

Dallas bishop supported

Jason Pierce/CNS

DALLAS — More than 5,000 Catholics in the Diocese of Dallas indicated their support for Bishop Charles V. Grahmann June 29 by signing petitions at three parishes.

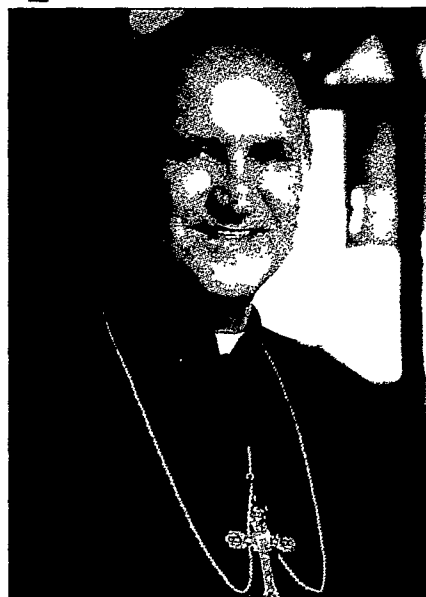
The signatures were gathered by Father Cliff Smith, pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Grand Prairie; Father Matthew Bagert, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Grand Prairie; Father Ramon Alvarez, rector, and Father Salvador Guzman, parochial vicar, of the Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe; and lay leaders in each of the parishes.

"We, the faithful of the Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe, offer our support and prayers in these difficult times. We believe in the Catholic faith as stated in the ... documents of the Second Vatican Council."

"The bishop is humbled by this huge outpouring of support," said Msgr. Glenn "Duffy" Gardner, vicar general of the diocese.

The cathedral priests personally pledged their fidelity, unity and support to the bishop in a letter representing the people's petition, stating: "While there is a group of influential Catholics in the Diocese of Dallas that may present themselves as leaders in the diocese, you are our chief pastor and the successor to the Apostles in the church of Dallas."

The petition drives came after a string of negative articles, letters to the editor and op-ed columns appeared in *The Dallas Morning News* following the announcement June 26 of the formation of the Committee of Concerned Catholics. The small group, led by Dallas lawyers William McCormack and Neil O'Brien and Dallas hotel owner Harry "Buzz" Crutcher, with 35 signatures, ap-



File photo/CNS
Dallas Bishop Charles V. Grahmann

pealed to Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, papal representative to the United States, to remove Bishop Grahmann from office.

Receiving no response, the group's leaders launched an online petition against the bishop and ads in the *Morning News*. The paper supported the group with coordinated columns on its Viewpoints page and editorials against the bishop.

Father Smith said a June 27 article in the paper about the group motivated him to appeal to his parishioners. "I had enough," he said.

The idea was the brainchild of a small group of pastors who had met shortly before the article appeared and discovered they all were "really fed up with the attacks on the bishop" in the local media, he said.

When the article appeared June 27, Father Smith drew up a letter and passed it along to Father Bagert. Both priests asked volunteers to sit at tables at the Sunday Masses making the petition available to sign.

"We didn't tell anybody to (sign the petition), and I said I wouldn't check names, but if we believe in the Catholic faith and what it teaches, we have to support the bishop. That was my homily," Father Smith said.

He said his parishioners were "eager and wanted to be a part of it," adding that he and Fathers Alvarez and Bagert have urged all the pastors in the diocese to follow suit in their parishes.

"(We) are hoping to send the message that there are far more people in support of Bishop Grahmann and the teaching of the church than those vocal few who think they can get rid of a bishop simply by petitioning Rome," he said. "It just doesn't work that way and, unfortunately, the *Morning News* is not being helpful in the matter."

Seventy-third Annual NOVENA TO SAINT ANNE

July 17 to 25, 2003

Theme: "Lord, Teach Us To Pray"

Jesus answered: "When you pray, say, 'Father, hallowed be thy name.' In the Lord's prayer we have a glimpse into the intimate life of Jesus with his father. We also have a guide for our own hearts as they move inward to the Father and outward toward life with him and for him in joy and care for this world he entrusts to us.

