

Cathedral of the Assumption  
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# The Cathedral Star

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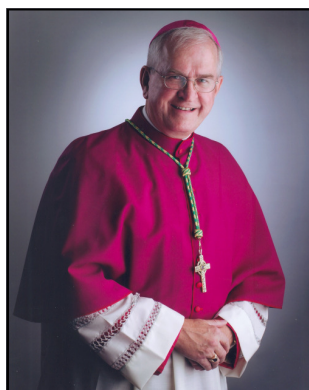
Volume X, No. 1

## The Journey of an Archbishop

I recently enjoyed an opportunity to spend some time with our Archbishop, the Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz. My initial impression of a warm, caring, pastoral minister was borne out during our interview. He has a thoroughly engaging personality and a great sense of humor, all of which is underlain by his deep conviction in the truth and charity of Christ. He brings these convictions to his meetings of the Regions within the Province that forms the Archdiocese as well as to occasions such as a recent curbside demonstration about abortion.

The road over which the Archbishop has traveled begins in a small town of 5,000 called Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania, in 1946. He is the youngest of five, three older sisters and an older brother, Georgie, who had Downs Syndrome. His early days were typical for a growing young man in a town that had been a major center in Pennsylvania's Southern Anthracite Coal Region. He enjoyed basketball and also running, a sport he pursues today. But as he neared his senior year in high school, he was called to finish in the seminary. And to do that, he had to leave home.

He chose to go to St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, located on a beautiful campus Wynnewood, PA, a suburb of Philadelphia. The seminary provides a combined liberal arts and theological education for men wishing to join the Roman Catholic Priesthood. Archbishop Kurtz remained at the seminary



Top: Official photograph of Most Rev. Joseph E. Kurtz, Archbishop of Louisville.  
Middle: Installation of Archbishop Kurtz on August 15, 2007, at Louisville Gardens.  
Bottom: Cathedral Parish Reception for Archbishop Kurtz in Undercroft.

for nine years and received a Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy and a Master's Degree in Theology prior to returning to the Diocese of Allentown for his ordination as a priest. After one year working in parishes, he was appointed to serve at a college seminary in Scranton and to pursue a degree in Social Work. After three years in Scranton, he was asked by his bishop to work with the Catholic Charities program at the Cathedral in nearby Allentown. The bishop also suggested he go to Marywood College in nearby Scranton to gain a graduate degree in Social Work, which he also did. And although he did not have a parish of his own, he did assist in parishes in and around Allentown on the weekends.

It was not until 1988 that the call came for the Archbishop to take a parish. His first was in a town near Allentown, Catasaqua. He stayed there for three years and then transferred to Notre Dame of Bethlehem, located in what can well be termed the sister city to Allentown. His ministry there was to last until 1991, when he received a call from the Papal Nuncio in Washington, D.C. designating him as the appointee to the Office of Bishop in Knoxville, Tennessee.

At the time, Father Kurtz had little idea about what the appointment would bring, being located in an area close to Appalachia, yet based

in a city that had hosted an International World's Fair a few years earlier. But he soon found his boyhood in Mahanoy City and his schooling in the urban

## Archbishop Kurtz *continued*

(*continued on page 2*) setting of St. Charles along with his ministries in the Allentown – Bethlehem area of Central Pennsylvania had coalesced to afford him a fine background for the position of Bishop. And he found his basic convictions about Christ’s teachings and his years in pastoral ministry served him well.

With Archbishop Thomas Kelly’s retirement creating a vacancy in the Archdiocese of Louisville, Bishop Kurtz received another call from the Nuncio telling him that he was the choice to become the new Archbishop. We know much of the rest of the story as our local news media pursued his coming and installation back in August.

But exactly who this new Archbishop is and what he stands for were not well known unless you had the opportunity to speak with someone who already knew him. I learned, during a telephone conversation with a woman at the diocesan office in Knoxville, that our new Archbishop was going to be sorely missed, not only by the people in the diocesan office, but by the people of all the parishes within the bishopric. Bishop Kurtz had made a point to get to even the smallest parish in the diocese to bring his message of truth and charity.

Over the past three months, Archbishop Kurtz has been involved in meetings with the priests in seven of the 12 regions that make up the Province, or Archdiocese of Louisville which includes all of Kentucky and Tennessee. So he will be visiting his former Bishopric as well as holding forth as a minister to all as he listens to the challenges that face the ministries in the 12 regions and helps administrate their needs and ambitions. Added to that are four meetings a year with the bishops who serve the archdiocese to discuss their concerns, relationships with Rome, and the teachings and doctrine of the Church.

The Archbishop says that he has had a “warm and respectful” acceptance by all those he has come in contact with since becoming Archbishop. He views the Cathedral of the Assumption as a central or ‘model’ church to the Archdiocese and has been talking with Fr. Fichteman about that relationship and what it means for our Cathedral parish. More on that subject will be forthcoming in the near future.

Along with his ministry of truth and charity goes a humbleness that fits his personality well, as he believes you cannot be arrogant in dealing with others. Part of that philosophy of life, one can be sure, was reinforced during the years his brother Georgie spent with him before Georgie’s death. And we at the Cathedral will learn much more about the Archbishop as he strives to develop his schedule in a way that will allow him to preside at one of the Masses once a month.

*Rick Eckhart*

*Interview with Archbishop Kurtz, December 2007*

## New to the Cathedral Staff...



**Sarah Scheibe**  
**Coordinator of Social Concerns**

**&**

**Stephen Lee**  
**Daily Lunch Program Coordinator**





## *Welcome, New Parishioners!*



Leon Agius	Bill & Jenny Kline
Shannon Allen	Christopher Koehn
Shelby Amundsen	Laura & Todd Lambert
Marvin & Mutya Bass, Ethan	Pam Leezer
Joseph and Juliet Bianca	Clark & Estelle Leslie
Greg & Lee Ann Bickett, Ben, Jeremy, Kendall	Keith Lewis
Angela Biscan	David Marasco & Jeanie Kreydik, Sammie
Richard & Fabiola Boada, Richard, Philip	Tim & Pam May, Amanda, Chris
Melissa Boyles	Mary Kipp McDaniel
Paul Brooks	Chris & Emily McRae
Cheryl Brown	Mary McCawley
Diedre Buckley	Joe & Linda Medley
Rob Camarota	Daryl & Diane Metcalf, Jessica, Kyle
Aris Cedeno	Robert Molnar
Michael Cirone	Oliver & Janice Montoya, Evangeline
James Crowder	Deborah Moore, Austin, Evan, Jorden
Christopher Cunningham	John Motzer
Victor dela Cuesta & Hannah Dobson	Pauline Otieno
Colleen English	Jeff Owen
Ellen English	Martin & Christy Pallathukudy, Pelu, Isabella
John & Michelle Fidanza, Anna Maria, Anthony, John, Nicole	Julie Peabody
Ernie Flores	Carolyn Petredis
John Paul Garcia	Stephen Petters
Jim & Heather Gates, Ali	Christopher & Donna Phillips, Alex, Nathan
Annie Glosky & Jeff Topham, Judith, Caroline	Salvador & Lorena Prado-Toro, Leonardo
Willie & Peggy Gray, Jacob, Zachary	Dennis & Kathy Price, Meredith, Carmel, Walker
David & Monica Greenwell, Greenie, Cadence	James and Aney Pullattu, Dona, Don
Ralph & Dot Gronefeld	Byron Rages
Brittany Guy	Abby Ray
Justin Haas	Michael & JoAnn Ray, Elisabeth
Bob Harris	Gary & Carla Richenberg, Abbey, Jake
Yolanda Hawkins	Oscar Salcedo & Ellie Sanchez
Donald & Mary Hendrix	Sergia Santos
Anne Hogan	Joe & Cynthia Sauer, Christina, Sarah, Anne
Albert & Laurine Holmes	Stephen Sauerbeck
Jamie Hurley	Robert & Janet Seitz
Dexter & Audrey Jane, Parker, Max	Stephen Smith
Cory & Alicia Johnson	John & Devon Strain
Greg & Ele Johnson, Jennifer, Ike, Meredith	Gracita Torio
Shawn Johnson	Aida Touma
Marilyn Jones	Miriam Tuten
Daniel Justice	Edwin & Joy Uy, Jared, Joachim
Chris & Karla Katakis, Alex	Wayne Villanueva & Janet Witzleben, Lauren, Jennifer
Alison Kightlinger, Alexa	Rob & Cindy Wheat, Grace, Jacob



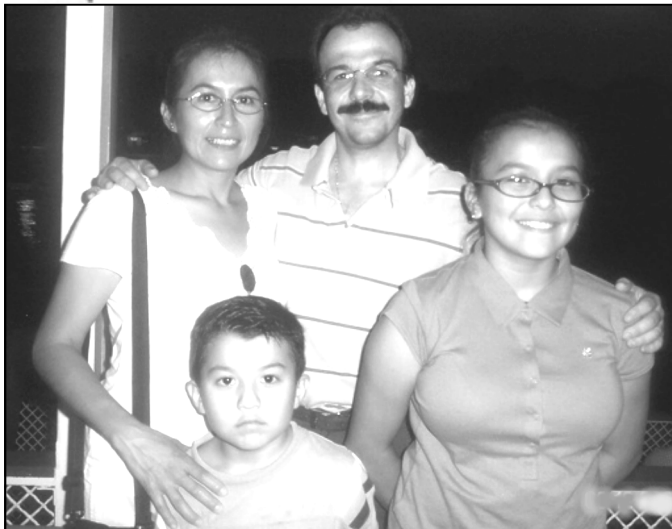
## *Congratulations, Newlyweds!*



Brook Clark & Joe Ventura - September 21, 2007  
 Monica Lopez & George Tunstall - November 3, 2007  
 Noelle Lewis & Eric Lang - December 28, 2007



# A Story of Transition



kids,” she explained.

