

The Catholic Lighthouse

The cradle of Texas Immigration

VOL. 29, NO. 7

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

November 2015



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Sarita Villafranca
Richmond

Director of Communications Named

The Diocese of Victoria welcomes a new Director of Communications and Editor of *The Catholic Lighthouse*. Sarita Villafranca Richmond is a native of Victoria and attended Nazareth Academy, St. Joseph High School and Texas A&M University. For the past 2 1/2 years she worked as the Mission Advancement Director at Nazareth Academy. “Working at Nazareth Academy taught me to appreciate the innocence of children learning about their faith and that communication is key.” Sarita is looking forward to working with Bishop Cahill and the Chancery Departments. Social media and Spanish language presence are areas she would like to expand within the Diocese of Victoria.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE —On Monday, October 19, 2015, over 170 faithful from the Diocese of Victoria joined with Bishop Brendan Cahill to participate in the international pro-life prayer campaign called “40 Days for Life” by gathering at the Planned Parenthood in Houston located on the Gulf Freeway. From 10:00 AM until 12:00 PM, the members of the diocese peacefully prayed outside the Planned Parenthood for an end to abortion, for the protection of the unborn, for the parents of the unborn who are tempted to procure an abortion, for the conversion of healthcare workers who provide abortions, for the healing of those who have had abortions, and for our government to enact laws that truly respect the dignity of all human life from conception to natural death. Those who served as powerful witnesses to life on that day were: Bishop Brendan Cahill, Father Gary Janak from Our Lady of Victory Cathedral in Victoria and the Diocesan Chancellor, Father Greg Korenek from Holy Cross in Bay City, Father Kirby Hlavaty from Sts. Cyril & Methodius in Shiner, Fathers Michael Rother and Francis Nguyen from St. Philip in El Campo, Father Jacob Koether from Holy Family in Victoria, and Father Tommy Chen from Our Lady of the Gulf in Port Lavaca and Diocesan Pro-life Director, the senior class from St. Paul High School in Shiner and various parishioners of Shiner, the senior class from Sacred Heart High School in Hallettsville and various parishioners of Hallettsville, students from all grades from St. Joseph Catholic High School in Victoria, the eighth grade class from Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School in Port Lavaca and various parishioners from Our Lady of the Gulf and her missions, and various Home School families from the diocese.

Diocesan Counseling Center Opens The Emmaus Center

Counseling in the Catholic Tradition

On November 1, 2015, the Diocese of Victoria began a much anticipated and long-awaited endeavor: the opening of a Catholic-based counseling center. With the approval of Bishop Brendan Cahill, and through the sponsorship of the Diocese of Victoria, *The Emmaus Center: Counseling in the Catholic Tradition* will begin operation. Father Gary Janak, a licensed counselor, who serves as rector/pastor of Our Lady of Victory Cathedral and is the Diocesan Chancellor and one of the Vicars General, will serve as the Executive Director. Mr. John Lenihan, a licensed counselor and a licensed supervisor for professional counseling interns, has been named Director of Counseling Services for *The Emmaus Center*.

The vision of *The Emmaus Center* is based on the passage found in Luke 24:13-35. Just as the disciples, on the road to Emmaus, felt downcast and dejected, heart broken and fearful from the events of Jesus’ passion and crucifixion, so we sometimes experience the same kinds of feelings on our life journey. Yet, in the uncertainty of the news about the resurrection of Jesus, the Lord appeared to the two disciples and they came know him in the breaking of the bread.

The mission of *The Emmaus Center* is assisting others on their journey of life, especially during times of hurt, psychological distress and relational instability. It is Jesus who is the Divine Healer and the counseling team at *The Emmaus Center* seeks to break open God’s healing love by assisting clients to come to recognize the healing presence of God in their lives.

The Emmaus Center will provide

See *Diocesan Counseling*, pg. 6

Set the Diocese of Victoria as your homepage: www.victoriadiocese.org. View *TCL* online!



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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS
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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

The Catholic Lighthouse

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**DEADLINE IS THE 15th
OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.**

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

These past few
months I've been
visiting with many
of our young people
in our schools and
CCD programs. One
day a student asked
me what I do for my
birthday each year. I
responded to her that



one thing I like to do each year before my
birthday is to take a quiet day and think of
all the things to be thankful for from the
previous year. Well, my birthday is com-
ing up on November 28 and I'm already
thinking of all the reasons to be thankful
over the past year.

For the 17 years before coming to
Victoria my main priestly ministry was
recruiting, teaching and supporting
priests and deacons for the Archdiocese
of Galveston-Houston and throughout the
state of Texas. As I mentioned in the Press
Conference on my first day in Victoria my
heart has grown stronger and more tender
in my love and gratitude for the work of so
many priests and deacons in our Church.
As I reflect on the past year I remember

that much of my prayer before moving to
Victoria centered on my brother priests
serving in Galveston-Houston – I thank
God for their friendship and support, and
commitment to holiness and the good of
the People of God.

The day of my Ordination as the
Bishop of Victoria is a day where I felt
very strongly the presence of the Holy
Spirit and great hope for the Church and
the world. On my knees in front of Car-
dinal DiNardo, Bishop Fellhauer, Arch-
bishop Fiorenza; surrounded by priests,
deacons, religious women and men and
so many faithful people in the Cathedral
and participating through EWTN; with
the beautiful music and power of Catholic
ritual I received the symbols of the Office
of Bishop. Each symbol represents the
loving heart of the Good Shepherd who
offers his life fully for the growth in holi-
ness of God's people. I thank God for the
grace of that day, most especially the grace
to offer myself to the best of my ability
each day for the beautiful people of the
Diocese of Victoria.