Guest Preacher: Fr. Timothy Keating, C.S.S.R.

Thursday, July 17 to Friday, July 25

Nine Days of Prayers, at 7:30 pm

Vespers, Sermon, Novena Prayers

Thursday, July 17	Father, who art in heaven <i>Psalms 96 + Is. 49:14-16a</i>
Friday, July 18	Hallowed be thy name <i>Is. 6: 1-8</i>
Saturday, July 19	Thy Kingdom come <i>Mark 10:35-45</i>
Sunday, July 20	Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven <i>Mark 14:32-38</i>
Monday, July 21	Give us this day, our daily bread <i>John 6:25-35</i>
Tuesday, July 22	Forgive us our trespasses <i>John 8:1-11</i>
Wednesday, July 23	As we forgive those who trespass against us <i>Matt. 18: 21-35</i>
Thursday, July 24	Lead us not into temptation <i>Matt. 4:1-11</i>
Friday, July 25	Deliver us from evil <i>John 10:7-15</i>



Saturday, July 26, 2003 at 5:15 pm Feast of Saints Anne & Joachim
Solemn Celebration of the Eucharist

Fr. Timothy Keating C.S.S.R. is from Brooklyn NY; ordained 37 years. He has worked 4 1/2 years in the inner city, has taught Theology in college and has been in retreat work for 21 years (16 years at Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua.) He is presently conducting parish missions and retreats in northern and western New York.

SAINT ANNE CHURCH

1600 Mt. Hope Avenue • Rochester, NY 14620-4598

The Church building is air-conditioned, wheelchair accessible, and looped for the hearing impaired.

RECOGNIZING

• **Divine Word Missionary Father Thang Van Le** was ordained June 7 by Bishop Raymond Kalisz, SVD, at Divine Word International Church of the Holy Spirit, Techay, Ill. Father Van Le received a bachelor's degree from Divine Word College in Epworth, Iowa, and a master's of divinity from Catholic Theological Union, Chicago. The 37-year-old is the son of Pham T. Hien and Thuan Van Le of Rochester.

• **Christian Brother Christopher Damien Hall** professed perpetual vows on June 21 at Holy Family Church in New Rochelle, N.Y. Brother Hall taught at Bishop Kearney High School in Rochester for several years, and has taught at various Catholic schools in New York and New Jersey. He is currently teaching at Archbishop Curley-Notre Dame High School in Miami, Fla.

• **Brother Brendan (George T. Croston), F.M.M.**, celebrated his 50th anniversary as a Brother of Mercy on March 8. Originally from Rochester, Brother Brendan is a graduate of Holy Rosary School and Aquinas Institute. During his 50 years as a Brother of Mercy, he has been stationed in Clarence, N.Y.; Buffalo, N.Y.; Oklahoma City, Okla.; Kansas City, Mo.; and Gallup, N.M.

• **The Susan B. Anthony House** has announced the winners of the 10th Annual Susan B. Anthony Education Contest. The following Catholic school students won prizes: **Frankie Clemente**, **Karlee McCorry** and **Elizabeth Roney** of St. Pius Tenth School in Chili won second place in the grades 4-6 performing arts category; **Karen Braunschweiger** of Our Lady of Mercy High School in Brighton won first place in the grades 7-9 poetry competition; **Mercy students Claire Mongeau** and **Kathleen Arrasmith** won first and second place, respectively, in the grades 7-9 public speaking competition; and in the essay competition, **Mercy student Jenny Eckl** won second place in the grades 7-9 category and **Lauren Parker** of Our Mother of Sorrows School in Greece won first place in the grades 4-6 category.

FARM

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• Farm owners to offer executive health care with farm operation of taking in.

• Farms hour work at one-and-a-half rate after hours.

• Farm laborer collective-bargaining.

• Sanitary farm and camps housing occupants.

• Farms support on-the-job farm workers' cooperative state law re: payrolls carry compe

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Announcements

ADOPTIONS: Catholic Courier does not have an adoption advertising. If you are a mother and adopter, call 585-529-9500. If you are wishing to be included in the list, please send info to Catholic Courier.

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