concretely. "Wherever he goes, Homer brings Presbyterians, Methodists, Catholics and Muslims with him. When I first met Homer, he was dragging six or eight Methodists from churches in the Valley to get them into a seminary – Oblate...He's a Methodist, and was working to get all these Protestants into a Catholic seminary!" Bain's deep concern for the poor, the immigrant and the sick would have made both John Wesley and St. Eugene de Mazenod proud, Woodward said. Bain's long, persistent efforts succeeded in getting North Side San Antonio congregations to join South and West Side congregations to lobby for education, street and drainage improvements, "and to realize that the entire community would benefit."

Father Ron Rolheiser, OMI, president of the School, said Father Morrissey, Prince Edward Island native, is one of the most respected canon lawyers in the world today and one of the most sought-after canon lawyers in the English-speaking world.

"Frank Morrissey has done something special for canon law: he's put it at the service of the community. He has grasped the essence of the spirit of canon law and has mentored an ecclesial generation and a generation of students in it. He has brought a compassionate and spiritual face to canon law." Father Morrissey has devoted hundreds of thousands of hours outside the classroom – often late at night or early in the morning – to giving superlative advice on canon law, free of charge, not only to bishops and Vatican officials but to individual priests and religious and anybody who requested it.



*The Rev. Homer Bain (left) and Father Frank Morrissey, OMI, receive applause for the honorary degrees conferred on them by Oblate School of Theology May 13 at the School's 2011 Commencement.*



Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller, MSpS (right center) visits with graduating students (from left) Cliff Knighten, Mariano Lopez, Jacqueline Walter, Reto Davatz, OFM Conv., and Elizabeth Byron during a lunch at the Oblate Renewal Center March 29 after celebrating the OST's weekly Community Mass.

Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller, MSpS, brought grace and warmth March 29 on his first visit to Oblate School of Theology as shepherd of the Archdiocese of San Antonio. The former Chicago auxiliary bishop succeeded Archbishop José H. Gomez, S.T.D., as archbishop of San Antonio Nov. 23, 2010.

After celebrating the weekly Community Mass in the Immaculate Conception Memorial Chapel, the leader of nearly a million South Texas Catholics bonded easily with students as he lunched with several young men and women in the Oblate Renewal Center dining room. He engaged in animated conversation with them and readily paused for pictures with anyone and everyone who requested it, even encouraging the photographer to take additional pictures.

Graduating students who ate with him were deeply grateful for his lively personal interest in them and their studies. Jackie Walter, a Master of Arts (Theology) candidate, enjoyed escorting Archbishop Gustavo from the Immaculate Conception Memorial Chapel to the Oblate Renewal Center.

"He commented on the beauty of the Oblate campus and described it as an oasis. At the Renewal Center, he sat with a group of us through the entire meal. He asked each of us about our studies and what our final projects were," she said.

Walter's thesis focused on what the virtues of hospitality, solidarity and reconciliation can offer a theology of peace building in an age of youth violence, and particularly on bullying, cyber bullying and gang violence. She said the archbishop was deeply moved to learn this and shared his concern for youth.

"Later, as he said goodbye, he hugged me, wished me good luck with my thesis and expressed again the importance of this discussion. He expressed the virtue of hospitality in his open mind and heart and his willingness to share in the lives of others. It meant so much to each of us that he took the time with us, sharing in our lives and our work. We experienced the heart of a shepherd – a humble and loving shepherd who cares greatly for each of his sheep," Walter said.

Seminarian Reto Davatz, OFM Conv., a Master of Arts (Theology) and Master of Divinity candidate, said the archbishop immediately put him at ease. "It was a pleasure to have him visit with a small, diverse group of graduating students. He engaged each of us in a warm, intentional manner. I felt that I, too, am a part of the OST community, even though I won't be ministering in San Antonio," he said.