Patricia was born Catholic. As she states, the majority of the people in Mexico City, her birthplace, were Catholic. She grew up in an apartment house that sheltered sixteen families, located only five or ten minutes from the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. That geographic favor and her mother’s strong faith had a great influence on Patricia’s character.

Patricia was the first family member to finish at the university. She is a trained physician in pediatrics and was awarded a pediatric allergy fellowship. She met and married her husband, Dr. Alfonso Cervera, during residency training. Eventually he came to the University of

One of Dr. Patricia Bautista-Cervera’s activities back in Mexico City was a highlight of her young adult life. She was a key helper in a church musical group called “Estudiantina de Asis.” Explaining her role she said, “I was the ‘vice-principal’ or the ‘director’s assistant.’” Members ranged in age from five or six to twenty-two years. They started out with eight members and grew to twenty-five members. At the Santa Cruz de Jerusalem Church, the people celebrated all major events with a Mass. For example, there would be a Mass for a baptism, a child turning three, or when a young girl became fifteen (quinceañera celebration). During her Mass the priest would ask the congregation to look out for her and help her in her growth toward maturity. A party with dancing and singing would follow. The choir participated in all of this. They would sing two or three Masses on a weekend. An exciting experience for them was traveling to Phoenix, Arizona, to sing for Pope John Paul II when he came to that city in 1987.

Mass at the Santa Cruz de Jerusalem Church in Mexico City was a bit more informal than we expect here at the Cathedral. When it was time for the readings, Father would say, “Who wants to read?” Choir members would raise their hands and shout, “Me, me.” The young people’s involvement with the choir helped to create a close relationship with the church for the members as well as the leaders. Most of the choir members went to the university. They still keep in touch with each other, and Patricia still sees some of them when she visits Mexico City. “They were just good



Louisville for bone marrow transplant training, and she came along. After his training, they returned to Mexico City for two and a half years and returned to Louisville when Dr. Alfonso was offered a position here. He is currently practicing as an oncologist. They stayed at a hospitality house at Third and Guthrie for seven days. It was during that time that they discovered the Cathedral of the Assumption. We were having Mass in the Undercroft. (Remember those days?) She could read English, but could not speak it. She recalled what a challenging time this was, “When I went to Mass, I didn’t have any idea what the priest



# Dr. Patricia Bautista-Cervera

was saying. Previously, I had to give up my fellowship training. Two months later I became pregnant. I wanted my mommy!”

Although she passed the boards here, she decided to wait to complete the required one-year residency so that she can be a stay-at-home mom to her two children, twelve-year old Ana and seven-year-old Alfonso. She explained that for children “the pressure outside of the house is so intense I need to be inside the house to support my children.” Desiring that her children understand their Mexican culture and know their relatives, they visit Mexico for three or four weeks once a year. As part of their Christian training here, she has them volunteer as much as time allows in such programs as lunch for the homeless, especially at Thanksgiving and Christmas time.



Although Dr. Bautista-Cervera is not yet practicing medicine here, she does get her share of calls from Mexico City and from local friends asking for medical advice for their children. She said an example is her sister called from Mexico City and said her friend’s child had “this or that” and asked, “Will you talk to her?” The medical community also makes use of her husband’s knowledge of Spanish when needed. They do not draw the line with Spanish, however, thinking if he can explain things in Spanish, he must be able to advise in whatever other language comes along, an obvious mistake in logic.

Her Catholic faith, gratitude to God, and the power of prayer are such an integral part of Dr. Bautista-Cervera’s life. She first became aware of this when she asked

God for help with a special concern. She was amazed that after prayer the problem was so satisfactorily resolved. She realized then that “the way to God throughout life is through prayer.” She puts her faith in action at the Cathedral by assisting with the children’s Liturgy of the Word, teaching our first-grade religion classes, and participating in Catholic Bible study groups. Several people in the groups are converts, and she feels strengthened in discovering what they see in the Catholic Church that cradle Catholics may overlook. Patricia likes Oprah Winfrey’s idea of thinking of five things to be grateful for before retiring for the night. “It could be a wonderful cup of coffee, a beautiful sunset, a roof over your head, etc. When we put all these things together, we can say with feeling, ‘Thank you, God’.”

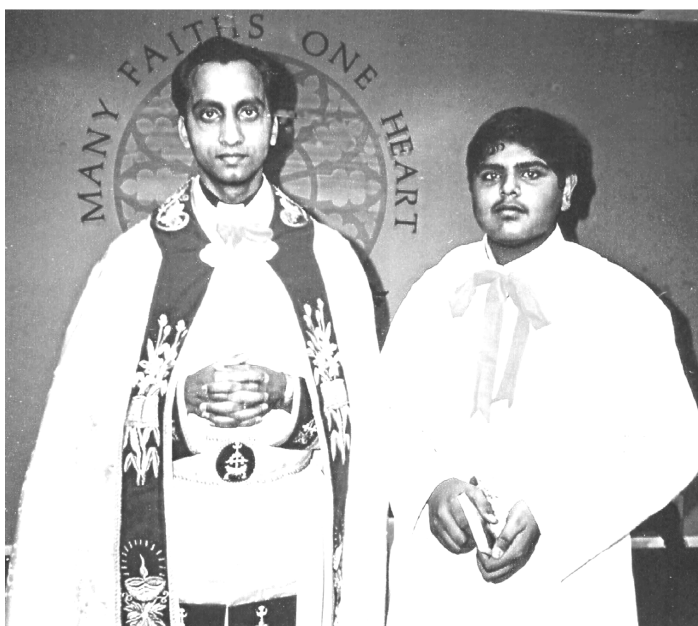
Dr. Bautista-Cervera is truly one of our stars in the seats. Her courage in acclimating to a new culture, her appreciation and practice of her faith, her awareness of the needs of our children, and her involvement in the life of the Cathedral will continue to be an inspiration to us all. How fortunate we are to have her and her family worshipping with us.

*Martha Villiger*



# Ancient Rite Celebrated at Cathedral

On the second Saturday afternoon of most months, the words, “Sworgsthanaya Njungalude Bithave” (“Our Father Who Art in Heaven”) can be heard in the Undercroft of the Cathedral. There, the members of 150 Louisville families, many immigrants from India, participate in one of the oldest rites of the Universal Church, the Syro-Malabar.



After the Pentecost, the Apostles met in Jerusalem and portioned all the nations of the world among themselves. The “East”, which includes what is now India, fell by lot to Thomas. (A tradition maintains that Thomas did not want the assignment. Then the Risen Christ appeared to a Jewish Indian merchant in Jerusalem who was looking for a carpenter to take back home. Christ then “sold” Thomas to the merchant. Thomas said, “Lord, let Thy will be done” and went with the merchant.) Thomas arrived in Kodungalloor, Kerala, in 52 A.D. He performed miracles and established seven

churches in India. Moving north, he converted four rich and priestly class Hindu families, and met king Gondophares in northern India. After converting both Jews and Hindus to Christianity, including many of the nobility, he was eventually martyred by orders of a tribal chief at the hands of four soldiers.

The writings and traditions relating to the acts of St. Thomas in India are many; he is also honored by many Hindus, who perform “puppet plays” depicting the Martyrdom of St. Thomas during certain religious commemorations.

The church that Thomas founded in India was Eastern. The liturgy was East Syrian (Chaldean), and the language was Aramaic. As a church that was established outside the boundaries of the Roman Empire, it had little contact with the West. When the Portuguese came to India, they attempted, with some success, to supplant the Eastern Rite with the Latin Rite. After several centuries of conflict, the Syro-Malabar church was recognized as an autonomous church (*sui juris particular*) within the Catholic communion. As with Latin Rite churches, the liturgy is now celebrated in the spoken language of the people, which in India is Malayalam, the language of Kerala state.

One of the special features of the Eucharistic Prayer is the presence of four prayers known as the Gehanta, which many scholars believe is the closest form of prayer to the Jewish prayers over the meal.





Due to the immigration of many professionals from India to the U.S., in 2001 Pope John Paul II established the Syro-Malabar Diocese of Chicago, the first diocese outside of India. The diocese, which counts over 100,000 members, oversees 14 parishes and 55 mission stations, of which one is Louisville.

Once per month, a priest drives from Chicago to Louisville for the Saturday afternoon Mass. The local organizing is coordinated by M. (Tom) Devasia of Our Lady of Lourdes parish. The rite is very participative, with the congregation singing and reciting from memory to an extent that would surely impress Latin rite Catholics. Music is provided by a computer link to traditional music. Interviews with members of the congregation confirmed that the Mass is a way of maintaining their culture and especially their language in a new country. The congregation, which comes from several parishes in the Louisville area, welcomes visitors.

*Richard Williams*

### St. Thomas, Apostle to India



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*Cathedral Teen Confirmation Class 2008:  
Retreat in the Patterson Education Center Youth Room with  
adult leaders, Steve Henriksen, Julia Barker, and Art Carmody.*

*The  
Cathedral Star*

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