33rd Annual March for Life

More than 450 young Iowans for Life, above, led the 33rd Annual March for Life Jan. 23 in Washington, D.C., to protest the 1973 Supreme Court ruling, which legalized abortion in the U.S. See Centerfold and Page 12.

Diocese in Compliance with Child Safety

For the third year, the Diocese of Brooklyn has been found to be in compliance with the U.S. Bishops' "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People," based on "the completeness and accuracy of the information furnished by the Diocese" to an audit conducted last November.

The Gavin Group, Inc., an independent firm comprised largely of retired F.B.I. agents, audited the diocese for the bishops' Office of Child and Youth Protection. An agent met with Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio and diocesan officials during the three-day review.

Audits completed and found compliant in 2003 and 2004 to see whether the diocese was meeting the objectives of the bishops' charter looked at the document's 17 articles. Last year's audit focused principally on articles pertaining to safe environment programs and background evaluations, although all the other articles were reviewed, according to Msgr. Otto L. García, Vicar General, who was the lead representative of the diocese for the audit.

The agent conducting the review also spoke with the Victim Assistance Coordinator, the Diocesan Review Board, several pastors, an abuse victim, an accused priest, the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office, the diocesan Public Information Office and the Safe Environment Office.

Josephite Sister Patricia

Planning the Future of the Diocese

Series Begins, Page 22
COURAGE
A Diocesan-sponsored spiritual support group
for persons with same-sex attraction who desire to lead a chaste life.
Meetings: 1st and 3rd Monday
5:15 pm at St. Patrick’s
Women’s group meets in Queen’s Foyer Mon.
For information contact Ashley Connolly, 718-229-7148
in National Cathedral Office (212) 268-1010
ALL CALLS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Donate Your Car to the Outreach Center
"Cars for Kids" Program
BBS Reconciliation Charity
Holy Tea Donations
Free Pick up & Tune
1-800-993-8799
www.outreachcenter.org

It Is a Holy and Wholesome Thought to Pray for the Dead.
The Deadlift for Death Notices. Cards of Thanaka and Memorials are Monday at 11 am.
Call 718-965-7333

Dioecese in Compliance with Program

on prevention with a proactive approach. About 80 diocesan use
program.

Another program, Child Lures Prevention, has trained 36,435 child
in Catholic schools to recognize potential danger signs and make
smart decisions to avoid predators. in New England has more than 30 discus-
sers that use the initiative, created by Ken Wood, a former inves-
tigators. The 45,521 public school students who attend parochial religious
school classes, 21,491 have completed Child Lures training with
the remainder expected to finish the program by April 30. All public
school students also follow the state

curriculum on prevention.

Sister Patricia said that 18,027
parents have also completed the
Child Lures program and 1,330
have taken the

Since the existence of the busi-
ness, competition in the
ations of 14,548 individuals in the
Diocese have been made by

The Diocese of New York,
include 409 diocesan priests,
religious order priests, 127 pro-
phets, 2,041 teachers, 2,833
diocesan employees, 8,975 volun-
ters and 95 candidates for priestly or diaconal ordination.

500th Anniversary of Elite Corps

Pope Blesses Swiss Guards

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — On the
500th anniversary of the founding
of the world’s oldest active army,
the Swiss Guards, Pope Benedict XVI
has given his solemn blessing to
the corps for its 500 years of service.

He imparted a heartfelt apol
getic blessing to approximately 70
swiss guards gathered in the scha
and to former guards who were
watching the event from Fribourg,
Switzerland, via a live telecast link.

Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican
secretary of state, celebrated Mass
for the Swiss Guards in the Sistine
Chapel.

He highlighted the strength and
status achieved by the 150 Swiss
soldiers who make the
monthtrav from Switzerland to
Rome to protect the life and safety
of the pope.

The pope said the guards that “we
must cleanse and renew ourselves
every day in our service to God and
in our fidelity to his church.”

He added that the Swiss Guards’
spiritual motto of “Actor et Fidelis,”
meaning faithfulness, was a “daily
call to live according to such values.

The Swiss Guards kicked off
their jubilee celebrations June 21,
the date Pope Julius II welcomed
the service of Swiss soldiers, renowned for their loyalty and bravery.

Celebrations and other commem-
nation events were set to continue
throughout 2006, culminating in a
centennial of former Swiss Guards
marching to Rome from Bellinzona,
Switzerland. The guards were to
arrive in time to take part in the
annual solemnity ceremony of
new guards May 6 in the Vatican.

The Vatican and Switzerland
also were planning a series of
commemorative events and coins
to mark the 500th anniversary.

ON GUARD: Swiss Guards leave the Sistine Chapel after a special Mass at the Vatican Jan. 22. The elite corps, charged with the protection of the pope and Vatican, is celebrating its 500th anniversary. Pope Julius II welcomed the first contingent of Swiss Guards to the Vatican Jan. 22, 1506.

The pope said his special blessing for the guards was a sign of his “appreciation and recognition” of their service and fidelity.

Earlier Jan. 22, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, celebrated Mass for the Swiss Guards in the Sistine Chapel.

He highlighted the strength and status achieved by the 150 Swiss soldiers who make the monthtrip from Switzerland to Rome to protect the life and safety of the pope.

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