Cliff Knighten, a Master of Arts (Spirituality) candidate, said he believes the prelate left the luncheon "with a very positive attitude toward the quality of our academic programs." He added, "Archbishop Gustavo has a lot of charisma. Rarely if ever have I met a priest or pastor with such genuine warmth and interest in people as he has."



## Gomez Receives Madonna Award

Archbishop José H. Gomez, S.T.D., who succeeded Cardinal Roger Mahoney as archbishop of Los Angeles Feb. 27, received a warm, heartfelt “Welcome home” from nearly 350 people April 28 as the honoree at Oblate School of Theology’s 12th annual Spring Gala at the Omni Hotel.

The event was one of the best-attended in the spring gala’s 12-year history. Proceeds from the event go to OST’s \$30 million Building on Faith Capital and Endowment Campaign. As of the gala, the campaign had raised \$21,327,350, or about 71.9 percent of its goal.

Father Ron Rolheiser, OMI, president of Oblate School of Theology, presented a foot-high statue of the Oblate Madonna. The audience applauded warmly and enthusiastically as Father Rolheiser commented on each of Archbishop Gomez’s invaluable contributions to OST as San Antonio’s shepherd from February 2005 to May 2010.

“We very much appreciate all that Archbishop Gomez did. He provided a healthy challenge and staunch support,” Father Rolheiser said. “Sometimes the two

were in tension, but they were always good for the School. He respected OST’s mission as a graduate school of higher education while challenging us, in a healthy manner, to maintain its identity as a Roman Catholic institution and always to be sensitive to the catechetical needs of all our students.”

The initial report on a Vatican-sponsored 2006 visitation to the School reflected misunderstanding and pleased nobody, Father Rolheiser said. He and other Oblate leaders considered traveling to the Vatican to resolve the misunderstanding.

“Archbishop Gomez gave us the assurance that this wouldn’t be necessary. He said, ‘I’ll vouch for you,’ and he did. That was a major gift to the school and a major act of trust in us; trust is very important, because we educate seminarians not only for the Archdiocese of San Antonio but for many other dioceses,” the President said.

Seminarian enrollment enjoyed a resurgence during Archbishop Gomez’s tenure here. In the fall of 2006, Assumption Seminary and OST, which cooperate in forming and preparing candidates for diocesan priesthood, enjoyed the largest total enrollment of seminarians and the largest entering class of diocesan seminarians in nearly 40 years. Nearly half of Oblate’s 177 graduate-level students in the spring 2011 were seminarians. Most represent dioceses and live at Assumption Seminary. Seminarians for religious congregations live in their community formation houses

near OST.

“During the past nine years, we have a 100 percent retention rate in diocesan priests ordained one to five years,” Father Rolheiser noted. Georgetown University’s Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate found several years ago that one in every seven new priests in the United States leaves the priesthood within five years after ordination.

Archbishop Gomez was one of the honorary co-chairs of the Building on Faith Capital and Endowment Campaign. “We now have two major buildings being built on campus, and he is part of the reason they’re being built,” Father Rolheiser declared. One, a residential unit at the Oblate Renewal Center for visiting professors, should be ready by the end of July; the other, a conference center and education building, by mid-January 2012.

During a 2009 Austin meeting of the Texas Catholic Conference, Archbishop Gomez conveyed to other Texas bishops his own personal pride in OST. “Immediately, Cardinal DiNardo said, ‘I want to remind you that Oblate isn’t the only school of theology in Texas,’”

Father Rolheiser recalled, causing the audience to roar with laughter. Cardinal Daniel DiNardo is archbishop of Galveston-Houston.

Obviously moved by the warm praise, Archbishop Gomez said, “I think I’m going to come back more often to San Antonio. They don’t say such nice things about me in Los Angeles.”

Alluding to the quoted comment of Cardinal DiNardo in 2009, he earned warm and enthusiastic applause when he said that, “for me, to see Oblate School of Theology become – not the only, but the best school of theology in

Texas – was a beautiful blessing.”

