

## Helping here at home

By Mallory Matt

What do you need? How can we help? Those were the basic questions a Catholic Home Missions representative was asking when she recently visited the Diocese of Beaumont.

Jessi Poré, director of the Catholic Home Missions, visited the diocese earlier this month to assess needs and to learn how the diocese was using the funding that Home Missions had already granted four of its ministries.

Poré had opportunities to see firsthand how well Campus Ministry was using the assistance it had been given. She attended Mass at the St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel and the annual Tacky Sweater Christmas party.

Poré told Campus Ministry coordinator Kelly Delarosa, "I'm here to learn about what you do here at the Newman Center, like the activities that you have,

how you incorporate Catholic identity and involving students in the faith."

Poré learned that the Catholic Student Center was hosting College ACTS retreats, which has been very successful and has brought students into the ministry. In addition, RCIA takes place on Thursday nights with different speakers giving talks each week.

"It's funny because we're a Catholic Center but we're a big mixture," Delarosa said. "We have Baptists and Atheists that come. The socials and the fun things get them here but then that leads them to RCIA and coming to Mass."

Delarosa also talked about the free lunches provided to the students on Tuesdays after Mass. Six years ago, when she started at Campus Ministry, only 20 kids were involved, but now there are about 50 students regularly coming to the Student Center.

"I had one student who had no belief this past semester who came and did a rosary, and then he came to Mass and is continuing to get involved with us," Delarosa said.

Poré told Delarosa that she sees Campus Ministry has been very transformational.

"I can tell just by coming in how vibrant the atmosphere here is," Poré said.

Campus Ministry had received \$15,300 of a \$65,000 grant awarded to the diocese this fall. Other ministries sharing in that award are Family Life, Hispanic Ministry and Evangelization and Catechesis.

Home Mission is an arm of the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and conducts a yearly national collection that is used to help fund mission dioceses like Beaumont. The amount the diocese is granted from that April collection is tra-

ditionally larger than the money raised locally. Last year the faithful in Southeast Texas contributed a little over \$49,000.

During her December visit, Poré also had an opportunity to meet with Bishop Curtis Guillory, S.V.D., the directors of diocesan ministries as well as some of the people those ministries serve.

Poré hopes the national collection will grow this year so that Catholic Home Missions can provide more funding to mission dioceses. A diocese is designated as a mission diocese if it is in area where Catholics are in the minority and/or cannot provide basic pastoral services to Catholics without outside help.

Home Missions has been a supporter of diocesan ministries for several years and has not only offered yearly assistance to ministries but has also provided emergency funding during disasters such as Hurricanes Rita and Ike.



Jessi Poré, director of Catholic Home Missions, visits with Kelly Delarosa, coordinator of Campus Ministry, and Father Tino Barrera, director of Campus Ministry.



Jessi Poré enjoys the Tacky Sweater Christmas Party with Lamar students Katelyn Bordages, Stephanie Bermudez and Matthew Bracken with the popular pup of the Center, Kenedy.



Jessi Poré and Kelly Delarosa spend a few moments enjoying a sunny December afternoon in the Sacred Heart Rosary Garden outside of the St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel.