The Catholic
Lighthouse
The cradle of Texas Immigration

VOL. 29, NO. 6 OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS October 2015

XXVIII Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry

Saturday, October 24 • Holy Family Church, Wharton

Safeguarding the Dignity of Every Human Person

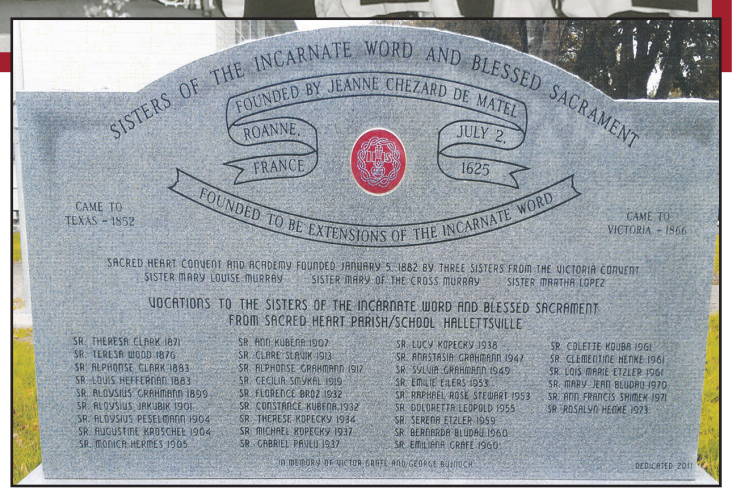
Registration, schedule and presenters information ~ See page 16

In 1966, this photo was taken of 23 of the 33 young women from Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville who have answered their call to consecrate themselves to God.

Celebrating Consecrated Life in Hallettsville

Mark your calendar for
Sunday, November 8!
Come and celebrate the Year of Consecrated Life at Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville

Over 135 consecrated women, Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, have ministered at Sacred Heart Catholic School in the past 133 years. Some of them will share reflections during the 10:30 a.m. Mass and then you are invited to gather in the school. On your way, check out the monument with the history, and the names of all the Sisters who have ministered at SHCS as well as the 33 young women from the parish who answered their call to become a Sister. Come and See and Celebrate. Finger foods will be available as you visit and browse among the displays, watch videos sharing the various ministries the Sisters are involved in today.



1. Theresa Clark 2. Teresa Wood 3. Alphonse Clark 4. Louis Heffernan 5. Aloysius Grahmann 6. Alphonse Grahmann 7. Aloysius Jakubik 8. Aloysius Peselman 9. Augustine Kroschel 10. Monica Hermes 11. Anne Kubena 12. Constance Kubena 13. Clare Slavik 14. Cecilia Smykal 15. Therese Kopecky 16. Michael Kopecky 17. Lucy Kopecky 18. Florence Broz 19. Gabriel Pavlu 20. Anastasia Grahmann 21. Sylvia Grahmann 22. Emilie Eilers 23. Raphael Rose Stewart 24. Doloretta Leopold 25. Serena Etzler 26. Bernarda Bludau 27. Emiliana Grafe 28. Colette Kouba 29. Clementine Henke 30. Lois Marie Etzler 31. Mary Jean Bludau 32. Ann Francis Shimek 33. Rosalyn Henke

A Culture of Encounter and Prayers for Life

On Wednesday, September 23, Pope Francis gave a talk to the Bishops of the United States. Before Pope Francis arrived, we had about an hour of private time for prayer in the Cathedral of Washington, D.C. During that time much of my reflection went to you, the people of the Diocese of Victoria. I feel very blessed to have been in the presence of the Holy Father and I brought each of you into the moment with my thoughts and prayers. His words to the bishops were encouraging and challenging at the same time. What struck me as central to his talk was the theme of developing a "culture of encounter."

I think the reporter from the Victoria Advocate may have picked it up well when I said that we seem to often be yelling at each other instead of talking with one another. With that I don't necessarily mean physically yelling, I mean also that sometimes we don't really take the time to listen to one another. Putting it in terms of the Prayer of St. Francis, it may mean that I need to ask: "Grant that I may not so much seek to be heard as to listen."

In the middle of his speech to the bishops Pope Francis said:

"Dialogue is our method, not as a shrewd strategy but out of fidelity to the One who never wearies of visiting the marketplace, even at the eleventh hour, to propose his offer of love (Mt 20:1-16).

Continued,
See A Culture of Encounter, pg. 12

DIOCESE

The Catholic Lighthouse

Publisher
The Most Rev.
Brendan J. Cahill

Editor
Vacant

Staff
Regina Matus-Janak
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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS
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COR MUNDUM CREA IN ME, DEUS

The Diocese of Victoria is comprised of more than 50 parishes in 69 communities.

Estimated Catholic population: 107,000.

Bishop Brendan J. Cahill's Official Photo
© 2015 Kevin Jordan Photography

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Humility and Trust

When Pope Francis spoke to the members of Congress he referred to Thomas Merton as a notable American who remains "a source of spiritual inspiration and a guide for many people." That reminded me of a prayer that I used to have taped to the mirror above my sink, and would pray every morning. This is a prayer that is called Thomas Merton's Prayer for Discernment:

O Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going,
I do not see the road ahead of me,
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself,
And that fact that I think
I am following Your will
Does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe
That the desire to please You
Does in fact please You.
And I hope I have that desire
In all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything
Apart from that desire to please You.
And I know that if I do this
You will lead me by the right road,
Though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore I will trust You always
Though I may seem to be lost
And in the shadow of death.
I will not fear,
For You are ever with me,
And You will never leave me
To make my journey alone.

Source: Thomas Merton, Pax Christi, Benet Press, Erie, PA.

The prayer of humility and trust is a beautiful way to start the day. Placing before God my desire to serve Him and then trusting that God's will somehow is fulfilled in this simple act of the humble heart are powerful prayers that lead us on the right path…. I think I just might put that prayer up on the mirror in my new home in Victoria.

Thank each of you for your warm welcome to me in the past three months. I have felt the effect of your prayers and have grown in my love and prayer for you as I visit the parish picnics, celebrate the Eucharist and speak with the school teachers and children. I've put a lot of miles on my car in these months and imagine that I'll continue spending much time on the road in this big diocese! God bless you and your families, let's keep one another in prayer,

+Brendan

Bishop Brendan's October Schedule

October

19 7:30 a.m., Prayer for Life with Diocese of Victoria, Houston Planned Parenthood

21 4:00 p.m., Building Board Meeting, 2nd Floor Chancery, Victoria

22 6:00 p.m., Serra Club Deacon's Mass & Dinner, Holy Family, Victoria

24 8:00 a.m., Diocese of Victoria Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry, Holy Family Catholic Church, Wharton

25 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Mass, Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Loreto, La Bahia, Goliad

27 10:00 a.m., God's Embrace Chapel Blessing, High Hill

28 5:30 p.m., CCD Night, St. Mary Church, Victoria

30 8:00 a.m., School Mass, St. Philip Catholic School, El Campo

November

1 12:00 p.m., Workshop on Charismatic Leadership and Prayer Service, Parish of the Nativity, Eagle Lake
4:00 p.m., All Saints Day Mass, Resurrection Cemetery, Victoria

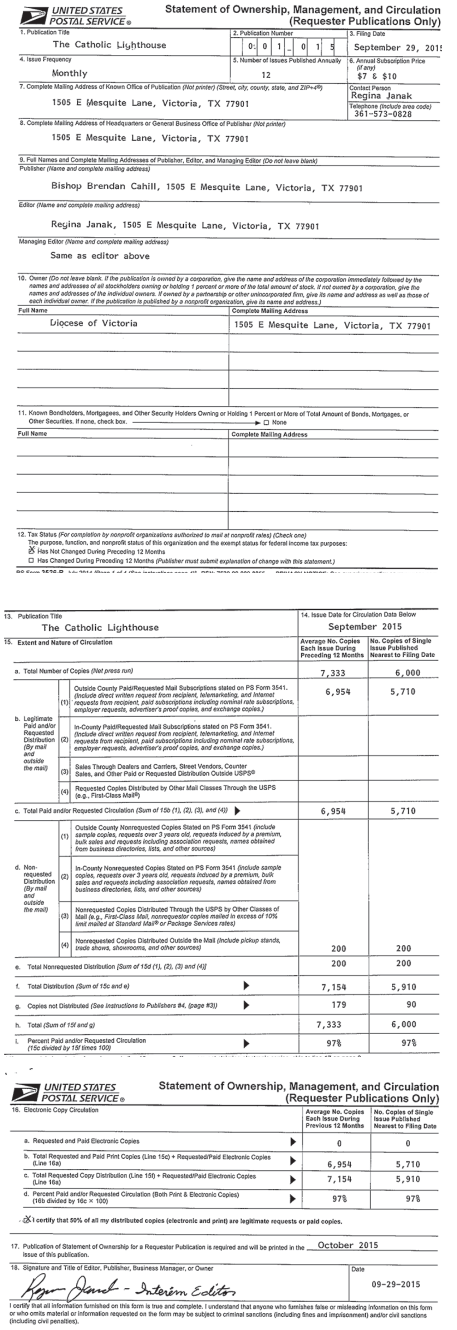
2 12:00 p.m., Memorial Mass, Catholic Daughters, KC Hall, Victoria

4 10:00 a.m., Presbyteral Council Meeting, 2nd Floor, Chancery

8 10:00 a.m., Mass for Consecrated Life, Sacred Heart, Hallettsville

9 5:00 p.m., Liturgical Commission Meeting, 1st Floor, Chancery

Postal Form 3526 Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation



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The Catholic Lighthouse	September 2015

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation			Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
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b. Legitimate Paid and/or Requested Distribution (By mail and outside the mail)	(1)	Outside County Paid/Requested Mail Subscriptions stated on PS Form 3541. (Include direct written request from recipient, telemarketing, and Internet requests from recipient, paid subscriptions including nominal rate subscriptions, employer requests, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies.)	6,954	5,710
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	(4)	Requested Copies Distributed by Other Mail Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)		
c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4)) ▶			6,954	5,710
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	(4)	Nonrequested Copies Distributed Outside the Mail (Include pickup stands, trade shows, showrooms, and other sources)	200	200
e. Total Nonrequested Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))			200	200
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and e) ▶			7,154	5,910
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4, (page #3)) ▶			179	90
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)			7,333	6,000
i. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15c divided by 15f times 100) ▶			97%	97%

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Official Appointments

Effective October 8, 2015, the **Reverend Patrick Knippenberg** is appointed parochial vicar of Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Yoakum, Texas, and the mission of St. Ann Catholic Church in Hochheim, Texas.

DSA update

2015 Diocesan Services Appeal

Diocesan Goal:	$ 1,826,700.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	$ 824,099.49
Parish Contribution Totals:	$ 758,190.38
Number of Parish Families Participating:	3,203

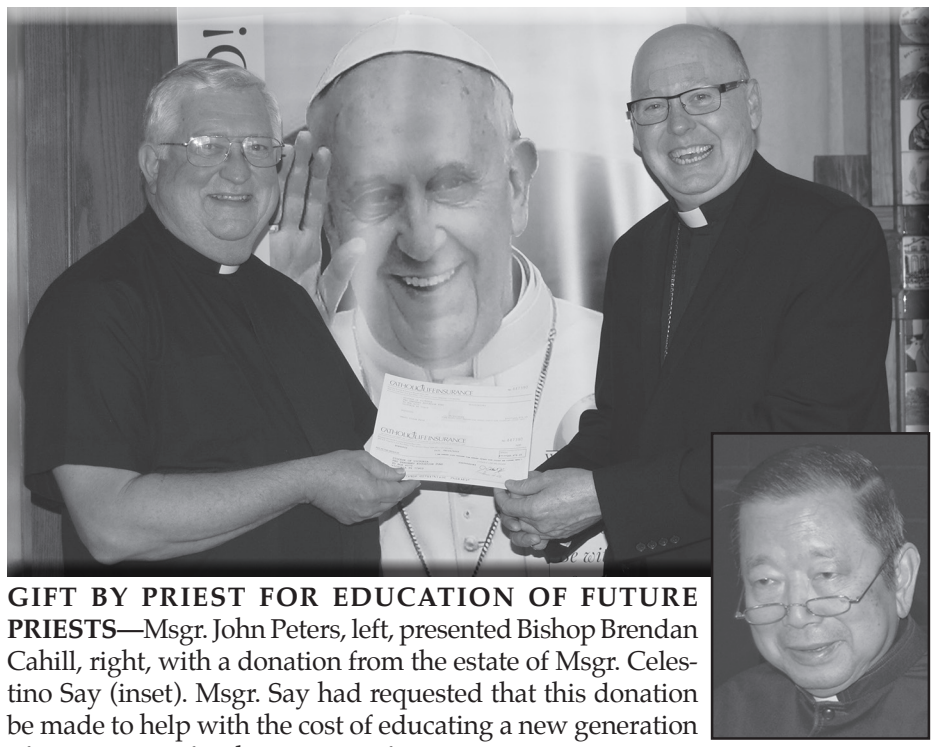
Seminary Burses

Seminary burses are a permanent fund used for the education of future priests for the Diocese of Victoria. The goal of each burse is $15,000. The interest from this amount is applied yearly to the education of seminarians. The burses are in memory of or in honor of an individual priest or lay persons, living or deceased. Publication of the burses will appear periodically when new contributions are received.

September 25, 2015

	TOTALS
General Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	$108,389.00
Donation by San Roberto Bellarmine C.D.A. Court #2275	100.00
Total	$108,489.00
Knights of Columbus Victoria Council #1329 Burse #3	
Previously reported	$14,757.50
In loving memory of Robert E. Kubesch, Sr. by K of C Victoria Co #1329	100.00
In loving memory of Joe McAdams by K of C Victoria Co #1329	100.00
In loving memory of Ronald Wayne Denker by K of C Victoria Co #1329	100.00
In loving memory of Julian Wharton by K of C Victoria Co #1329	100.00
Total	$15,157.50
Knights of Columbus Victoria Council #1329 Burse #4	
Balance From Burse #3	$157.50
In memory of Henry "Butch" Roell by K of C Victoria Co #1329	100.00
Total	$257.50
Rev. Wayne Flagg and Rev. Philip Brune	
Previously reported	$3,845.00
In honor of Donna Kunz' birthday celebration by Irene Wavra	20.00
In honor of Rev. Wayne Flagg's 27th Ordination Anniversary to the priesthood by: Victor and Gail Dvorak	50.00
M/M DeWayne Dvorak	100.00
Lambert, Carol & Leigh Ann Brune	25.00
In memory of Billy Ray Green by Darry W. & Barbara Meyer	20.00
Total	$4,060.00
Rev. Timothy Kosler	
Previously reported	$150.00
In memory of Eugene A. Patalik by Elizabeth C. Patalik	50.00
Total	$200.00
Rev. Kristopher L. Fuchs	
Previously reported	$1,020.00
In honor of Rev. Kristopher Fuch's priestly ordination by Margaret Zahn	20.00
Total	$1,040.00
Rev. Scott Joseph Hill	
Previously reported	$1,150.00
In thanksgiving for Rev. Scott Hill by M/M DeWayne Dvorak	100.00
In honor of Rev. Scott Hill's 28th birthday celebration by Daryl & Joan Hill	28.00
Total	$1,278.00
Very Rev. Matthew Huehlefeld Burse #2	
In honor of George and Almarene Bucek's 65th Wedding Anniversary by Henry and Carolyn Janak	20.00
Total	$20.00
Rev. Charles Owusu Dwomoh	
Previously reported	$305.00
In honor of Rev. Charles Dwomoh for being a priest at St. John the Baptist Church, Hungerford for 5 years by Margaret Zahn	20.00
Total	$325.00
Rev. Msgr. Edward C. Bartsch	
Previously reported	$12,261.00
A special intention by Allan and Cynthia Stryk	250.00
Total	$12,511.00
Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Burse #7	
Previously reported	$8,600.00
Donation in memory of Vernon Drozd by Willie E. Barborak	10.00
Donation in honor of the Military by Soila Sanchez	10.00
In memory of Rev. Msgr. Celestino Say by: Bob & Louise Pesek	20.00
Arthur & Rose Mary Etzler	50.00
Total	$8,690.00
Rev. Henry C. Rachunek Burse #4	
Previously reported	$2,455.00
In memory of Rev. Henry Rachunek by Margaret Zahn	20.00
Total	$2,475.00
Rev. Msgr. Celestino Say	
Previously reported	$13,389.00
In memory of Margie Brosch by: Franklin and Leona Sedlar	25.00
Catholic Life Ins Br #51	250.00
Our Lady of Lourdes Altar Society	300.00
Total	$13,964.00
St. Mary Church, High Hill	
Previously reported	$1,060.00
In loving memory of Eugene A. Patalik by Elizabeth C. Patalik	500.00
Total	$1,560.00
St. John the Baptist Church, St. John In Memory of Rev. Brian Crookes Burse #2	
Previously reported	$5,741.00
In memory of Eugene Patalik, Sr. by Dolores Janak	20.00
Total	$5,761.00
Rev. Joe Vrana, In Honor of his Golden Jubilee Year	
Previously reported	$855.00
In honor of Rev. Joe Vrana for his 50 years in the priesthood by Hubert and Elizabeth (Jurek) Janak	100.00
Total	$955.00
Rev. Dan Morales Seminary Burse in Honor of his Work for Vocations	
Previously reported	$2,706.00
In honor of Rev. Dan Morales' 25th ordination anniversary to the priesthood by:	
Lambert and Carol Brune	25.00
Iris S. Bailey	100.00
Paz and Andrea Morales	25.00
Victor and Gail Dvorak	50.00
Daryl and Joan Hill	250.00
Total	$3,156.00
Rev. Msgr. John Hanacek Burse #2	
Previously reported	$3,716.00
Donations by John J. and Hazel Kobersky	
In honor of Lillie Sulak's 103rd birthday celebration	20.00
In honor of Hazel Kobersky's 90th birthday celebration	20.00
In honor of Rev. Jacob Koether's ordination to the priesthood and his birthday celebration	20.00
In loving memory of Shirley Knapek	20.00
In loving memory of Raymond Hubenak	20.00
Total	$3,816.00
Rev. Msgr. John C. Bily Burse #2	
Previously reported	$3,694.00
In honor of Rev. Msgr. John C. Bily by Jane Schneider	50.00
Total	$3,744.00
Sister Denise Bowers Burse #2	
Previously reported	$765.00
In loving memory of Kathryn Dannels by:	
Willie and Sharion Chilek	25.00
Clem and Shirley Chilek	25.00
Total	$815.00

Those wishing to begin a burse or to contribute to an existing seminary burse may do so by sending their contributions with the appropriate burse designation to:
Diocese Of Victoria • **Seminary Burses**
P. O. Box 4070 • Victoria, Tx 77903



GIFT BY PRIEST FOR EDUCATION OF FUTURE PRIESTS—Msgr. John Peters, left, presented Bishop Brendan Cahill, right, with a donation from the estate of Msgr. Celestino Say (inset). Msgr. Say had requested that this donation be made to help with the cost of educating a new generation of seminarians for the Diocese of Victoria.

Families must do more than just talk about vocations, speakers say

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) – If more people are going to answer the call to religious life, it will take more than words to attract their attention, according to four women religious who delivered a Sept. 23 presentation on vocations at the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia. Parents must model what it means to have a relationship with Christ, they said, inviting children to discover their own call from God. "Children are nurtured when they see Mom and Dad pray – not only at church on Sunday, but at home every day," said Mother Ann Marie Karlovic, prioress general of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia, based in Nashville, Tennessee. "They are nurtured when they see their parents take time away from the TV, computer or other distractions to be quiet, to reflect and to read Scripture." With so many cultural distractions, she said, it is necessary for families to be more intentional about living their faith. When religious art is displayed on walls and Scripture stories are read to children, she said, homes can become the setting in which children "breathe in the beauty of their faith." Sister Regina Marie Gorman, vicar general of the Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles, said children learn about God long before they learn to pray. It happens when they feel loved by their parents, she said.

DIOCESE

SISTERLY THOUGHTS

by Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS

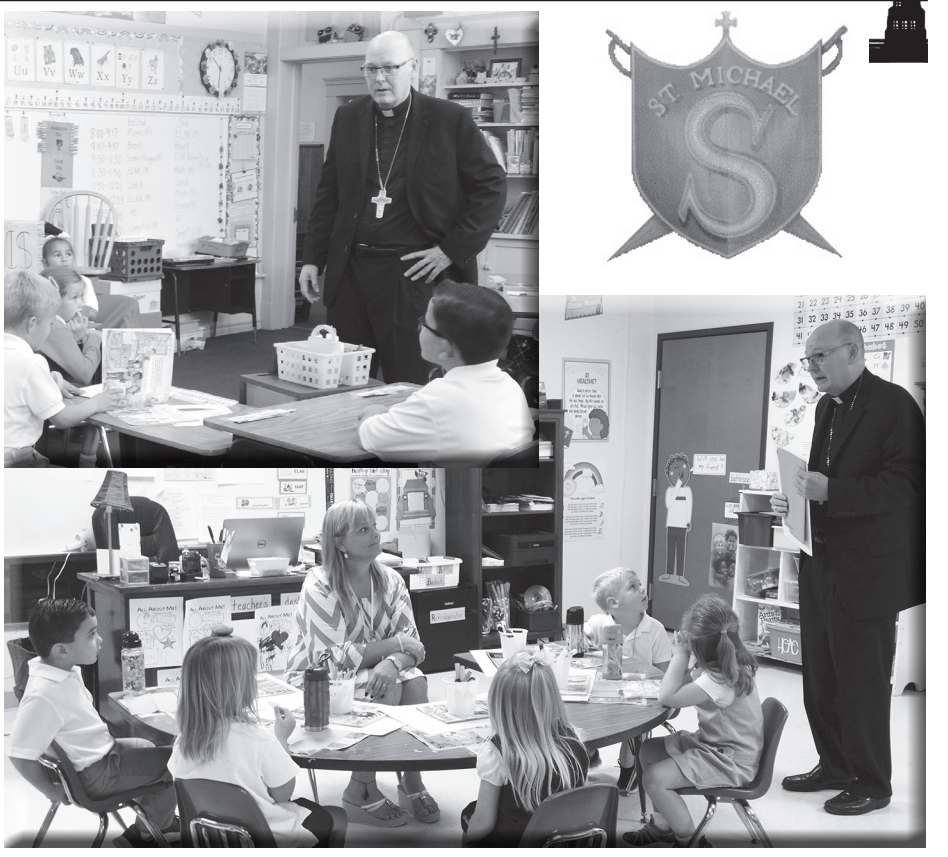
Beacons during Stormy Times

Some years ago I was talking to a young lady who had come to the U.S. to study in order to become an engineer. She had come from a small island in the Caribbean Sea. When I asked her what she found most challenging in this country, she replied that she was very confused about what was right and wrong. When I asked her what she meant, she explained that in her home country everyone was Catholic; thus civil laws were in accord with Catholic teaching. She didn't have to worry about whether actions that were legal according to civil law might be morally wrong. Things she saw and heard puzzled her.

Maybe those of us who have lived in a society where our moral compasses have been tested have a greater awareness of the fact that although something may be legal, it might not be morally right, that it may degrade the dignity of persons or be detrimental to the well-being of society.

Perhaps, through our example and actions, we may be the beacons that guide others through the confusion that they may be experiencing in a world that seems to have lost its respect for quality of life for each person and for all creation. Moreover, through our understanding and concern for those who may have been misled, we may be able to extend a helping hand, a listening ear, and an encouraging word; by doing so, we may be able to lift them up, dust them off, and get them pointed on their way to a clearer awareness and understanding of the dignity of all God's creation, especially all humanity.

So let us all be those beacons that guide our fellow pilgrims through stormy contentious times on the journey towards greater respect for each person and a more harmonious society in which civil laws are in accord with Catholic teaching.



BISHOP VISITS WEIMAR—The students and staff of St. Michael Catholic School in Weimar welcomed Bishop Brendan Cahill on Friday, September 18. Bishop Cahill celebrated Mass with the students and then spent the rest of the morning visiting with all the students in their classrooms.

Grandparents honored

Courtesy of *The Schulenburg Sticker*

MASS AND RECEPTION FOR GRANDPARENTS—Coinciding with Sunday, September 13, as National Grandparents Day, the St. Rose School in Schulenburg, weekly student Mass on Thursday, September 10, at St. Rose Church was dedicated to grandparents. Recognizing what an important role grandparents play in the family, especially in faith formation, St. Rose of Lima School takes time each year to honor grandparents. Following Mass, a short breakfast reception was hosted in the cafeteria. Grandparents then visited their grandchildren's classrooms to see work and meet the teachers. Some students even presented gifts to their grandparents. In the photo at left, kindergartner Callie Janak presents her grandmother, Debbie Wick, with an art project she made for Grandparents Day. In the photo at the right, grandparents Sherry and Corky Bubela hug their granddaughters Ava and Bryn Bubela after Mass. The Catholic Church recognizes Sts. Joachin and Anne as the parents of Mary and grandparents of Jesus – their special intercession is asked upon all grandparents, living and deceased.

Diocese of Victoria Catholic Schools
5K and 1 Mile Run/Walk
Saturday, November 14 • Riverside Park • Victoria
Join all of the schools in the Diocese of Victoria
for a morning of fun and faith.
Entry Fee $10 pre- registration
after October 30, $15 plus can goods
Forms available online at
www.victoriadiocese.org or any Catholic School

Pathways with Patti

Fall Vermont Tour
Oct. 16-24, 2015
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ALTAR SOCIETY ELECTS OFFICERS–The Altar Society at Holy Family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus Church in Victoria, elected officers for the 2015-2016 term. They are from left: President - Betty Frederick; Recording Secretary - Cathy Myers; Corresponding Secretary - Kathy Motley; Second Vice President - Barbara Wenske; Parliamentarian - Melicent Bryarly; Treasurer - Kay Jasek; First Vice President - Maria Sobczak. Board members and Committee Chairpersons meet the first Monday of each month at 5:00 p.m. and regular monthly meeting for all members meet the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

St. Michael's Catholic School

Annual H.S.A. Fall Festival

Sunday, October 25

Homestyle Chicken-fried Steak Dinner from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. • $10 p/p
performance by country music artist, Clay Crockett

5K Run, Booths & Games
Artisan's Corner

Live & Silent Auctions

Bingo & Cakewalk

Proceeds Benefit St. Michael's School • Parochial School Established in 1877

You are invited to

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL

Sunday, November 8, 2015

Victoria Community Center

Doors open at 10am

Serving Our Traditional

TURKEY AND DRESSING LUNCH

Adults, $9.00 Children 12 & under $4.00
Serving starts at 11am
Plates to go $9.00
Curb sevice available at 10:30am
Live Auction - Begins at 12:30pm
Silent Auction - 10am - 3pm

Raffle Country Store

Quilts · Antiques · Crafts · Collectibles
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Sts. Cyril and Methodius

RESTORING HISTORY—Work in progress at Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Shiner. Picnic profits are being used to preserve the huge stained glass windows in our beautiful church. Several of the smaller windows have already been repaired. Now the first of the large windows to be carefully removed and sent to be completely reworked piece by piece. The last time the windows have been completely reworked were in 1990. Over time the welds start to separate. Restoration has always been high on the list of our historical structure to preserve what was built in 1921. So if you're wondering what we do with picnic money, here are some pictures. The church windows project has been on hold pending the results of efforts to obtain grants. Restoration bid of each window is $38K. Although the initial grant proposals were denied, efforts are continuing to find additional funding. At this time using not only the picnic profits but funds from individual donors, and the repair fund. In the meantime, they found it necessary to proceed with this particular window since it was the one most in need of repairs.

CDA LEADERS ATTEND WORKSHOP—The leadership team for the Catholic Daughters of the Americas traveled across Texas gathering for a three day Organizational Meeting at the Oblate Renewal Center in San Antonio, August 21-23, to present goals, operating procedures, and tools for the 2015-2017 term. The organizational workshop was designed to ensure that Texas' sixty two (62) District Deputies and State Chairmen are well prepared to undertake the duties and responsibilities of their office. Victoria Diocese Leadership front row left-right, Darice Miksch, Ways and Means state co-chair and PRC president; Gussie Machalec, state financial review; Carolyn Malik, past state regent and family state chairman; Cynthia Grigar, district deputy #28; Suzanne Sykowski, district deputy #37; center row, Alice Figirova,district deputy #14; Terri Beltran, state treasurer; Joan Schramek, district deputy #34; Georgia Mikosh, local court scrapbook contest state chairman; back row, Anne Martin, Read Across America state chairman; Mary Rose Barta, Respect Life state chairman; Virginia Olsovsky, district deputy #30; Carmen Longoria, district deputy #29.

Echoes 3.0 – A Grand Experience

Time is precious to everyone, and catechists and parish catechetical leaders are no different. However, formation and training in the teachings of the Church is essential for those who have been called to pass on the faith to children and youth in parish catechetical programs. Consequently, the catechetical office launched Echoes 3.0, an online catechist formation program, which is the most comprehensive tool available for methodology, theology, and catechetical training for catechists and parish catechetical leaders.

The online version of Echoes of Faith (Echoes 3.0) allows catechists learning experiences that may not be available to them otherwise. Distance and times of scheduled face-to-face classes may render classes impossible for the busy catechist who may have heavy family and/or occupational obligations.

The Echoes 3.0 modules begin with a spiritual reflection on which catechists can reflect on their own spiritual development and where God has been recognized in the blessings and challenges of their personal life. The modules place emphasis on the spiritual development of the catechist so that they can intensify their relationship with God and thus be able to instruct students by example as well as by instruction. Hypothetical scenarios that are presented in the modules require that the catechist actively consider his/her response to the follow-up questions. There is no sitting back listening to what other catechists are saying in a traditional face-to-face class.

Sac Dao, parish catechetical leader at Assumption Chapel in Palacios who began using Echoes 3.0 this summer stated, "My experience with Echoes 3.0 was wonderful. Convenience was one the reasons why I liked the program so much. I was able to complete almost all the available courses in one summer at a time when I didn't have to go to work and could proceed with the lessons at my own speed and be at the location where I am most comfortable – home. The quality of the Echoes 3.0 program was the other reason. The articles, the speakers on the videos and most of the questions were chosen and done at an excellent level – very worthwhile for my time because I did learn a lot and had to slow down to reflect on my journey/life of faith. For these reasons, I feel I have become a better disciple and have gained more knowledge and have a better understanding about my Catholic faith and my faith journey. The small segments that were designed in each module made each lesson more manageable and more tolerable for my busy schedule, also. After completing each segment I received a sense of accomplishment and that inspired me to move on to the next segment and from one module to another module. Lastly, I was able save my notes and save the articles for later use or to share with other people.

Sac Dao

Maria Aldana, parish catechetical leader at St. Robert Catholic Church in El Campo, said that the training and formation, which she received from the catechetical and theological modules of Echoes 3.0 was a 'grand experience' for her. She said, "it became a 'friendly online adventure' each time she opened another module." Aldana also said that Echoes 3.0 lends itself for self-pacing, the catechist interest level, assessment, enrichment and review.

Maria Aldana

It is an outstanding way to provide for and to allow ownership of one's ongoing faith formation even with a busy schedule. My expectation was and is ongoing transformation and life changing experiences, and Echoes 3.0 was a means for my own personal spiritual growth as well as furthering my understanding of the Catholic faith. I personally invite you (parish catechetical leaders and catechists) to take advantage of the opportunity to learn and grow with Echoes of Faith 3.0 and have a "Grand Experience".

This catechist formation program is available free of charge for all catechists and parish catechetical leaders for one year. Call Christella Alvarez or Sherry Kainer at (361) 573-0828 for more information or visit **www.victoriadiocese.org**.

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Bishop Brendan and Sr. Digna Vela welcoming the participants from the Victoria and Hallettsville areas during a Pastoral Institute Extended Program course on the Gospel of John and the Book of Revelation. There are currently 90 adult Catholics participating in the three-year program. For more information visit the diocesan website: **www.victoriadiocese.org** or call Christella Alvarez at (361) 827-7171.

DIOCESE OF VICTORIA PASTORAL INSTITUTE

Extended Program

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The New Testament contains 21 epistles of which 13 are attributed to the writings of St. Paul. Modern scholars agree that St. Paul wrote at least seven of the 13 letters. Insight into each category of the letters as well as an explanation of Paul's fundamental teaching of salvation history, Jesus, the Church, and Christian living will be discussed.

Pauline Writings and New Testament Letters
(Course is once a week for 6 weeks)
Tuesdays: October 13 through November 17
Morning 9:15-11:30 a.m. or Evening 7:00-9:15 p.m.

Online registration is available!

Cost for each 6-week course is $20.
To register online, visit
www.victoriadiocese.org/extended-online-registration
or call Sherry Kainer at
(361) 573-0828 ext. 2223

Extended Program Instructor:
Sr. Digna Vela, IWBS

The Extended Program will be at the Chancery in Victoria and via distance learning at Sacred Heart Church in Hallettsville.

Short Term Program

Echoes of Faith 3.0 is being made available through funds from the Capital Campaign at NO COST to catechists and parish catechetical leaders in the Diocese of Victoria. Register for a *free* one-year subscription at **www.victoriadiocese.org** (home page scroll down to the Echoes link). For more information, contact Christella Alvarez at (361) 827-7171, calvarez@victoriadiocese.org or Sherry Kainer at (361) 573-0828 ext. 2223, pisecretary@victoriadiocese.org.

On hand at the future site of the Bishop Forest Museum recently were, left-right, Blinn-Schulenburg Campus Director Becky Garlick, Glenda Strobel Stavinoha, Bishop Forest Class of '62; architect with Cutright & Allen Kenneth Miksch, Bishop Forest Class of '76; Francis Ripper, Bishop Forest Class of '64; Ed Janecka, Bishop Forest Class of '64; Carol Strobel Kana, Bishop Forest Class of '64; contractor James Hajovsky, and Eugene Berger, Bishop Forest Class of '62. The museum will be located on the north end of what was the Bishop Forest basketball court. The building is now part of the Blinn College-Schulenburg campus. (Photo courtesy of Darrell Vyvjala, *The Schulenburg Sticker*)

Resurrecting Bishop Forest High School with museum on local campus

SCHULENBURG–Construction on the Bishop Forest High School Museum is now underway, according to Carol Strobel Kana, secretary-treasurer of the alumni association that is managing all aspects of the project.

Contractors are on the job, the display cases have arrived and a treasure-trove of memorabilia is already stored on-site at Blinn College in Schulenburg where the museum will be located," Kana said. "It's exciting to see this project, which has been in the planning stages for four years, move toward completion."

Bishop Forest High School opened in September 1956 with 56 freshmen and 27 sophomore students registered. Enrollment in the Catholic school peaked at 278 students in 1964. By 1966, 410 students had graduated representing not only the city of Schulenburg, but also the surrounding communities of High Hill, Dubina, Ammansville, St. John, Hostyn, Holman, Weimar, Moravia, Praha, Columbus and Flatonia. The school closed its doors in 1989 due to changing times that affected enrollment and different funding priorities of the church.

"Many people have asked, 'Why bother with a museum? Bishop Forest High School is history,' Kana said. "And that's exactly why members of the alumni have worked hard to make this museum happen. Schools like Bishop Forest started up after the one-room schools closed. They certainly left their mark in history and we think our school did, too.

"We also are keenly aware that as the years go by, the harder it gets to preserve pieces of local history like Bishop Forest High School," she added. We lose former students and memorabilia disappears."

The Bishop Forest Alumni Association gratefully accepts tax-deductible donations from former students, as well as anyone interested in local historical landmark preservation. The association also hopes the museum will be remembered with memorial gifts honoring alumni and former teachers.

For more information about helping the Bishop Forest High School Museum prosper, call Kana at (979) 263-5654 or email her at ckana@cvctx.com. Checks should be made out to Bishop Forest Alumni Association and mailed to Carol Kana, 7640 Anders Bottom Road, La Grange, TX 78945.

Reprinted with permission from *The Schulenburg Sticker*.

From A Pastor's Desk

By Rev. Tim Kosler
St. Rose of Lima Church, Schulenburg

Answering the question who Jesus is may appear quite simple for those who label themselves a Christian. But how much does the Jesus of our minds resemble the Jesus who asks the question, "Who do People say that I am?"

We have heard his story over and over. We have even told it over and over. But is the story we tell about the real Jesus or one we have invented? Is he a plastic Jesus molded in our image and likeness, or is the Jesus of our faith the real Jesus who invites us to pattern ourselves in his image and likeness?

NEW BUS FOR SACRED HEART—A big thank you from the Sacred Heart School, Hallettsville, to Frank and Elrose Migl for the donation of the new school bus. Pictured are Caleb Krischke, student council president; Blake Rother, grandson, Kevin Haas, SHS principal; Frank Migl, Bishop Brendan Cahill, Elrose Migl, Msgr. John Peters, Clay Rother and Ryan Mudd, grandsons.

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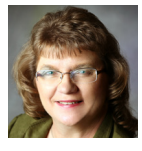
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DIOCESE

New Associates of the Incarnate Word, seated left to right making their consecration, Virginia Coronado from Bloomington; Donna Flores from Yorktown; Kathleen Gay Barrera from Victoria; Theresa and Rudy Bordovsky made a perpetual commitment; middle row, LuLu Gonzales, Pauline Culak both from Victoria; Lynda Zak from Hallettsville and Josie Gonzales from Victoria; back row: Bishop Brendan Cahill, Sister Emiliana Grafe, Joyce Wheeler, Manuel Gonzales both from Victoria; and Sister Stephana Marbach.

Incarnate Word Celebrates with New Associates

Incarnate Word Convent Chapel was filled on Sunday, September 13, 2015, with excitement. The entrance procession included nine men and women who, after more than a year of prayer, study and discernment, had come before the Sisters and about 85 Associates, to make their consecration as Associates of the Incarnate Word. They also invited family members to witness this joyful occasion.

Many others renewed their commitments for one or five years.

Bishop Brendan Cahill celebrated the Mass and presided at the Consecration and Renewal along with the Superior, Sister Stephana Marbach and their director, Sister Emiliana Grafe. Also con-celebrating Mass with the bishop were Associate Father Michael Petering, Chaplain Father Phi Nguyen, Father Charles Otsiwah and Father Philip Brune.

Public Servants Honored by KC's

On Tuesday, September 15, the Holy Family Knights of Columbus Council #9088, held its 28th Annual Public Servants Appreciation Dinner at Holy Family Activity Center. Nearly 350 public servants and KC members along with their spouses attended the event. A dinner was served and featured guest speaker Bishop Brendan Cahill, of the Diocese of Victoria, pictured. Bishop Cahill said never to underestimate the power of prayer and he thanked the public servants for their service and dedication to the community of Victoria.

A BLESSING FOR ANIMALS—The annual blessing of pets was held throughout the diocese for the feast of St. Francis of Assisi which is October 4. At Our Lady of Victory School Bishop Brendan Cahill and Father Kristopher Fuchs blessed the animals on October 2.

ANNUAL SAFE ENVIRONMENT WORKSHOPS—In the month of September Melissa Perales (inset), director for the Office of Child and Youth Protection has conducted 5 Workshops---2 in Victoria, 1 in La Grange, 1 in Bay City and 1 in Edna and trained over 120 individuals. Each Safe Environment trainer, site administrator and transportation facilitator received pertinent information regarding changes to the USCCB auditing process.

100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED—Holy Cross Church, Yorktown, celebrates 100th anniversary of the church building. The Most Reverend Brendan Cahill, bishop of the Diocese of Victoria; Reverend Roger Hawes, pastor of Holy Cross, and members of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus within the diocese assisted in the celebration.

Charismatic Leadership Workshop

A Workshop on Charismatic Leadership will be hosted by the Parish of the Nativity in Eagle Lake on Sunday, November 1, from 12:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Parish of the Nativity, Eagle Lake. Join Bishop Brendan J. Cahill, Father Robert Guerra, pastor, and guest speaker Jim Murphy for talks (English and Spanish), prayer and information on Charismatic worship. The theme of the workshop is: *Experience the Touch of the Holy Spirit*. Come learn about this church-approved, spirit-filled style of worship.

Bishop Cahill

Father Guerra

Jim Murphy is the founder and president of Vera Cruz Communications. He has been involved in youth ministry on parish, diocesan, national and international levels and served as a member of several parish pastoral teams and worked in Religious Education programs including adult formation programs. Jim is also the former chairman of the National Service Committee for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and a member of the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Service, whose offices are located at the Vatican, in Rome. In 1992, inspired by the American Bishops' letter Heritage and Hope, Jim undertook a 4,200 mile journey on foot across America, carrying a 6 foot cross in an effort of prayer and evangelization. The journey took 18 months and 14 pairs of shoes! Jim currently serves as a Country Coordinator for Mexico, organizing and leading regular mission trips to serve the impoverished in Mexico City.

Jim Murphy

Jim and his wife Susan live in Western Michigan near Lake Michigan with their son John Patrick.

The Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Wendy Eggert, director • Ryan Leos, associate director
ym@victoriadiocese.org • (361) 573-0828 • **www.victoriadiocese.org**

Calendar of Events

October 15 – Foundations – Pastoral Care
October 18 – Retreat Formation – Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Ganado – 3:30-5:30 p.m. (Please register)
November 1 – YLT - Chancery
November 12 – Foundations – Leadership Development-Planning and Programming
December 10 – Foundations – Prayer and Worship
December 13 – YLT - Ganado

2016
January 9-10 – YLT retreat (Cooper Farms)
February 4 – Foundations – Justice and Service
February 28 – Youth Spectacular-El Campo
March 3 – Ethics and Crisis Management – Policy and Procedures
March 6 – Confirmation Retreat (Watch website for updates)
March 11-13 – Abbey Youth Fest (Registration coming in September)
April 3 – Confirmation Retreat (Watch website for updates)
April 7 – Foundations – Retreat Formation
April 24 – Camp David Planning
June 12-14 – Camp David (Jr. High Session 1)
June 15 – Camp David (Elementary Session)
June 15-17 – Camp David (Jr. High Session 2)
June 20-23 – D-Week
July 9-17 – Rocky Mountain High

YOAKUM JCDA INCREASES MEMBERSHIP—Nine new members were welcomed and installed into Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas (JCDA) #206 of Yoakum on September 20, 2015. The new members who agreed to promote service to others were installed by Catholic Daughter Members Bennie Gerdes and Local Regent, Lorie Lacina. The new members are front row: Jaliegh Ramirez, Kaylee Frazer, Kamryn Frazer, Alyssa Dominguez, Gracee Respondek. Back row: Krystal Frazer, Jonah Hermes, Erin Malinovsky (not pictured is new member Shelby Frazer). The JCDA kicked off the 2015-2016 action packed year. The members will focus each meeting and extra activities on the beatitudes and will learn about having a BE-ATTITUDE. The officers for this year will be Flag Girl- Sophie Jahn; Vice President- Shelby Stary; President- Brittany Moreno; and Secretary- Alex Henkes.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING BEGINS—The Diocese of Victoria Youth Leadership Training (YLT) began it's new year on Sunday, September 13, at the Chancery Office. Thirty-five young adults attended the first training. These trainings will lead up to help staff confirmation retreat, vacation bible school, Camp David and many more activities happening throughout the diocese. These young people learn leadership skills, trusting one another, responsibilities and much more. The sessions are held monthly at different locations sponsored by the Youth Office, with Wendy Eggert, director and Ryan Leos, assistant director, along with many more adults who volunteer their time with this program.

STJ DONATES SUPPLIES—The St. Joseph High School's Marianist Life Community (MLC) recently held a school supply drive to support the area CCD programs. The STJ student body donated supplies and gave them to the directors of the CCD's at Our Lady of Victory, Holy Family, Our Lady of Sorrows, Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Mary. Pictured are the CCD directors and members of the St. Joseph High School MLC after the presentation on September 21.

Reporting Abuse

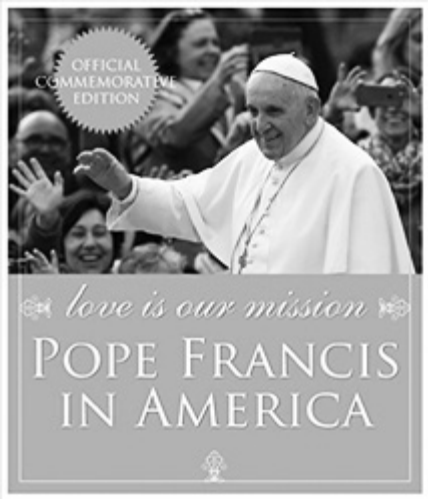
If you or someone you know has been sexually abused by a member of the clergy or other church personnel, you can register a complaint.

- Call the bishop or the chancellor at the Chancery at (361) 573-0828; **or**
- Call Fr. Gary Janak (361) 575-4741 or Sr. Emilie Eilers (361) 575-7111, Coordinators of Pastoral Care and Outreach; **or**
- Mark your letter "Personal and Confidential". Write to: Most Rev. Brendan J. Cahill, Diocese of Victoria, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903.

We will also help you bring your concerns to Church officials outside the diocese if the abuse occurred elsewhere and you now reside in the Diocese of Victoria. If you are unsure about bringing forth a complaint or need more information, please contact: Fr. Gary Janak at (361) 575-4741.

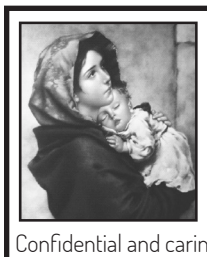
Reporting Child Abuse Hotline • 1 (800) 252-5400 • www.txabusehotline.org
If you know or suspect a child or person has been abused or mistreated, you are required to report it to the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services or to a law enforcement agency within 48 hours.
If the person is in immediate danger, call 911.

NEWS



'Love Is Our Mission' commemorative book on pope's trip coming Oct. 30

CINCINNATI (CNS) — Pre-print orders reached 5,000 Sept. 21 for a commemorative book on Pope Francis' trip to Cuba and the United States that is being produced by Franciscan Media Books, an imprint of Franciscan Media, with content provided by Catholic News Service. The same day "Love Is Our Mission: Pope Francis in America," as the book will be titled, was at the top of Amazon.com's pre-release list. Franciscan Media announced Sept. 9 it has partnered with CNS and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to produce the official commemorative book documenting Pope Francis' historic Sept. 19-27, 2015, pilgrimage to Cuba and the United States. The 128-page glossy hardcover is scheduled to be released Oct. 30. "Love Is Our Mission" will feature photographs and on-the-scene reporting from CNS, whose reporters, photographers and videographers will have special close-up access throughout the pope's visit. The editorial team of Franciscan Media's St. Anthony Messenger, the national, Catholic family magazine, will compile the book. List price is $19.99. Pre-orders available at **store.usccb.org** and will deliver in late November in time for Christmas! Product Code: 7-898



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Argentine family on 13,000-mile road trip to Philadelphia to see pope

RALEIGH, N.C. (CNS) – The Walker family filed through the side entrance of Sacred Heart Cathedral in Raleigh. A bag on her shoulder and a 3-year-old on her hip, mom Noel Zemborain smiled. A pack at his waist, dad Catire Walker held the door as their three older children passed by. At least 50 adults from Father Chesco Garcia's Bible study were awaiting the arrival. They clapped and cheered at the announcement; some of their children twirled in the aisle. It isn't every day one meets travelers who've logged 13,000 miles in a 1980 Volkswagen Kombi bus. The Walker family departed Buenos Aires, Argentina, in March. Their goal was to reach Pope Francis and the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, which opened Sept. 22 and officially ended with a Mass celebrated by the pope Sept. 27 on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. Earlier that day the whole family got their wish – they were granted an audience with the pope. CBS News reported there were laughs and hugs all around, and the Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, said meeting the family touched the pope "very, very much."

Dublin to host next World Meeting of Families – in 2018

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) – Irish pilgrims in Philadelphia shared their excitement after Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, president of the Pontifical Council for the Family, announced the 2018 World Meeting of Families would be held in Dublin. Irish pilgrim Mary Fitzgibbon's reaction was raw when she spoke with Catholic News Service. She had traveled to Philadelphia with her husband, Michael, and five children, ages 2-14, but had missed Archbishop Paglia's announcement Sept. 27. She heard it first from CNS. "I'm shaking," she said, explaining she had written a letter of appeal to the papal nuncio to Ireland, asking if the next World Meeting of Families could be held in Ireland "because we need it." "The faith is still deep there and has taken such a beating," she said. She described present-day Ireland as being in "a very difficult place, where there's been a push for a secular agenda" and "strong anti-church sentiment, particularly driven by the media. Marriages are in a bad way. Many people have lost the sense of what marriage is," said Fitzgibbon, who lives in Tralee, County Kerry.

Sunday Readings from Oct. 11- Nov. 15

October 11 - 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Wisdom 7:7-11
Psalms 90:12-13, 14-15, 16-17
Hebrews 4:12-13
Mark 10:17-30

October 18 - 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 53:10-11
Psalms 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22
Hebrews 4:14-16
Mark 10:35-45

October 25 - *30th Sunday in Ordinary Time*
Jeremiah 31:7-9
Psalms 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6
Hebrews 5:1-6
Mark 10:46-52

November 1 - Solemnity of All Saints
Revelations 7:2-4, 9-14
Psalms 24:1BC-2, 3-4AB, 5-6
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12A

November 8 - 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Kings 17:10-16
Psalms 146:7, 8-9, 9-10
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44

November 15 - 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Daniel 12:1-3
Psalms 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11
Hebrews 10:11-14, 18
Mark 13:24-32

For daily and Sunday readings, as well as a daily reflection video, visit
www.usccb.org/bible/readings.
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Pope urges U.S. Catholics to keep enthusiasm, welcome newcomers

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) – Pope Francis ended his trip to the United States with a call for Catholics to keep the enthusiasm of the visit, while continuing to welcome newcomers and care for creation. "Do not let your enthusiasm for Jesus, his church, our families, and the broader family of society run dry," Pope Francis said at Philadelphia International Airport, prior to flying back to Rome. "I pray that our days of prayer and reflection on the importance of the family for a healthy society will inspire families to continue to strive for holiness and to see the church as their constant companion, whatever the challenges they may face." In just over five full days in the U.S., Pope Francis reaffirmed the importance of church and family life, pleaded for inclusive attitudes toward immigrants, reiterated the right of religious freedom and called for action on climate change and care for creation. The trip reaffirmed the pope's enormous popularity with Catholics and non-Catholics alike as large crowds convened – even with tight security – while media coverage was comprehensive. Pope Francis, who met again with Vice President Joe Biden just prior to leaving Sept. 27, acknowledged the warmth of the welcome in his final remarks. "Your care for me and your generous welcome are a sign of your love for Jesus and your faithfulness to him. So, too, is your care for the poor, the sick, the homeless and the immigrant, your defense of life at every stage, and your concern for family life," Pope Francis said. "In all of this, you recognize that Jesus is in your midst and that your care for one another is care for Jesus himself."

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Pope canonizes Junipero Serra, says faith is alive only when shared

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Canonizing the 18th-century Spanish missionary, Blessed Junipero Serra, Pope Francis insisted a person's faith is alive only when it is shared.

Celebrating a late afternoon Mass outside the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Sept. 23, the pope declared the holiness of St. Junipero, founder of a string of missions in California.

(above) St. Junipero Serra (CNS/courtesy of Santa Barbara Mission Archive-Library)

(right) Msgr. John Peters, pastor of Sacred Heart, Hallettsville with a statue of St. Junipera diplayed in the santuary.

Some people had objected to the canonization – like the beatification of the Spaniard in 1988 – because of questions about how Father Serra treated the native peoples of California and about the impact of Spanish colonization on native peoples throughout the Americas.

Pope Francis mentioned the controversy only briefly, saying: "Junipero sought to defend the dignity of the native community, to protect it from those who had mistreated and abused it. Mistreatment and wrongs, which today still trouble us, especially because of the hurt which they cause in the lives of many people."

Vincent Medina, who has questioned the wisdom of the canonization, read the first Scripture reading in the Chochenyo language of the Ohlone people of Northern California.

Catholics in the United States and throughout the world are indebted to St. Junipero and thousands of other witnesses who lived their faith and passed it on, the pope said in his homily.

St. Junipero "was excited about blazing trails, going forth to meet many people, learning and valuing their particular customs and ways of life," Pope Francis said.

A missionary's life is exciting and brings joy, he said, because it is not sedentary or turned in on itself. Sharing the Gospel is the way to keep experiencing the joy it brings and keeps the heart "from growing numb from being anesthetized."

More than speaking about St. Junipero, Pope Francis spoke about keeping faith alive and joyful, calling on all Catholics to be missionaries.

"Mission is never the fruit of a perfectly planned program or a well-organized manual," he told the crowd of about 25,000 people. "Mission is always the fruit of a life which knows what it is to be found and healed, encountered and forgiven."

Local Note: The Serra Club of the Diocese of Victoria Northwest celebrated the canonization by displaying a statue of St. Junipero Serra in the santuary of Sacred Heart Church, Hallettsville from September 23-27.

After strike, Christian schools open in Israel

JERUSALEM (CNS) – Christian schools opened in Israel Sept. 28 after an almost monthlong strike demanding equality in budgeting. School officials and the Ministry of Education reached an agreement just before the Jewish Sukkot holiday. "We see this as a wonderful achievement as we ... not only got a one-time sum but (also) a committee (dealing) with the change of the legal status of the schools will be established, and that will bring a long-term solution," the Secretariat of Christian Schools in Israel said in a statement released Sept. 27. According to the agreement, the Israeli Treasury will allocate a one-time sum of $12.7 million to the Christian schools in the current school year. Christian school teachers also will be included in the different professional development programs of the Ministry of Education – they had been excluded – and students will be included in the additional strengthening hours provided by the Ministry of Education for different subjects. The Ministry of Education will continue to pay the monthly payments for the Christian schools as usual – thereby allowing the schools to reduce tuition by 25 percent for their primary students – and the schools will compensate the students for the days lost during the strike. There are 47 Christian schools in Israel with a total of 33,000 students.

Local News

Sacred Heart to have Strudel Bake

The Sacred Heart HS volunteers are gearing up for their 64th annual Apple Strudel Bake scheduled for Saturday, October 24. This tasty fundraiser for the Home and School Association transforms over 4,000 pounds of delicious red apples, along with sugar, butter, cinnamon, pecans, coconut and raisins into more than 2,400 strudels. The strudels come ready to eat or unbaked for a fresh treat at a later date. Unbaked strudels sell for $14 each, baked are $16 and will be available for pickup at the Sacred Heart Family Center on the day of the event. To order, call Charlene Bradbury (361) 798-3224, Annette Henke (361) 798-5374, Sharon Wagner (361) 576-2060 or email charlene_bradbury@hotmail.com. (Advance orders are required to guarantee order fulfillment.) There will be local delivery for unbaked orders only to a central location in Victoria and Schulenburg. Call for details!