The archbishop complimented the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, one of South Texas’ largest religious congregations of men, for their ministry throughout Texas since 1849. “Your presence and ministry for so many years has been an extraordinary blessing for the people of Texas,” he declared. The Oblates founded OST in 1903. He said OST’s service to the Archdiocese of San Antonio is crucial because it teaches both seminarians and laypeople to reflect the light of Christ to others.

The archbishop’s composure nearly broke as he made two emotional personal observations: “I assure you that I miss you every single day,” he said at one point. Shortly after that, he added, “The years I was in San Antonio were the happiest years of my life,” drawing more applause and cheers.



(from left) Father Ron Rolheiser, OMI, Veronica Salazar-Escobedo, Archbishop José Gomez, Ruben Escobedo



## 3 Named Newest Honorary OMI's

Richard Kardys of San Antonio and Deacon Robert and Ruth Kusenberger of Del Rio were formally recognized as Honorary Oblates of Mary Immaculate in May by Oblate Superior General Father Louis Lougen, OMI.

All three have a long history of involvement and support of the Oblates. Deacon Kusenberger, a former Oblate scholastic, is a permanent deacon for the Archdiocese of San Antonio. He is on the boards of Oblate School of Theology, the Oblate Missionary Society Inc. and the Oblates' United States Province finance committee. He is the title sponsor of the annual OST Open Golf Tournament and Dinner with the President auctioneer at OST's annual 285 Benefit.

Ruth Kusenberger grew up in an Oblate parish in Del Rio and has remained a close friend of the Oblates her entire life. Her cooperation and understanding have enabled her husband to remain deeply involved in Oblate work.

Richard Kardys is an OST trustee and a longtime advisor to the Oblate International Pastoral Investment Trust of the Oblate general treasurer's office in Rome.

Each received an Oblate Missionary Cross carried by previous generations of Oblates. Kardys received that of Father Jerry Burnet, OMI; Deacon Kusenberger, that of Father Ira Lott, OMI; and Ruth Kusenberger, that of Father Leo Gauvin, OMI.

The tradition dates back to Sept. 25, 1842, when the Oblates' founder, St. Eugene de Mazenod, granted the honor to Mr. and Mrs. Olivier Berthelet of Montreal, Canada, faithful friends of the early Oblates in Canada.



*Richard and Jessie Kardys*



*Robert and Ruth Kusenberger receive Honorary Oblate proclamations from Father J. William Morell in the chapel of the Oblate Madonna Residence.*

## OST Alumnus Ordained Bishop

**Father Arturo Cepeda, M. Div. '96**, installed only last August as rector of Assumption Seminary, was named the 28th auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Detroit April 18 by Pope Benedict XVI. He celebrated OST's Community Mass April 26, inviting members of the School community to "Come and visit me up north – and bring some warm weather with you!" He thanked School officials and faculty for their painstaking attention to providing high-quality education, particularly to the diocesan seminarians who live at Assumption and study at OST.



In his homily, describing the scene at Jesus' tomb on the morning of the Resurrection, the bishop-elect noted that "our God is a God of surprises." Laughter followed as he added, "I certainly have experienced that reality lately since I was called to Detroit. I didn't even know what Detroit looked like. My only previous visit there was an hour-long layover in the airport."

Detroit Archbishop Allen Vigneron ordained Bishop-elect Cepeda to the episcopacy May 5, along with two other new auxiliary bishops, the Most Rev. Donald Hanchon and the Most Rev. Michael Byrnes, in Detroit's Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Like former San Antonio Archbishop Patrick Flores, Bishop-elect Cepeda was ordained an auxiliary bishop at

age 41 and on May 5 – Cinco de Mayo.

## In Memoriam

**Father Edwin Vigil, M.Div, '07**, a priest of the Archdiocese of San Antonio since his ordination June 2, 2007, drowned while swimming Feb. 27 near his village home in San Diego, El Salvador. He completed formation at Assumption Seminary and Oblate School of Theology. Father Vigil served at Notre Dame Parish in Kerrville, St. Mary's in Fredericksburg, the Church of the Holy Spirit in San Antonio and finally at St. John the Evangelist in San Antonio. (From Today's Catholic Newspaper, Archdiocese of San Antonio).





## *Requiescat in Pace, Monsignor José Lopez*



The Oblate School of Theology community was stunned by the news May 29 of the unexpected death of Monsignor José A. Lopez, assistant professor of pastoral counseling for the past 30 years. He taught homiletics in his early years at OST and taught marriage and family counseling for many years. In his later years, he assisted Sally Gomez-Jung with the Theological Field Education program. He was 66.

Monsignor Lopez had undergone knee replacement surgery May 24. Born in Green, Texas, near Kenedy, he attended St. John's Minor Seminary and Assumption Seminary. Ordained for the Archdiocese of San Antonio in Kenedy April 16, 1971, he went on to earn bachelor's and master's degrees in theology from St. Mary's University. He joined the Assumption Seminary formation team and began his teaching career at OST in 1981. He received the title of monsignor in September 2005.

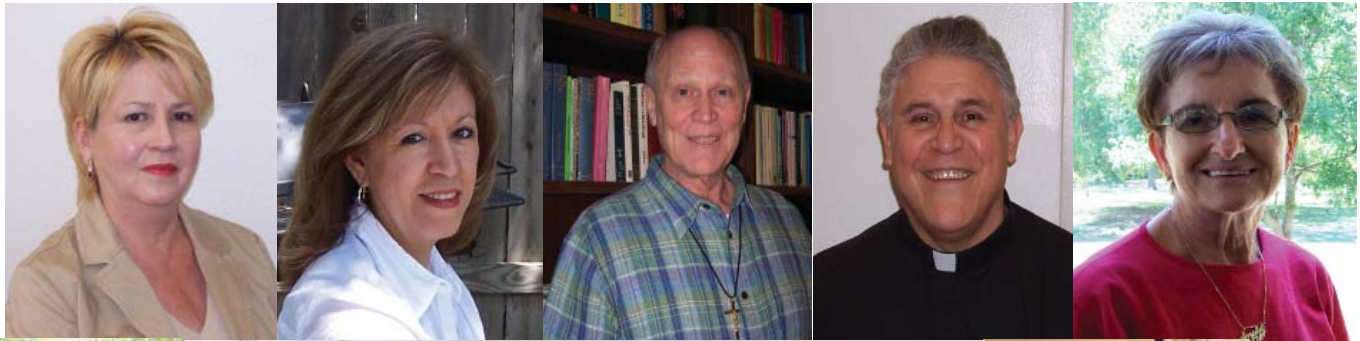
"I look at Father José as an icon," Gomez-Jung said. She remembers him as "an incredible priest, always ready to respond to people who needed pastoral care all over the archdiocese. He touched a lot of lives. He was influential in formation of many seminarians who attended Assumption Seminary and OST, and he was very concerned with preparing them to serve the Hispanic community." He brought this into his classes and made sure they understood the dynamics of family and grieving to bring good pastoral care to the Hispanic community," she added.

"He was an incredibly generous soul, always ready to serve. During the last two years, despite incredible pain from his knees, he was always there to do whatever was asked of him and more. I've lost a tremendous friend and colleague."

Father Bob Wright, OMI, said that, as a mainstay on the faculties of Assumption Seminary and OST, "Monsignor Lopez made a very good unofficial liaison between the two institutions; he was essential in that respect. He was always patient and unflustered, and he was widely respected among the local clergy, the faculties of Assumption and OST, the seminarians and students. He's irreplaceable. It'll be hard to cover all the gaps his death leaves."

In connection with his duties with the Theological Field Education program, Monsignor Lopez directed several of the reflection groups. His love for his own priesthood and his innate pastoral sense were balanced by his intellect and animated by his quick wit and wide smile, which left a lasting imprint on literally thousands of men throughout the United States as they sought the meaning of their own vocations to the priesthood.

Viewing and visitation were Thursday, June 2, at the Church of the Holy Spirit in San Antonio, followed by the wake and rosary. Mass of Resurrection was celebrated June 3 at the Church of the Holy Spirit and June 4 at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Kenedy. Burial was at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Kenedy. A Father José A. López Scholarship Fund was established at Assumption Seminary, 2600 W. Woodlawn Avenue, San Antonio, Texas 78228.



## *OST Applauds Employees' Service*

Oblate School of Theology started a new tradition in April 2011, sponsoring its first-ever Employee Recognition Day, to thank all employees for their service, especially those observing anniversaries of their OST employment at five-year intervals. The inaugural recognition ceremony was conducted April 26 during lunch at the Oblate Renewal Center after the School's weekly Community Mass.

Yolanda Garcia, administrative assistant to the vice president for institutional advancement and for the director of the International Priest Internship program, was honored for 45 years of service to the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, the last 12 years at OST. Previously, she had worked at Oblate Missions, El Visitante Dominical and the Grotto Gift Shop. Elva Barba, administrative assistant to the President, was honored for 30 years' service to the Oblates, 13 at OST and the remainder at the Southern U.S. Oblate Provincial Office.

Also cited for 30 years' service were Father Ken Hannon, OMI, professor of pastoral and liturgical theology; Monsignor José Lopez, assistant professor of pastoral counseling and director of seminarian theological field education; and Amelia Quiroga, head housekeeper at the Oblate Renewal Center.

Juan Mendiola, a member of the maintenance staff at the Oblate Renewal Center, and Scott Woodward, interim academic dean and assistant professor in pastoral theology and director of the Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry program, received recognition for 20 years' service.

Father Leo Perez, OMI, assistant professor in moral theology, and Sister Sarah Ann Sharkey, OP, professor of sacred Scripture, were cited for 15 years; Sally Rollock of the ORC kitchen staff and Jerry Villarreal, of the OST maintenance team, celebrated 10 years at OST.

Five-year employees cited were Father Ron Carignan, former director of the International Priest Internship program and currently coordinator of its coaching and mentoring component; Rene Espinosa, OST vice president of finance; Sister Sue Pontz, SSCM, director of informational technology; Rose Marden, associate dean for continuing education; and Mario Porter, assistant to the registrar and to the associate dean for continuing education.

Father David Kalert, vice president of administration, surprised Father Rolheiser with a special five-year award, commenting, "Normally, presidents are recognized only after 25 years of service, but we're honoring Father Ron after five years – however, we still expect another 20 years out of him."



# *Building on Faith...Hope...Charity*

Oblate School of Theology is building on faith with great hope for the future because of the charity of our beloved donors. The Building on Faith Capital and Endowment Campaign has received more than \$21,350,000 in gifts and pledges to date, 71% of the campaign's \$30 million goal. However, OST still needs several hundred thousand dollars to meet the terms of the Mabee Foundation \$1 million challenge grant. Through the generosity of our donors and friends, we have great hope we will fulfill the terms of the Mabee challenge before the early fall deadline and continue on to achieve the campaign goal.

## Conference Center/Education Building



*Construction on the 24,000 square-foot conference center/education building is progressing rapidly with completion expected by mid- January, 2012.*

## Guest House



*Construction of the 4,700 square-foot guest house should be completed by the end of July. The guest facility will have seven guest rooms and three studio apartments to accommodate up to 20 people.*

*Save the Date*

August 2011 - May 2012  
Called Back to the Well

September 7, 2011

Oblate 285

with

John Angotti

Christian Music Artist

October 10, 2011

OST Alumni Gathering

November 7, 2011

Oblate Open Golf Tournament

Oblate Summer Institute *Presents*  
**Theology and the Arts**



**Kathleen Norris**      and      **Mary Jo Leddy**

**June 20, 21, & 22, 2011**

**Oblate Renewal Center**

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