One of my early commitments when
I moved to Victoria was to take time
to listen and hear about our hopes and

Bishop Brendan's November Schedule

November

- 8** 10:30 a.m., Mass for Consecrated Life, Sacred Heart Church, Hallettsville
- 9** 5:00 p.m., Liturgical Commission Meeting, 1st Floor, Chancery
- 10-12** Information Trip with Father Dan Morales, Guatemala and El Salvador
- 13** 8:15 a.m., School Mass and Visit, St. Anthony, Columbus
- 14** 9:00 a.m., 5K for Catholic Schools, Riverside Park, Victoria
- 15-19** General Assembly, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Baltimore Maryland
- 20** 8:30 a.m., School Mass and Visit, St. Philip School, El Campo
- 22** 8:00 and 10:30 a.m., Mass and Social, St. Agnes Church, Edna
- 24** 12:00 p.m., Mass and Blessing of Advent Wreaths, St. Joseph High School, Victoria
- 29** 9:00 a.m., TV Mass, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, Victoria
- 30** 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Texas Catholic Conference Advisory Council Meeting, Austin

December

- 1** 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Texas Catholic Conference Advisory Council Meeting, Austin
- 3** 6:00 p.m., Knights of St. Gregory Bishop and Priests' Dinner, The Club at Colony Creek, Victoria
- 4** 12:00 p.m., Bishop's Serra Club Presentation, The Club at Colony Creek, Victoria
- 5** 5:00 p.m., Bishop's Advent Dinner, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria
- 8** 8:10 a.m., School Mass and Visit, Nazareth Academy, Victoria

dreams, challenges and concerns. There
is so much good here, and I thank God for
your warm welcome. I've felt at peace
and very much at home in the diocese. As
I've been traveling around I see the fruits
of a strong Catholic identity and a desire
to support our families in living fully our
Catholic faith. For the Pastors, Diocesan
and Parish Leaders, Religious Women,
Catechists, Teachers, Students, Civic and
Political Leaders of this area – I entrust
my heart to you and pray in gratitude for
you each day.

I haven't even had my quiet day of
gratitude yet and I could probably go on
and on! Before I finish this article let me
point out a couple of other things to look
for in this issue of the Lighthouse. As
we are preparing to begin a Jubilee Year
of Mercy the Diocese of Victoria will be
opening *The Emmaus Center* – Counseling
in the Catholic Tradition. You can find
more information about this on page 1
Please keep this in your daily prayer. On
page 4 you can find the Declaration of a
National Day of Thanksgiving, issued by
President Lincoln in October 1863. Pro-
claimed in one of the most difficult times
of our nation's history, this declaration
reminds me of the source of our greatness
and hope in each generation.

God bless you all, may you and your
families have a blessed and safe Thanks-
giving, let's keep one another in prayer,

+Brendan

DSA update

2015 Diocesan Services Appeal

Diocesan Goal:	\$ 1,826,700.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$ 859,534.59
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 805,581.13
Number of Parish	
Families Participating:	3,253

Thank You Note

Dear Mr. Brown,

We have received your recent check for
\$2,137.54. This amount has been posted to
the 2015 Collection for the Catholic Com-
munication Campaign.

I am grateful for your assistance in
facilitating the generous gifts of the parish-
ioners in your diocese.

Bevin C. Kennedy
Assistant Director, Promotions
Office of National Collections



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.

October 29, 2015

TOTALS	
—Rev. Jerome “Jerry” Caponi Burse #2	
In memory of my wife, Lillian Marek, on the 5th anniversary of her death (Oct 22nd) by John J. Marek	<u>100.00</u>
Total	\$100.00

— Catholic Daughters of America Court St. Ann #369 Burse #2	
Previously reported	\$10,933.99
In memory of Helen Stuekerjuergen by C.D.A. Court St. Ann #369	25.00
In memory of Beatrice Bargas by C.D.A. Court St. Ann #369	<u>25.00</u>
Total	\$10,983.99

— Rev. Msgr. Celestino Say	
Previously reported	\$13,964.00
In memory of Rev. Msgr. Celestino Say by: Bob and Louise Pesek	20.00
Arthur and Rose Mary Etzler	50.00
Ricky and Barbara Steffek	<u>50.00</u>
Total	\$14,084.00

— Rev. Dan Morales in honor of his work for vocations	
Previous Balance	\$3,156.00
In honor of Rev. Dan Morales by Paz and Andrea Morales	25.00
In honor of Rev. Dan Morales' 25th ordination anniversary to the priesthood and his work for Vocations by Jacquie & Dick Fritz	100.00
Total	\$3,281.00

— St. Mary Church, High Hill	
Previously reported	\$1,060.00
In loving memory of Eugene A. Patalik by Elizabeth C. Patalik	<u>500.00</u>
Total	\$1,560.00

— Rev. Wayne Flagg and Rev. Philip Brune	
Previously reported	\$4,060.00
In honor of Rev. Wayne Flagg's 27th ordination anniversary to the priesthood by Genevieve and Jamie Batchelor	25.00
In memory of John A. Nesvadba by Genevieve and Jamie Batchelor	25.00
In honor of Rev. Wayne Flagg's 60th birthday celebration and in honor of Lucille and Foster Martin's 67th wedding anniversary by Lucille and Foster Martin	50.00
In memory of Lillian “Paddy” McCloskey by Darry and Barbara Meyer	20.00
In honor of Rev. Wayne Flagg's 60th birthday celebration by Clarence and Linda Ruether	<u>30.00</u>
Total	\$4,210.00

— Rev. Kristopher L. Fuchs	
Correct Entry Previously reported	\$1,020.00
In honor of Rev. Kristopher Fuch's priestly Ordination by Margaret Zahn and Amber Koch	<u>20.00</u>
Total	\$1,040.00

— Very Rev. Matthew Huehlefeld Burse #2	
In honor of George and Almarene Bucek's 65th wedding anniversary by Henry and Carolyn Janak	20.00
In memory of Frances Kallus by J.C. and Geraldine Hermes	25.00
In memory of Phillip Smirak by M/M Lawrence J. Grubert, Jr.	<u>20.00</u>
Total	\$65.00

— Josephat R. Janak Burse #2	
Previously reported	\$6,204.77
In memory of Josephat R. Janak on the 17th anniversary of his death (Nov. 30) by Rose Marie Janak and Family	20.00
In honor of Frank & JoAnn Fikac's 60th wedding anniversary by Larry and Delores Dornak	<u>25.00</u>
Total	\$6,249.77

— Rev. Joseph A. Koebel	
Previously reported	\$8,868.00
Donation by CDA Court Our Lady of the Rosary #1595	<u>150.00</u>
Total	\$9,018.00

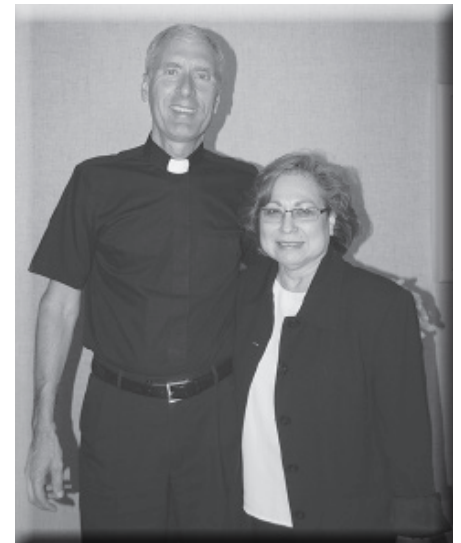
— Jacob Mendoza	
Previously reported	\$600.00
In honor of Jacob Mendoza by Mary Tinoco	<u>40.00</u>
Total	\$640.00

— Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Burse #7	
Previous reported	\$8,690.00
In memory of Elizabeth Mendel by Willie E. Barborak	20.00
In memory of Lydia Muhlstein by M/M Lawrence J. Grubert Jr.	15.00
In memory of Frances Sciba by M/M Lawrence J. Grubert Jr.	15.00
In memory of Alice Bludau by M/M Lawrence J. Grubert Jr.	15.00
In memory of Virgil Smajstrala by Willie E. Barborak	<u>10.00</u>
Total	\$8,765.00

— St. John the Baptist Church, St. John in memory of Rev. Brian Crookes Burse #2	
Previously reported	\$5,761.00
In memory of Liz Mendel by Forrest & Ann Dittrich	20.00
In memory of Josephine Orsak by Forrest and Ann Dittrich	<u>20.00</u>
Total	\$5,801.00

— Rev. Joe Vrana, in honor of his golden jubilee year	
Previously reported	\$955.00
In honor of Rev. Joe Vrana by Mike Ottis	<u>200.00</u>
Total	\$1,155.00

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



CHANCERY STAFF BIDS A FAREWELL—Father Gary Janak, chancellor with Irene Marler, administrative assistant, following a farewell luncheon for Irene. She started in January 2011 as Msgr. Thomas McLaughlin's secretary following the leave of Mary Haas. Prior to leaving she not only worked for Father Gary, but also for Father Matthew Huehlefeld in the Tribunal Office.

Happy Birthday!



Ryan Kapavik is in College III at St. Joseph College Seminary in St. Benedict, LA. His birthday is Nov. 14. He is from Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Shiner. Please show your support for this seminarian by writing to: Ryan Kapavik, St. Joseph College Seminary, 75376 River Road, St. Benedict, LA 70457.

Pray for Vocations

The Office of Vocations is pleased that this school year there are ten seminarians in formation. Continue to pray for these men as they continue on their journey of faith. Their names and mail addresses are listed below, so you can send them a note.

Peter Oscar Amo
Our Lady of Sorrows Church
208 W. River
Victoria, TX 77901

Deacon Max Landman • Dalton Ervin
Chase Goodman
Pontifical College Josephium
7625 N. High St.
Columbus, OH 43235

**Pray for those in Religious Formation
for the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters in Victoria**

Annually Professed: Sister Patricia Marie Lohre
Novitiate: Sister Veronica Marie Muñoz and Sister Maria del Rosario Resendez
Pre-Novitiate: Robin Reinhold and Anita Schori

James Dvorak • Jacob Mendoza
Stephen Vacek

St. Mary's Seminary
9845 Memorial Dr.
Houston, TX 77024

Nick Aparicio • Ryan Kapavik
Adam Shimek
St. Joseph College Seminary
75376 River Rd.
St. Benedict, LA 70457



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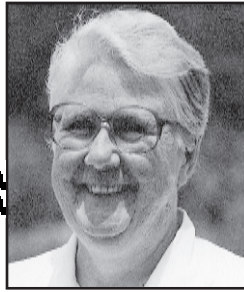
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SISTERLY THOUGHTS

by Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



Exploring Multiple Facets of Our Faith

Our faith is a gem appreciated by so many people around the globe. The various facets of a cut gem each reflect light slightly differently which makes the gem so beautiful to the beholder.

This gem, the treasure of our faith that we cherish so much, is being viewed with new understanding, as our beloved Pope Francis focuses anew on so many of its facets. One of these, the well-being of family, so vital in the Church and in society, is the focus of our viewing at this very moment as I write this. So, let us pray for and support families, especially those who may be experiencing trials.

Also, we're been shifting to another facet as we are currently celebrating the Year of Consecrated Life. We appreciate and pray for the vowed persons whom God has called to serve all of us through their dedicated lives. Moreover, let us pray for those who may be discerning God's call; whether it be through the priesthood, married, single, or religious life, in which they can enhance the beauty of our shared gem.

Let us continue our adventure of looking afresh at the gem of faith, as we view all creation through the eyes of Pope Francis' encyclical "Laudato Si". Increased respect for and preservation of our common home and all life, especially human life, challenge us to align ourselves with the insight provided by Scripture, "God looked at everything he made and he found

it very good." (Genesis 1:31)

Get ready; in a few weeks, we will be entering the Year of Mercy, a time in which mercy will become the focus of our attention. The splendor of mercy can reflect God's love for all of us as we continue to relish the beauty of the multiple facets of our faith gem. In a spirit of Thanksgiving, let us show our gratitude for our faith and all that it offers. Happy Thanksgiving!



STUDENTS RAISE FUNDS FOR DISASTERS—The St. Michael Student Council in Weimar, sponsored a family movie night on October 15. Proceeds from their concession stand were donated to the Bastrop County Long-term Recovery Team. The BCLTRT assists low-income uninsured and underinsured individuals and families recovering from any natural or man-made disaster. In addition they provide residents with spiritual and emotional case management for rebuilding and home repairs. Their organization was established after the devastating 2011 forest fire. The students chose this 501(c)3 organization due to the recent fires sweeping the Smithville-Bastrop area, and they felt the mission of this group was in line with Catholic Social Teaching and the mission of St. Michael Catholic School: to be friendly, respectful, responsible, and Christ-like. Shown in the picture are: Laurece Silcox 8th Grade class representative; Tori Janak, Vice President; Katie Mason, Secretary; Jodi McAfee, President; and Zane Wanjura 8th Grade class representative.

A Proclamation

By the President of the United States of America in 1863

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union. Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defence, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle or the ship; the axe has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has

been made in the camp, the siege and the battle-field; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom. No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the

Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity and Union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this Third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the Eighty-eighth.

By the President: Abraham Lincoln
William H. Seward, Secretary of State

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**The Chancery will
be closed for the
Thanksgiving holidays,
November 26-27.**



Feast Day of the Archangels Observed at Raphael's Refuge

FLATONIA—The Feast Day of the Archangels was celebrated at Raphael's Refuge near Flatonia on Tuesday, September 29, with a beautiful prayer service led by Deacon John McCourt, assisted by Richard Hoelsher.

The Holy Hour service included Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a time for reflection, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and benediction. Peggy Kalich provided the music while Berni Gillings led the singing.

Midge Elam, executive director of Raphael's Refuge, along with the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Rose #1597 of Schulenburg, host this prayer service every year.

The feast day honors the three archangels named in scripture (Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael).

Raphael's Refuge, located approximately two miles west of Flatonia, is named for the Archangel Raphael, known as one who heals through the power of

God. The mission of Raphael's Refuge is to build and maintain a memorial in honor of babies, born and unborn.

Plans are being made to celebrate The Feast Day of the Holy Innocents on Monday, December 28, at Raphael's Refuge. The rosary will start at 9:30 a.m. with Mass at 10:30 a.m. celebrated by Bishop Brendan Cahill. The public is invited to this joyous occasion.



(top left) Deacon John McCourt leads prayer service at Raphael's Refuge. (right) Table of remembrance of the archangels.



CDA COURT HOSTS SHOWER—Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Ann #369 hosted a Shower for Perpetual Help Home at their October 4, meeting. Judith Williams (left), Program Director of Perpetual Help Home, was presented with a \$200 donation from Regent Kathryn Ormsby (right) along with Court members donations of many other needed items for Perpetual Help Home.



Public Square Rosary Crusade Supported

SCHULENBURG—With Great faith and devotion, 60 people rallied together at the gazebo, downtown Schulenburg on October 10, to take part in the Public Square Rosary Crusade. St. Anne Society and St. Joseph Society of High Hill, along with the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Rose from Schulenburg promoted this annual prayer service. Special thank you to all those who came out to pray for our country.

This event was sponsored by America Needs Fatima and The American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property.

The Public Square Rosary Crusade, held nationally each year, takes place on the Saturday closest to October 13, the feast of the last apparition of Our Lady of Fatima and the Miracle of the Sun at Fatima, Portugal in 1917. Approximately 14,000 rallies were held all across America that day. The intention for our Rosary Crusade is to beg God and Our Lady to save America from today's immorality and secularism.

Locals Attend National Convention Held for CWV and CWVA

LAS VEGAS, NV—The following members of St. John's Post 1269 Catholic War Veterans and Auxiliary, Victoria, Texas attended the National CWV/CWVA Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada; Commander Benito Partida, Jim Driscoll and Daniel Martinez; President Lupita Martinez, Selina Driscoll, Cecilia Garcia, Toney Aguilar and Maxine Baker. The convention was held August 9-16, 2015, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

This Convention was a historic one for St. John's Post 1269. At this Convention,

Lupita Martinez, Past National President was appointed to serve as 2016 National Nominations Chairlady. She will also serve as St. Agnes Committee member, representing CWV Auxiliary State Departments.

Each day began with morning prayers and Mass. The state of Texas was well represented by fellow Catholic War Veterans and Auxiliary members. A Memorial Service was held honoring all the deceased Catholic War Veterans and Auxiliary members from all Posts and Units throughout the United States.

St. John's Post 1269 Auxiliary, received the following awards for their work during the year of 2014-2015 for Units with 31-75 members. Selina Driscoll received a first place award as third vice-president in youth activities program, Cecilia Garcia, PDP received a second place award for her work in Americanism and Civics. Cecilia Garcia and Toney Aguilar received citation awards for their volunteer hours at the Victoria Veterans Clinic. Lupita Martinez received a National Citation for newsletter editor for St. John's Post 1269. On the Department of Texas level, Cecilia Garcia received recognition for her work as public relations chairlady.

The Convention concluded with a Me-

morial Mass held on Saturday, August 15, 2015. The main celebrant was Most Reverend Richard B. Higgins, S.T.L., D.D., Bishop Protector. After the Mass, the most prestigious CWV Award, Saint Sebastian Award and Medal was presented to three Veterans and the most prestigious award of CWV Auxiliary, Award of Saint Agnes and Medal was presented to Lupita Martinez. Congratulations Lupita Martinez on receiving Order of St. Agnes Award.



St. John's Post 1269 Auxiliary Member, Lupita Martinez, inductee to the Order of Saint Agnes of the National Catholic War Veterans Auxiliary with Most Reverend Richard B. Higgins, Bishop Protector presenting the award.



**The Chancery Office
Will Be Closed
Tuesday, December 8
Holy Day of Obligation
Immaculate
Conception**

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HIGH SCHOOL**

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**Thursday, November 12 ~ 6:15 p.m.
STJ Gymnasium - DeLeon St.**

**St. Joseph High School
110 E. Red River St., Victoria
(361) 573-2446 ext. 217
STJvictoria.com/admissions**

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Living the Little Way

Bishop Cahill visits St. Rose of Lima Campus

SCHULENBURG—"One act of love is more powerful than all the evil in the world." This was the message Bishop Brendan Cahill shared with those in attendance at Mass on Thursday, October 1. In honor of the feast of St. Therese of Liseux he spoke about the importance of her "little way" and doing small things with great love. The homily reminded everyone that no matter who they are, there is a simple and short path to sainthood.

The bishop celebrated Mass with a full church as several parishioners and guests joined the school family for the weekly liturgy. Third grade students recited the readings and planned the liturgy with musical assistance from Matt Bonner and the school choir. Immediately after Mass, Bishop Cahill enthusiastically accepted gifts and cards from each class. He shared with the congregation the many inspiring messages and sentiments expressed by students reiterating his joy in meeting the people of his diocese and touring the Catholic Schools.

One special family he was able to meet was Chad and Melissa Helms and their children Blake, Avery and Easton. He dedicated the Dayton Helms Memorial Plaza in memory of their son who lost a courageous battle with cancer. Dayton's life, though brief, has inspired much courage and bravery for those who knew him. September was National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and a time to remember how Dayton bravely battled and how much love and courage his family showed during such a challenging time. The beautiful new plaza will provide a connection to all those who have gone before on the journey of Catholic Education. Principal Rosanne Gallia shared an important message from scripture to remind everyone that God is with us always and especially in times of suffering. The promise of eternal life with him keeps all moving forward and striving to live lives of faith.

"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

Romans 8:18

The Bishop then spent the remainder of the day visiting the campus and classrooms. He took time to visit each classroom answering questions from students and sharing details of his life and his priesthood. Students excited to have the leader of the diocese on campus. Whether he was sharing humor about how it took many years to become a priest and only 30 seconds to become a bishop or discussing volleyball rivalries the students were engaged in the discussion. He concluded the visit with a brief lunch with some of the faculty and staff. Throughout the day the genuine and authentic connection he created with all he came into contact with reinforced his message from the Homily. He lived the gospel in a very real way by using the little moments of the entire day to witness the love of Christ to all he met. His spiritual leadership and guidance will surely be a blessing for the diocese.

St. Rose of Lima Catholic School is a rural parochial school in Schulenburg. The school has a 125 year tradition of academic excellence in a Christian environment since 1889. The program includes 3K through grade 8, as well as after school care. Curriculum includes all core subjects, and religion, Spanish, drama, geography, computers and journalism. The school serves the educational needs of families in Schulenburg and surrounding communities of Ammannsville, Praha, St. John, Hostyn, High Hill, Flatonia, and LaGrange.

For more information on enrollment or to make a donation or purchase a memorial brick in the new plaza contact the school office at 979-743-3080 or visit the website www.strosecardinals.org You can see the most current events on the school's Facebook page.

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?

STJ Senior Named Commended Student

Katherine Dent, a senior at St. Joseph High School, was named a commended student for her Preliminary SAT score.

"I was pretty excited about it because I know it's a big award," Katherine, 17, said. "It's very competitive."

After graduating, Katherine,



Katherine Dent

a Port Lavaca resident, said she plans to go into chemical or mechanical engineering at either Rice University or Texas A&M University.

Her parents are Tim and Theresa Dent.

Commended students place among the top 5 percent of more than 1.5 million students, who entered the 2016 competition by taking the 2014 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

She hopes to keep up her grades through her senior year and enjoys reading and art, especially, Katherine said.

HONORING THE SAINTS

To honor All Saints' Day, the 2nd grade students of St. Michael Catholic School, in Weimar presented a celebration of the saints at their weekly liturgy on Friday, October 30. The students then traveled to Parkview Manor Nursing Home to entertain the residents with holiday songs. Pictured: St. Henry - Trey Billeck; St. Michael, the archangel - Hudson Rowland;



St. Sarah - Kylie Ohnheiser, St. Francis of Assisi - Jose Nico Garcia

Diocesan Counseling Center Opens ~ The Emmaus Center

Continued from pg. 1

Catholic-based professional counseling for the faithful of the Diocese of Victoria in Texas and others seeking Christian-based counseling. *The Emmaus Center* seeks to assist others in discovering that it is Christ who walks with them on their journey of life, especially during the tumultuous and painful experiences of human existence.

The objectives of *The Emmaus Center* are:

- To provide counseling services, faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church, to parishes and parishioners of the Diocese of Victoria.
- To provide relief to troubled souls through individual and couple therapy.
- To be a resource for psychological and emotional health issues.
- To assist all who are in need, regardless of their ability to pay or religious background, who seek Christian-based counseling.
- To refer to appropriate agencies those who require services beyond the scope of professional care offered by *The Emmaus*

Center.

More information on *The Emmaus Center*, including its website and how to make an appointment, will soon be available. The Center will be staffed by a part-time counseling staff. Therefore, initially the hours will be limited. The goal will be to soon offer a full time staff of counselors and morning, afternoon and evening appointments. Other goals include bilingual counseling and spiritual direction.

The Emmaus Center is located in The Laurent Towers office building, 1908 N. Laurent Street, Suite 140. As we soon begin *The Year of Mercy*, Bishop Cahill prays *The Emmaus Center* will be a place whereby those who are hurting, and in need of spiritual and psychological assistance, will find listening hearts ready to offer to them the support and strength they need and deserve.

Go to the website www.emmauscounselingcenter.com, for further information and to schedule an appointment.

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Calendar of Events

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 (See website for registration)
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



CDA DONATES BIBLES—St. Philip Catholic Daughters #1374 in El Campo purchase Holy Bibles for all 4th graders in St. Philip School, St. Philip El Campo CCE, and St. John New Taiton CCE. Pictured are St. Philip 4th grade students. Thank you CDA #1374!

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.



JCDA PREPARE CEMETERY FOR ALL SOULS DAY—Junior Catholic Daughters #206 spent Sunday, October 18, cleaning up the St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery. The members picked up debris so the well-maintained cemetery would be ready for All Souls Day on November 2.



JCDA AND COMMUNITY PRAY TOGETHER—The annual public Rosary was held on Saturday, October 10, at the Yoakum Mini Park. Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas #206 members along with other members of the community of Yoakum prayed and sang the Rosary for America and world peace.



ST. ROSE STUDENTS GATHER FOR WEEKLY ROSARY—The feast day of the Holy Rosary in particular was celebrated October 7. St. Rose of Lima Catholic School in fulfillment of its mission to develop excellence through Jesus prays the rosary following Mass each Thursday. Grades 1st-8th pray the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary focusing on the life of Jesus through the eyes of his mother, Mary. The strong focus on catechesis and faith formation is a critical part of the school's Catholic Identity. Junior high classes alternate leading the rosary and lessons about this powerful prayer are also incorporated into daily religion classes. Younger students in grades 3k-Kindergarten are introduced to this devotional prayer with age appropriate activities and lessons.



If you would like more information about the dinner at the Spiritual Renewal Center call (361) 572-0836 or email renewalcenter@victoriadiocese.org. This fundraiser will benefit the Diocese of Victoria Spiritual Renewal Center.



CDA SUNDAY CELEBRATED—Sunday, October 18, 2015, Our Lady of the Gulf, Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court No. 2267 celebrated National CDA Day beginning with attending Mass at Our Lady of the Gulf celebrated by Bishop Emeritus David Fellhauer. Following the Mass, the celebration continued with a brunch at La Antiqua Mexican Restaurant. Pictured are: back row (left-right) Karen Lyssy; Nancy Thompson; Peggy Motl; Janie Segura; Bishop Emeritus Fellhauer; Doris Winter; and Patty Weaver; middle row (left-right) Carol Stewart; Georgia Mikosh, State Local Scrapbook Chairman; Margaret Hilscher, Regent; Grace Gonzalez, Financial Secretary; Margaret Yanta, Treasurer; and Pat Delgado. Front Row (L/R) Izzie Reyna; Madeline Garcia and Rose Marie Knobles, Banner Bearers.

KJT YOUTH RAISE FUNDS FOR RETIRED PRIESTS—

The KJT Youth Club #40 from East Bernard recently presented a check to the KJT State Office for the Priest Retirement Fund. Pictured (left-right) Frank Buxkemper, youth leader, Jonah Kubena, Erick Kubena, David Wagner, state vice president; Bella Dujka, Gloria Buxkemper youth leader and Emma Logan.



At a recent school pep rally, 37 St. Joseph High School students came forward to donate their hair for wigs to be made for cancer patients as a part of the Pantene Beautiful Lengths campaign. The students are pictured with Mrs. Deborah Machicek, a cancer survivor and STJ math teacher. In addition, the STJ student body raised more than \$1,300 to donate to the American Cancer Society's wig bank, along with the 37 pony tails that will be used to make real hair wigs.

STJ Students Cut Hair to Honor Teacher

St. Joseph High School, Victoria, hosted a Pink Out Pep Rally on Friday, October 23, to help raise awareness of Breast Cancer and to honor St. Joseph High School math teacher and cancer survivor, Mrs. Deborah Machicek.

In addition to dressing in pink for the day, 37 students cut their hair as a part of the Pantene Beautiful Lengths campaign. Pantene's campaign, in association with the American Cancer Society, makes real hair wigs so that women fighting cancer can feel like themselves again. Each of the 37 STJ students donated at least 8 inches of hair. Local hair stylists were on hand to cut the student's hair in front of the entire student body during the pep rally.

According to Debbie Horton, STJ's

student council sponsor, 10 girls had originally signed up to have their hair cut at the pep rally, but once the cuts started many more stepped forward to participate.

"Once the hair cuts began, more girls stood up and came out of the bleachers to have their hair donated," Horton said. "We kept cutting until students stopped coming. Our final count was 37 students."

In addition to donating hair, the St. Joseph High School student body raised more than \$1,300 to donate to the American Cancer Society's wig bank. Money was raised through T-shirt sales to honor Mrs. Machicek, along with collection buckets passed at Lady Flyer volleyball games and the pep rally.



CDA NATIONAL WINNER—Stephanie Mattox (center), a junior at Yorktown High School placed first in the 2015 National Education Contest, sponsored by the Catholic Daughters of the Americas. The theme for the contest was "Be A Good Neighbor" and Stephanie's entry was in the Computer Art category. She was recognized at Mass at Holy Cross Church, where she is an active member. Pictured above (left-right) Regent Janice Tiemann, Stephanie and her mother Angie Stepanski. She is also the daughter of Charley Mattox.



Members from Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court #1598 of Yorktown who were honored for years of members.

CDA Members Honored With Years of Membership

YORKTOWN—On Sunday, September 20, fifty-three ladies were honored for numerous years of membership in the local Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court #1598 in Yorktown. The affair was held at noon in the Activity Center at Holy Cross Church. Guest speaker was Dorothy Zabransky of Yoakum, district deputy for the Catholic Daughters.

A covered dish meal was served to those present, followed by a meeting during which the awards were presented by Janice Tiemann, regent. Those receiving membership pins were: 5 years - Regina Broll, Dena Denbo, JoNell Gips, Joann Hoelscher, Pauline John, Cindy Knobles, Laurie Metting, Emilie Nash, Elaine Watson and Myra Yeretsky; 10 years - Lynette Broll, Kathy Gips, Sylvia Hernandez, Gail

Jendrzey, Pam Mokwa, Elsa Ochoa and Elaine Shenkir; 15 years - Patti Farley, Teresa Foegelle, Loretta Hartman, Lorene Migura, Brenda Nash and Dee Pokluda; 20 years - Betty Burda, Nora Kolodziejczyk, Lisa Lincke, Susan Rodriguez, and Wanda Styra; 25 years - Charlotte Broll, Shirley Collins, Patricia Dlugosch, Rosie Rios, Elaine Styra, and Janice Tiemann; 30 years - Lupe Martinez; 35 years - Gloris Siefert and Linda Willms; 40 years - Cindy DuBose; 45 years - Doris Boldt, Lucille Borgfeld, Jo Ann Griffin, Eleanor Sturm and Verda Mae Styra; 50 years - Leona Berkenhoff, JoAnn Jaeger, Bernadette Spies and Irene Stepanski; 55 years - Irene Ibrom and Bernice Zaiontz; 60 years - Jane Foegelle, Hedwig Jendry, Helen Jendrzey and Rita Renault.



PRAYER BLANKET CEREMONY—The Hostyn Catholic Daughters of the Americas held a Prayer Blanket ceremony before a recent meeting in their parish dining hall. Father Dan Kahlich, chaplain, held a bible reading and blessed the 54 blankets which were sewn by the CDA members of Court #2282 during the summer. Members pictured with Father Kahlich are: Maria Rocha, Claire Youngblood, Annie Tompkins, Nelda Rubio, Donna Rebecsek, Linda Wagner, Rosalinda Adamcik, Margaret Hoffmann, Dee Spiering, Lillian Kallus, Brenda Fietsam, Verlene Kuntschik, Carolyn Surface, Alice Zezula, Edna Mae Psenscik, Sherry Dittrich, Terry Wagner, Mandy Cernosek, Pat Richter, Eileen McCourt, Clara Smith, Joyce Muras, Georgia Vyvial, Estella Hughes and Lorenda Polasek.



Coming next month coverage on the Annual Catechetical Conference held in Wharton. Pictured are Bishop Oscar Cantú and Bishop Brendan Cahill speaking with an attendee at the conference.

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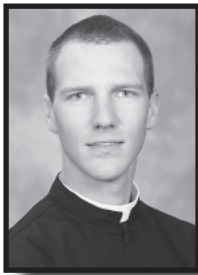
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Meet a Seminarian (a TCL series)

By James Dvorak
Studying at St. Mary's Seminary in Houston

Promises: Making Already Good Actions Even Better

Imagine that I am sitting in a coffee shop minding my own business. You enter, see me, and approach. We strike up a conversation and catch up like two old friends. You even buy me a cup of coffee. After time passes and the conversation has ended, you make your way out, and each of us is back to our own routine.

This situation involves a good act: engaging someone in conversation. I think that is a fairly non-controversial observation. However, relatively speaking, it is potentially something more; for, to put it simply, there is no promise present here. Just because you stumbled across me at the coffee shop and talked to me, this does not tell me that you truly wanted to spend time with me. Maybe you were just trying to be polite. Moreover, as the conversation continues, I do not know how much time you will stay with me. You obviously did not come here to see me. And so it is likely that as soon as something comes up or you

get a phone call, you'll be out the door.

For the sake of comparison, let's say that in fact you promised to meet me at the coffee shop. In this case, when I see you, I know that I have your full time, attention, and commitment. You are not going to leave if you get a phone call, nor are you just trying to be polite; for I know that you want to be here with me at this very moment and in this very place. I place my dependence and trust in you to be there. Hence what the promise does is elevate an already good act to a higher degree by incorporating the person into the act itself. You do not simply partake in the good act, but rather you yourself become the good of that action. I could converse with anyone at the coffee shop, but it is the fact that you committed to the good act with your full and entire self that elevates the conversation to something higher. By your promise, then, you raise the act to a more personal, person-focused level.

Bay City Parish to Host Mission

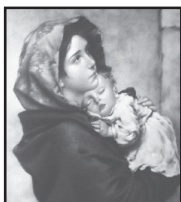
BAY CITY—Our Lady of Guadalupe in Bay City will host a Parish Mission November 22 – 25, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. All are invited to attend.

The theme of this Mission is Conversion.

If you have abandoned the faith of your

youth, the mission is for you. If you have been on again, off again in the living of your Catholic religion, the mission is for you. If you have wondered what is going on in the Church today, the mission is for you. If you have been faithful in your witness of your Catholic faith, the mission is for you. If you feel you need to know more about how to pray, the mission is for you. If you judge yourself to be in need of spiritual growth, the mission is for you. If you are a sinner or a saint, or somewhere in between, this mission is for you. The mission is for everyone, but especially for you and your family. "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men" – Matthew 4:19

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Sunday Readings from Nov. 8 - Dec. 13

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

November 22 - The Solemnity Our Lord
Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
Daniel 7:13-14
Psalms 93:1, 1-2, 5
Revelation 1:5-8
John 18:33B-37

November 29 - 1st Sunday
of Advent
Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalms 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14
1 Thessalonians 3:12—4:2
Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

December 6 - 2nd Sunday
of Advent
Baruch 5:1-9
Psalms 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6
Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11
Luke 3:1-6

December 13 - 3rd Sunday
of Advent
Zephaniah 3:14-18A
Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:10-18

For daily and Sunday readings, as well as a daily reflection video, visit
www.usccb.org/bible/readings.

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November a Month to Remember the Dead

A quote from Pope Francis:

"Church tradition has always urged prayer for the dead, in particular by offering the celebration of the Eucharist for them: it is the best spiritual help that we can give to their souls, particularly to the most abandoned ones. The foundation of prayers of remembrance is found in the communion of the Mystical Body. Remembering the dead, caring for their tombs and prayers of suffrage are testimony to confident hope, rooted in the certainty that death does not have the last word on human destiny, as humanity is destined for a life without end, that has its root and its fulfillment in God."

During November, there are opportunities to help the Poor Souls by gaining indulgences that are only applicable to them.

Obtain a partial indulgence year round, when reciting Requiem aeternam dona ei (eis), Domine, et lux perpetua luceat ei (eis). Requiescat (-ant) in pace Amen.

In English: Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them May they and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

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Pope Francis poses for a selfie with a member of the inter-religious community during his weekly audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Oct. 28. (CNS photo/Stefano Rellandini, Reuters)

World Expects Believers to Work Together for Peace, Pope Says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The world expects all people of religious faith to work with everyone for a better future, Pope Francis told representatives of major religions.

“We can walk together taking care of each other and of creation” in joint projects that fight poverty, war and corruption and help people live in dignity, he told them during a special general audience dedicated to interreligious dialogue.