ST. PETER'S CHURCH
Barbeque Turkey & Dressing Dinner

Parish Hall • Blessing

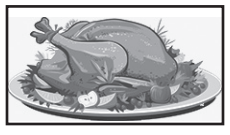
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

Mass: 9:30 a.m. • Live Auction: 12:30 p.m.

Barbecue Turkey, Dressing, Green Beans, Sweet Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce, Dessert, & Tea

Dine-in or Drive-thru available

11:00 a.m. $10 p/p



Country Store! Raffle!

27th Annual Holy Family Fall Festival

2009 Briar Lane
Wharton (77488)

Fall

October 18

Serving:
Chicken Fried Steak • Gravy • Potatoes • Green Beans • Tea
$10 p/p
Serving inside 11 a.m.-2 p.m. • Drive thru 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Country Store, Cakewalk, Children's Games

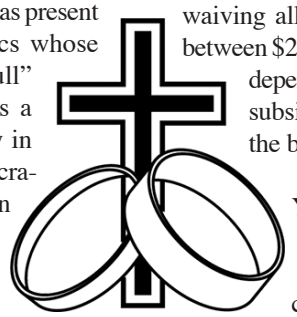
Auction 12 noon

Mass Times: Saturday, 4:30 p.m. - Sunday: 10 a.m.

Marriage is forever: Pope's reform requires proof union was invalid

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis' reformed rules for marriage annulment cases, making the process simpler, quicker and less expensive, respond to calls that bishops from around the world have been making since before the 1980 Synod of Bishops on the family convoked by St. John Paul II.

Catholic marriage tribunals do not dissolve marriages, but assess whether or not a valid sacramental marriage was present from the beginning. Catholics whose first unions are declared "null" — meaning there never was a marriage — are free to marry in the church and receive the sacraments, including reconciliation and Communion.



With the new rules released Sept. 8, Pope Francis made the process quicker, but did not make it easier for couples to prove a union was not a marriage. He removed the requirement that all decrees of nullity must be confirmed by a second panel of judges; he urged dioceses around the world to make the process free or as close to free as possible; and he established a "brief process" by which diocesan bishops can recognize the nullity of a union when both parties agree and have overwhelming proof their union did not meet at least one of the Catholic Church's requirements for a sacramental marriage.

According to the website of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops: "A valid Catholic marriage results from five elements: (1) the spouses are free to marry; (2) they freely exchange their consent; (3) in consenting to marry, they have the intention to marry for life, to be faithful to one another and be open to children; (4) they intend the good of each other; and (5) their consent is given in the presence of two witnesses and before a properly authorized church minister."

The need to reform the annulment process and cut the costs was supported by an overwhelming majority of bishops – about 90 percent – at last year's extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the family.

Pope Francis' new rules respond to that request. He said that except for what is needed for an appropriate salary for tribunal workers, the annulment process should be free "so that, in a matter so closely tied to the salvation of souls, the church – by demonstrating to the faithful that she is a generous mother – may demonstrate the gratuitous love of Christ, which saves us all."

Lawyers working at the Roma Rota, a Vatican court, are paid 300-400 euros (about $330-$450) for each case even if those cases take several years to complete, said Msgr. Pio Vito Pinto, dean of the Rota. He did not say what other fees are charged, but "70 percent to 80 percent" of the cases are heard for free.

The U.S. bishops' website notes that the fees vary from diocese to diocese within the United States with several dioceses already waiving all fees. "Most tribunals charge between $200 and $1,000 for a formal case depending on how much the diocese subsidizes the work of the tribunal," the bishops' website says.

According to the Statistical Yearbook of the Church 2013, a Vatican-published catalogue of statistics, just over 26 percent of the cases in the United States are heard for free; close to 30 percent require partial payment by the petitioner; and in 44 percent of the cases, the petitioners pay all costs.

Although the new rules respond to most bishops' sense that the annulment process was too cumbersome, they do not resolve all the cases of Catholics who want to return to the sacraments after they are divorced and civilly remarried without having an annulment.

Cardinal Walter Kasper and others insist mercy is the highest expression of God's justice and love, and that the church has the power to forgive those couples, who want to start again, living the Catholic faith in their new relationship.

Other church leaders insist just as strongly that Jesus himself made it impossible to dissolve a valid marriage and that without a decree stating the valid marriage never existed couples in a new union are, in effect, living in adultery.

Theme for 2016 communications day to focus on mercy, dialogue

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – For World Communications Day 2016, Pope Francis has chosen the theme "Communication and Mercy: A fruitful encounter." As the church celebrates the extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy, which begins Dec. 8, the pope also wanted to invite deeper reflection on the link between communication and mercy, said a statement from the Pontifical Council for Social Communications.

A Culture of Encounter and Prayers for Life

Continued from pg. 1

The path ahead, then, is dialogue among yourselves, dialogue in your presbyterates, dialogue with lay persons, dialogue with families, dialogue with society. I cannot ever tire of encouraging you to dialogue fearlessly…. Otherwise, we fail to understand the thinking of others, or to realize deep down that the brother or sister we wish to reach and redeem, with the power and the closeness of love, counts more than their positions, distant as they may be from what we hold as true and certain. Harsh and divisive language does not befit the tongue of a pastor, it has no place in his heart; although it may momentarily seem to win the day, only the enduring allure of goodness and love remains truly convincing."

As you can imagine these are powerful words to consider as we prepare to enter into a Year of Mercy. The theme that Pope Francis has asked us to consider in this great Jubilee of Mercy is *Merciful like the Father*. In his letter announcing the Jubilee of Mercy, #14 Pope Francis wrote: "Human beings, whenever they judge, look no farther than the surface, whereas the Father looks into the very depths of the soul. How much harm words do when they are motivated by feelings of jealousy and envy! To speak ill of others puts them in a bad light, undermines their reputation and leaves them prey to the whims of gossip. To refrain from judgement and condemnation means, in a positive sense, to know how to accept the good in every person and to spare him any suffering that might be caused by our partial judgment, our presumption to know everything about him."

With these words in mind I ask your prayers for a group of us who will be praying for the end of abortion and the protection of innocent life at a Planned Parenthood Clinic in Houston on October 19. We will be praying with "the power and closeness of love" for all those affected by this evil industry. I know that we will need the assistance of your prayers as we pray the Rosary that day. Maybe we could use the image of visiting the marketplace at the eleventh hour to guide all our actions and prayers in this month dedicated to **"Respect Life."**

Texas News Clips

From Texas Catholic Conference

Texas Catholic Bishops Urge Medicaid Expansion

Quorum Report - September 24, 2015

The Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops has called upon Governor Greg Abbott and other state leaders to end a political standoff and reconsider the state's refusal to expand Medicaid coverage for an estimated 1.3 million uninsured Texans.

Judge Blocks Texas From Slashing Medicaid For Disabled Children

Austin American Statesman - September 23, 2015

A Travis County judge said Tuesday he will block the state from cutting $350 million in Medicaid funding scheduled to take effect on Oct. 1. After two days of testimony, state District Judge Tim Sulak said the cuts represented an "imminent and irreparable injury" to children with disabilities. Parents told the judge the cuts would put their children's therapy providers out of business. "The law requires me to [side] truthfully, favorably and liberally on behalf of the plaintiffs," Sulak said.

Border Patrol: Family, Kid Arrests At Border Soar 52 Percent

Brownsville Herald - September 21, 2015

The U.S. Border Patrol arrested nearly 10,000 unaccompanied immigrant children and families caught illegally crossing the border with Mexico in August, a 52 percent jump from August 2014, according to statistics published by the agency Monday afternoon. Since the start of the fiscal year in October, border agents have arrested more than 35,000 children traveling alone and more than 34,500 people traveling as families, mostly mothers and children. The total number of arrests for the year is down nearly 50 percent compared with a year ago, but border agents have reported a jump in arrests since July.

El papa Francisco saluda a mujeres encarceladas durante su visita a la correccional de Curran-Fromhold de Filadelfia, el 27 de septiembre. (Foto CNS/David Maialetti, pool)

Al visitar la cárcel, el papa dice que todas las personas necesitan el perdón, la limpieza

FILADELFIA (CNS) – Mientras los peregrinos en Filadelfia tuvieron que aguantar un largo fin de semana de líneas y controles de seguridad en los lugares a donde iría el papa, el papa se acercó a un grupo de personas cuya vida son las líneas y los controles de seguridad, al mismo tiempo, durante años. El papa Francisco pasó alrededor de una hora en el Centro Correccional de Curran-Fromhold. Entró en el gimnasio desde atrás de una cortina azul, caminando por el pequeño escenario inspeccionando cuidadosamente la enorme silla que los internos habían hecho para él. Se dio la vuelta, con una gran sonrisa en su rostro, y le dio a los internos un sincero saludo de buena suerte del papa Francisco, con los pulgares levantados hacia arriba. Mientras en los EE.UU. se debate la necesidad de una reforma penal, el papa Francisco dijo que las cárceles deben centrarse en la rehabilitación, e insistió en que nadie es perfecto y sin necesidad de perdón. Mientras que su discurso se dirigió principalmente a los internos, también asistieron un pequeño grupo de sus familiares, funcionarios de la prisión, legisladores estatales, y funcionarios de la ciudad, entre ellos el alcalde de Filadelfia, Michael Nutter. Unos 20 minutos antes de que el papa llegara – antes de lo previsto – Nutter saludó a cada uno de los reclusos, que vestían pantalones oscuros y camisas de color azul claro, mientras eran conducidos al gimnasio. Michele Farrell, director de la cárcel, dijo más tarde a Catholic News Service que el papa "nos tiró una bola curva llegando temprano". A los reclusos se les dijo que permanecieran sentados, y a los periodistas, que estaban detrás de ellos, se les dijo que no podían hablar con los presos hasta después de que el papa se fuera. El diácono Ed Dymek, quien ejerce su ministerio en la prisión, dijo a CNS, "Allí está el papa esperanza".

El papa se reúne con víctimas de abuso del clero y dice que los crímenes no pueden quedar en secreto

FILADELFIA (CNS) – El papa Francisco se reunió con un grupo de sobrevivientes de abusos sexuales, el 27 de septiembre, y más tarde dijo a los obispos que se sentía abrumado por un sentimiento de vergüenza, y que estaba comprometido a pedir cuentas a quienes perjudicaron a los niños. En una reunión con cardenales, obispos, sacerdotes y seminaristas en San Carlos Borromeo, el obispo prologó su discurso sobre la importancia de la familia diciendo que se había reunido con el grupo, tal como había sido arreglado por el arzobispo de Filadelfia, Charles J. Chaput. El Vaticano dijo que la reunión de 30 minutos, con tres mujeres y dos hombres abusados por miembros del clero o por sus familias o por sus maestros, se llevó a cabo en el seminario, poco antes de que el papa hablara a los obispos. "Están grabados en mi corazón, las historias, el sufrimiento y el dolor de los niños víctimas de abusos por parte de sacerdotes", dijo el papa. "Sigo sintiendo una abrumadora sensación de vergüenza, porque aquellos que tenían a su cargo a los más pequeños les causaron un gran daño. "Estoy profundamente apenado. Dios llora", dijo. Dijo que "los crímenes y pecados de los abusos sexuales de los niños ya no pueden permanecer en secreto" y que él se "compromete a una estrecha vigilancia de la iglesia para proteger a los niños, y prometo que todos los responsables tendrán que rendir cuentas".

Monja de Tejas, del centro migrante, logra un momento especial con el papa Francisco

CHEVY CHASE, Md (CNS) – Solamente la hermana Norma Pimentel estaba en el extremo receptor de un abrazo del papa, el 26 de septiembre en la casa de Nueva York del arzobispo Bernardito Auza. Pero como ella le dijo al papa Francisco, estaba aceptando el abrazo como representante de las religiosas de todo el mundo, los inmigrantes y voluntarios con los que ella trabaja en Texas. La hermana Norma, una Misionera de Jesús, de McAllen, Texas, se ha encontrado en los últimos meses en papeles inusualmente de alto perfil - hablar en un foro en las Naciones Unidas, y participar con la población local en una videoconferencia con el papa Francisco. En eso, ella fue señalada por el papa a dar un paso adelante para una conversación personal que más tarde pasó a formar parte de un programa de ABC News. Pero la invitación del arzobispo Auza, observador permanente de la Santa Sede ante las Naciones Unidas y anfitrión nocturno del papa Francisco, las noches del 24 y 25 de septiembre, para que ella llegara a su casa el día en que el papa dejó Nueva York para viajar a Filadelfia, fue la guinda del pastel. El arzobispo le había invitado a la escuela Nuestra Señora Reina de los Ángeles, en Harlem, para tener la oportunidad de saludar al papa. Ella estaba allí, pero dijo que eso no funcionó para que saludara al papa Francisco. "Esa visita fue para los niños de la escuela", dijo. "No me pareció correcto". Pero el arzobispo Auza tuvo una idea alternativa. "Ven a mi casa a las 6:00, mañana por la mañana", le dijo. 'Tú puedes darle tu pintura tú misma".

PARISH OF THE NATIVITY
Roman Catholic Church of Victoria Diocese
545 S. Austin Rd - Eagle Lake, TX
Pavilion Across from the Hospital
Annual Fall Festival
Sunday, October 18th, 2015
Eucharist
308 N Stevenson St.
Spanish 8:00 am English 10:00 am
MEAL
BBQ Chicken & Sausage,
Buttered Potatoes & Green Beans
$10.00 per plate
Serving from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm
CURB SERVICE WILL BE AVAILABLE
Live Auction 1:00 pm
RAFFLE DRAWING (AFTER THE AUCTION)
FIRST PRIZE $2000.00 GIFT CARD
SECOND PRIZE $1000.00 GIFT CARD
Booths & Games
Food Booths, Cake & Plant Walk, Country Store,
Kids Games, Soccer Tournament
Come Enjoy the Day!
Something for Everyone!
POSTERS DONATED BY EAGLE LAKE FUNERAL HOME

As New Commercial Airs, Knights of Columbus Fund Month's Supply of Food for Iraqi Christians

Commercial features priest once tortured by extremists and now running refugee camp

NEW HAVEN, Conn. – As September began, the Knights of Columbus was unveiling a new television commercial and would finance the delivery of one month's supply of food to more than 13,500 displaced families from Mosul and Nineveh who fled to the Erbil area in Kurdistan.

The food assistance is part of the organization's multi-million dollar initiative to aid displaced Christian families and those from other persecuted religious communities in the Middle East. This donation for food will bring the Knights of Columbus assistance in the Middle East to more than $4 million overall.

Each one month food package typically contains 10 kg of rice, 5 kg of sugar, 4 liters of cooking oil, 1200 g of tomato sauce, 4 kg of beans, 10 kg of wheat, 1 kg of pasta, 6 packets of cheese, 5 tins of fish, 5 tins of meat, and 1 kg of tea. The cost of $60 per package includes transportation and packaging for a total cost of $810,000.

At the same time, the Knights of Columbus was also airing a TV commercial that features an Iraqi priest who now runs a refugee camp near Erbil, and who previously was kidnapped and tortured by extremists.

In the commercial Father Douglas Bazi begs viewers to "pray for my people, help my people, and save my people," and adds "I believe you can." He also notes that "genocide is the easy word for what is happening to my people." The commercial will air nationally this month and can be viewed at **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YHegSk2omdE**

"Christians in the Middle East face persecution and extinction simply for their belief in the one who taught us to love one another," said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. "Despite the genocidal persecution against them, they have continued to be an inspiration to the power of their faith, and to the love of God and neighbor. They need our solidarity and support, and we are pleased to help provide it."

Chaldean Archbishop Bashar Warda of Erbil attended the Knights of Columbus international convention in Philadelphia in August, as did Melkite Archbishop Jean Clement Jeanbart of Aleppo, Syria. At the convention Supreme Knight Carl Anderson announced that the Knights would redouble its efforts on behalf of Middle Eastern Christians.

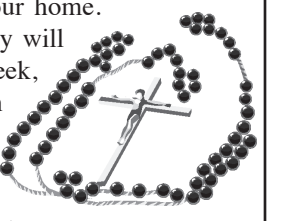
Those wishing to assist with the relief efforts can donate by visiting **www.christiansatrisk.org** or by sending checks or money orders payable to Knights of Columbus Charities at P.O. Box 1966, New Haven, CT 06509-1966. The memo portion should indicate that the check is for Christian Refugee Relief.

One hundred percent of all donations directly supports humanitarian assistance and raising awareness for persecuted Christians and other religious minorities, especially in the Middle East. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc., is recognized by the IRS as a charitable organization under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

For more information visit www.christiansatrisk.org – hashtag #ChristiansAtRisk

POPE CONCLUDES TRIP TO UNITED STATES WITH MASS—Pope Francis leaves in procession after celebrating the closing Mass of the VIII World Meeting of Families on Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia September 27. Allyson Klimitchek (inset), parishioner and teacher at Sacred Heart in Hallettsville, went to Philadelphia to see the pope on Saturday, September 26. She said, "It was amazing! I was so excited and then the tears flowed. To be in the presence of this holy man, see him live waving and smiling was so beautiful! He went by so fast though, that pope mobile was moving!" She left that with the hopes to get another glimpse of Pope Francis the next day. And she did. Allyson said, "Mass was an absolutely awesome experience! A friend and I made it through just in time before they quit letting people in for Mass. It was amazing to be there with all the people from all over the world! I was able to receive Holy Communion and was so moved. It really puts into perspective what it means to be in communion with the Body of Jesus Christ and this meeting as large as it is, is only still a small glimpse of Christ's Body! Finally it was incredible receiving the Pope's blessing, so blessed!" (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Pray a Rosary • October Month of the Holy Rosary



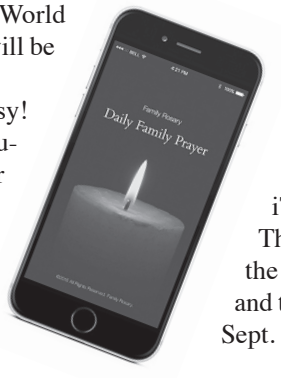
It is always a good practice to offer the Rosary in your home. Perhaps during the month of October, you and your family will take up the practice of praying the Rosary at least once a week, or daily when possible. What a blesing it would be to turn off the television, the phones, the computer and all other distractions and simply gather with your family for some quality time with our Blessed Mother. Certainly all of us need some respite from our daily activities and nothing could be better than spending prayer time in the company of the people you love.

No Time To Pray As A Family? ~ There's A Free App For That!

New Mobile App Helps Families Pray Each Day with Feature to Post Prayer Petition Directly to World Meeting of Families

Family Rosary now offers a free mobile app to guide families through a short prayer each day. With beautiful images, scripture, meaningful reflection and an inspiring quote from Pope Francis, families can have an enriching prayer experience every day – right in their hands.

The Daily Family Prayer app includes a special feature that allows families to post a prayer that will go directly to the Rosary Sacred Space at The World Meeting of Families where it will be prayed during the Pope's visit.



"Families are busy, very busy! We hope this app will make it super easy to weave family prayer into their day," said Susan Wallace, Director of Marketing. "We all want to pray. We want to enrich our family's spirituality. This app can help families in a very simple, yet meaningful way. As our founder said, 'the family that prays together stays together.'"

The free app is available for download on iTunes and Google Play. A version is also available on iTunes for the new iWatch! The mobile app was created for the World Meeting of Families and the Papal Visit to Philadelphia Sept. 22-27. For more information on the app, go to **www.FamilyRosary.org/PrayerApp**.

This is the fourth mobile app offered by Family Rosary. The first – Pray the Rosary – has already topped 90,000 in downloads at iTunes.

In the spirit of its founder, Servant of God Patrick Peyton, Holy Cross Family Ministries encourages family prayer, especially the Rosary, to support the spiritual well-being of the family through events and media. Family Rosary is a member ministry of Holy Cross Family Ministries.

EVENTS

Meals • Picnics and more

October

Seadrift–St. Patrick Rummage Sale Oct. 16 and 17 at the Parish Hall from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Eagle Lake–Parish of the Nativity Fall Festival Oct. 18. See ad on pg. 13.

Goliad–Immaculate Conception Festival Oct. 18 on church grounds. BBQ beef dinner, $9 p/p. Auction, music and more. See ad below.

Wharton–Holy Family Fall Festival Oct. 18. Serving chicken-fried steak dinner at $10 p/p. See ad on pg. 11.

Hallettsville–Sacred Heart HS 64th annual Apple Strudel Bake, Saturday, October 24. See pg. 11 for more information.

Blessing–St. Peter BBQ Turkey and Dressing Dinner Oct. 25. 11:00 a.m. $10 p/p. See ad on pg. 11.

Cuero–St. Michael School Annual H.S.A. Fall Festival Oct. 25. A homestyle chicken-fried steak dinner, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., $10 p/p. Entertainment throughout the day. Live auction starts at 12:30 p.m. See ad on pg. 5.

Hillje–St. Andrew Altar Society Turkey dinner Oct. 25 at the parish hall. Serving begins at 11:00 a.m. at $9 p/p. There will be a country store and bake sale.

Seadrift–St. Patrick Church carne guisada dinner Oct. 25 at the Parish Hall. Serving beginning at 11:00 a.m. at $8 p/p; other food and baked goods will be available.

Victoria–Catholic Daughters Court St. Ann #369 Games Party Oct. 25, 2:00-6:00 p.m. at the KC Hall. Door prizes, silent auction, and a light meal at 5:00 p.m. RSVP by calling Dolores Schroller at (361) 575-6111 or Joan Schramek at (361) 485-2387.

November

Port Lavaca–Our Lady of the Gulf Altar Society turkey dinner, Nov. 1 at St. Jude's Hall at $8 p/p, 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Victoria–Our Lady of Lourdes Annual Fall Festival Nov. 8 at the Victoria Community Center, doors open at 10:00 a.m. A turkey and dressing lunch beginning at 11:00 a.m. at $9 p/p. See ad on pg. 5.

Victoria–Diocese of Victoria 5k and 1 mile run/walk on Nov. 14, 9:00 a.m. at Riverside Park. Entry fee is $10 pre-registration before Oct. 30; after $15 p/p. Also, please bring a non-perishable food item to help support the local food banks in the area.

Ministries • Ongoing Activities

Catholic Family Services–To find Catholic organizations which focus on family, visit the Catholic Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers at **www.nacflm.org**.

Courage–Ministers to persons with same-sex attractions and their loved ones. The ministry also has an outreach, En-Courage, which ministers to relatives, spouses, and friends of persons with same-sex attractions. It is a Roman Catholic Apostolate endorsed by the Pontifical Council for the Family. For more information, visit **www.couragerc.net**.

Engaged Encounter–Oct. 16-18. Registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Fee must accompany registration form. For more information, call (361) 573-0828 ext. 2230 or visit **www.victoriadiocese.org**.

Gabriel Project–Helps women experiencing a crisis pregnancy- an alternative to abortion. Meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 101 W. Convent. Light supper included. For angel workshop/training dates, contact Barbara at (361) 649-1612 or barbaramccain85@yahoo.com. Holy Family, Wharton, meetings are the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Sts. Peter and Paul, Meyersville, meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. For more information, call (979) 532-3593, M-F, 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Grief Ministry–Meetings are the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in conference/brides' room at Holy Family Church, Victoria. Before attending, call Sharon at (361) 578-7572.

Hospice of South Texas–Volunteer to provide continuity of inpatient care, home care, and bereavement services. Free grief support group meetings are the 2nd Monday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in Victoria and the 4th Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in Hallettsville. For more information, call 1(800) 874–6908, (361) 572-4300, or visit **www.hospiceofsouthtexas.org**.

Incarnate Word Prayer Group–Praise and worship on Mondays 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the Auditorium at Incarnate Word Convent, 1101 N.E. Water Street. For more information, contact Sr. Louise Marie Jones at (361) 575-7111 or amormeus@yahoo.com.

Marriage Encounter–This program is no longer offered in the Diocese of Victoria. Replacing it is Retrouvaille (see below). To find a Marriage Encounter weekend outside of the diocese, visit **www.wwme.org**.

Natural Family Planning–NFP is the only church-approved form of family planning. To learn about the sympto-thermal method in the Victoria area and NFP class schedules, contact David and Annie Coffey at victorianfpteachers@yahoo.com. In Wharton, contact Susanne Koch at (505) 710-0903 or susannekoch614@gmail.com.

Raphael's Refuge–RR's mission is to build and maintain a memorial in honor of babies, born and unborn. It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Flatonia. Peer counseling and spiritual direction are available for those suffering a loss of a baby due to miscarriage, stillbirth, infant death, or abortion. For more information, contact Midge Elam at (361) 865-3021, (361) 258-1514, or visit **www.raphaelsrefuge.org**.

Retrouvaille–Retrouvaille, meaning rediscovery, is a marriage-healing ministry offered in the diocese to couples in difficult marriages. Contact John and Jennifer Vincent at jbvjov@sbcglobal.net or (361) 580-2770; call (800) 470-2230; or visit **www.helpourmarriage.org** or **www.retrouvaille.org**.

Conferences • Masses • Retreats and more

Victoria–Guided one-day retreat Saturday, Oct. 10 at the Amor Meus Spirituality Center, 1101 N.E. Water from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Theme: Who Me, Lord? A Call to Evangelize. To register or more information call (361) 575-7111.

Victoria–Come and See Discernment Weekend for single Catholic women 18 to 50 years of age on Oct. 10-11 at Incarnate Word Convent. For more information call (361) 575-7111 or email iwbsvoc@yahoo.com. Website is **www.iwbsvictoria.org**.

Victoria–America Needs Fatima Rosary Rally Saturday, Oct. 10, noon at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral.

Victoria–Taizé Prayer Service Thursday, Oct. 15 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. at Amor Meus Spirituality Center, Incarnate Word Convent, 1101 N.E. Water St. Taizé Prayer is a meditative Christian experience of both sung and chanted prayer. It consists of meditation, silent reflection and scriptural readings.

San Antonio–Come and See Weekend with the Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate. They are providing an inside view of life in a convent setting on Oct. 16-18 at their motherhouse, 300 Yucca St. For women between the ages of 18-45, who want to know more about religious life. Registration for the weekend is available online at www.shsp.org or call Sr. Gabriel Hession at (210) 533-5149 or sghession@hotmail.com.

Fort Worth–Bishop Michael Olson of the Diocese of Fort Worth invited Women of Grace® ministry to host their annual conference for women at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Grapevine on Oct. 23-25. The theme for this spirit-filled event is "Woman's Influence, Effect, and Power: Reclaiming the Feminine Ideal." For more information go to www.womenofgrace.com.

Victoria–Amor Meus Spiritualty Center, will offer a workshop on How to Pray with Imagination, Saturday, Nov. 7, 9:00 a.m.-noon in the Amor Meus Prayer Room at Incarnate Word Convent, 1101 N.E. Water St. To register or for more information call (361) 575-7111.

ACTS Retreats–For information, visit **www.actsmissions.org**.

Tivoli–Our Lady of Guadalupe Church celebrates the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament the 1st Friday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Mass begins at 7:00 p.m. at 501B William St. with Father Paulson Panakal. Mark your calendars now for next month. For more information, call (361) 237-3634.

Victoria–Our Lady of Lourdes holds Healing Mass and Prayer the 1st Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at 105 N. William St. with Father Phi Nguyen, chaplain of IWBS Convent. Mark your calendars now for next month. For more information, contact Sr. Louise Marie Jones at iwbsvoc2@yahoo.com.

DIOCESE

Two Catholic Bishops to Offer Keynote Presentations at the Twenty-eighth Annual Conference

On Saturday, October 24, 2015, two well-known Catholic bishops will offer keynote presentations regarding the Church's teachings on protecting the dignity of all God's people. The Most Reverend Oscar Cantú, bishop of the Diocese of Las Cruces, New Mexico will speak of the injustices and atrocities, which befall many of the weak and vulnerable in our society and throughout the world, in his major keynote presentation, "Safeguarding the Dignity of Every Human Person" ("Hemos de salvaguardar la dignidad de toda persona"). The Most Reverend Brendan Cahill, newly ordained bishop of the Diocese of Victoria, will also offer his keynote address, "Religious Liberty and True Tolerance", referring to the writings of American theologian, Father John Courtney Murray.

The day-long conference will also provide twenty-four workshops on various topics in English and Spanish. Participants will have the opportunity to visit many exhibits by Catholic publishers and vendors. Books, religious articles, and other resources will be available for purchase. The conference will conclude with the Sunday Liturgy presided by the Most Reverend Brendan Cahill.

For more information or to register
Call (361) 573-0828 or
Visit **www.victoriadiocese.org**

Due to limited space, early registration is encouraged.

Registration Fee
***$35.00* per person**

This year,
LUNCH IS INCLUDED
in the registration fee.
There is *Limited* space, so please register as soon as possible.

Sorry, *NO REFUNDS*
Registration Deadline:
October 16, 2015

Online Registration:
www.victoriadiocese.org

SCHEDULE OF THE DAY

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. ~ Doors Open • Exhibits • Breakfast
9:00 – 9:30 a.m. ~Welcome and Opening Prayer

9:30 – 10:15 a.m.
English Keynote Address:
Most Reverend Oscar Cantú

Spanish Keynote Address:
Most Reverend Brendan Cahill

10:15 – 10:45 a.m. ~Exhibits Open – Break

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
English Keynote Address:
Most Reverend Brendan Cahill

Spanish Keynote Address:
Most Reverend Oscar Cantú

12:00 – 1:30 p.m. ~ Lunch and Exhibits Open

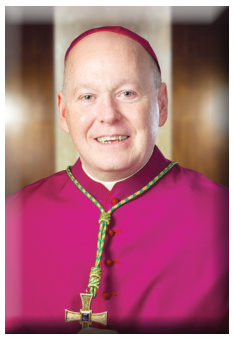
1:30 – 2:45 p.m. ~Round B Workshops
B-1 Life Is Gift - Sr. Clare Underbrink
B-2 Prison Ministry – Work of Mercy - Rev. Gabriel Espinosa
B-3 Prayer: The Most Important Part of Every Lesson - Sr. Digna Vela
B-4 Culture of Life-Evangelium Vitae by St. John Paul II - Sr. Mildred Truchard
B-5 Holy Communion: A Sacrament for the Family? Yes! - Rita Martinez (Sponsored by Loyola Press)
B-6 Caring for the Earth, Gift of Our Creator as Cradle of All Life - Sr. Elizabeth Riebschlaeger
B-7 Making Scripture Meaningful for Children - Gloria Scoyola (Sponsored by Our Sunday Visitor)
B-8 How to Answer the 10 Most Common Objections to the Bible - Rev. Bob Knippenberg
B-9 How to Have a Serene, Quiet, Trouble-Free Classroom: Well…at Least We'll Try - Anne Comeaux
B-10 Year of Jubilee and What We Should Know - Janice Berger (Sponsored by Sadlier)
B-11 A Spanish Funeral? OMG! What's the Repertoire? (bi-lingual) - Pablo Ocañas
BS-12 La Alegría del Evangelio - Adrián Herrera (Patrocinado por Loyola Press)

2:45 – 3:00 ~ Last chance for Exhibits

3:00 – 4:15 ~ Round C Workshops
C-13 Forgiven & Forgiving…Who Me? - Sr. Clare Underbrink
C-14 Mercy for the Marginalized - Rev. Gabriel Espinosa
C-15 Prayer: The Most Important Part of Every Lesson - Sr. Digna Vela
C-16 Culture of Life-Evangelium Vitae by St. John Paul II - Sr. Mildred Truchard
C-17 How the Saints are Our Heroes - Jeanie Janak (Sponsored by Heavenly Helpers)
C-18 Holy Communion: A Sacrament for the Family? Yes! - Rita Martinez (Sponsored by Loyola Press)
C-19 Making Scripture Meaningful for Children - Gloria Scoyola (Sponsored by Our Sunday Visitor)
C-20 Music Literacy for All - Pablo Ocañas
C-21 Caring for the Earth, Gift of Our Creator as Cradle of All Life - Sr. Elizabeth Riebschlaeger
C-22 Laudato Si: For Your Students - Anne Comeaux
C-23 Time Saving Approaches to Creative Lesson Planning - Janice Berger (Sponsored by Sadlier)
CS-24 Laudato Si: Sobre el Cuidado de la Casa Común - Adrián Herrera (Patrocinado por Loyola Press)

4:30 p.m.
Closing Liturgy:
Most Reverend Brendan Cahill

Bishop Oscar Cantú


Bishop Brendan Cahill

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Sr. Elizabeth Riebschlaeger

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Jeanie Janak

Rita Martinez

Pablo Ocañas

Gloria Scoyola