The audience in St. Peter's Square Oct. 28 marked the 50th anniversary of “Nostra Aetate,” the Second Vatican Council's declaration on relations with other religions; the audience also recalled the historic first

World Day of Prayer for Peace in Assisi, Italy, Oct. 27, 1986.

“The flame, lit in Assisi, spread to the whole world and marks a permanent sign of peace,” Pope Francis said in his address.

The rain-soaked square was awash with color as thousands gathered under colorful umbrellas or plastic ponchos. Large groups of people came from other Christian communities and from other world religions and many held aloft olive branches. Representatives of many religious traditions sat in a VIP section near the pope and prayed in silence with him at the end of the audience.

Inviting the thousands gathered in the square to pray according to their own religious tradition, the pope said, “Let us ask the Lord to make us be more like brothers and sisters, and more like servants to our brothers and sisters in need.”

In his written address, the pope said, “The world looks to us believers, it urges us to collaborate with each other and people of goodwill who do not profess any religion, it asks from us effective responses to many issues: peace, hunger, poverty,” the environmental and economic crises, corruption, moral decay and violence — especially that waged in the name of religion.

Cardinal Parolin: Apostolic exhortation on the family could come soon

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, said an apostolic exhortation on the family following the recently concluded Synod of Bishops could be released soon. “I imagine that it won't take long because usually these things should be done in a relatively short time, otherwise it loses its strength a bit, its impact,” Cardinal Parolin told Vatican Radio Oct. 28. “I think if the pope decides to do it, he will do it relatively quickly.” The postsynodal apostolic exhortation follows a request made by the synod fathers in their final report. “We humbly ask the Holy Father to evaluate the opportunity of offering a document on the family, so that in it, the domestic church may ever more shine Christ, the light of the world,” the Oct. 24 report stated. As in past synods, Cardinal Parolin said that the apostolic exhortation will be based on the synod's final report. However, he said the release of the document has not been discussed yet.

Synod report has new emphasis

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Several hours before the final report of the Synod of Bishops was put to a vote, two U.S. bishops said that what is new is not the church's message, but the synod's emphasis and attitude toward the role of the family in the modern world. Bishop George V. Murry of Youngstown, Ohio, and Bishop Kurt Burnette of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic, New Jersey, met with journalists Oct. 24 at the Pontifical North American College. Bishop Murry was among 45 prelates appointed by the pope to attend the synod. Bishop Burnette was invited to attend as a substitute for Bishop William Skurla, the head of the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh five days before the start of the synod. Both bishops spoke about a perception — an erroneous one, they said — that the final document would introduce change and reform, two words Bishop Murry said should be separated. The synod report, Bishop Murry said, has a “new emphasis and a new focus” on the role of the family to remind them “of their essential role in passing on faith, in passing on culture and in being a symbol of God's ongoing love and forgiveness. To bring that together in one place, to articulate that clearly and unambiguously, I think is new,” the bishop said.

Language must change in order to build peace

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Language can unite people and build peace only if it abandons all bias that tends to divide people and lead to conflict, said Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state. “Expressing everything in terms of balance of power — the struggles of groups and classes, friends and enemies — creates fertile ground for social barriers, contempt, even hatred and terrorism and their veiled or open justification,” he told representatives of the world's religions Oct. 28 at Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University. Cardinal Parolin delivered the closing address of a three-day conference commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's document, “Nostra Aetate.” The Oct. 26-28 conference was sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue and the Commission for Religious Relations With the Jews. The cardinal said that peace is often defined in a negative sense as “the absence of war” rather than in a positive manner that focuses on a person's individual freedoms. “We must have the prophetic courage to finally go beyond ‘Si vis pacem, para bellum’ (‘If you want peace, prepare for war’),” he said.



Advent, a season of joyful expectation before Christmas, begins Nov. 29 this year. The Advent wreath, with a candle marking each week of the season, is a traditional symbol of the liturgical period. (CNS photo/Lisa A. Johnston, St. Louis Review)

China announces it will change its policy, allow all families 2 children

BEIJING (CNS) — China's Communist Party leaders announced they would change the nation's one-child policy, which most strictly applied to Han Chinese living in urban areas of the country. The Oct. 29 announcement was contained in a Xinhua news agency report on the Communist Party's Central Committee in Beijing. It said China would allow all couples to have two children, but did not provide additional details. The Chinese government imposed its one-child policy in 1979 to curb the growth of the population that, at that time, was reaching 972 million people. The policy most strictly applied to Han Chinese, but not to ethnic minorities around China. Han families in rural areas could apply to have a second child if the first child was a girl. In areas where the policy was enforced, parents could lose their jobs for having more than one child. Sometimes the second or third child was penalized and could not be registered, so he or she could not go to school. The one-child policy often was enforced at the provincial level, and enforcement varied; some provinces relaxed the restrictions. In a 2007 interview with Catholic News Service, Jean-Paul Wiest, research director of The Beijing Center for Chinese Studies, said some provinces provided that if each spouse was a single child, the couple could have two children. How much the policy was followed also depended on local officials, Wiest said. For instance, in some strong Christian areas, the village's chief official might be Catholic, so the policy might not be enforced.



Texas News Clips

From Texas Catholic Conference

Bishop Of El Paso Reminds Congress Of 'Golden Rule' On Immigrants

El Paso Herald Post – October 21, 2015
In testimony before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee October 21, Bishop Mark J. Seitz, Bishop of El Paso, testified that the United States has a moral obligation to protect unaccompanied children and families from persecution in Central America. The humanitarian outflow, driven by organized crime in the northern triangle countries of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, continues, with nearly 40,000 unaccompanied children and an equal number of mothers with children having arrived in the United States in Fiscal Year 2015. "If we do not respond justly and humanely to this challenge in our own backyard, then we will relinquish our moral leadership and moral influence globally," Bishop Seitz stated.



State Investigators Serve Subpoenas At Three Abortion Clinics

Austin American Statesman - October 22, 2015 — State health investigators on Thursday served subpoenas for records at Planned Parenthood abortion clinics in San Antonio, Dallas and Houston, according to two people with knowledge of the investigation but who are not authorized to speak publicly about it. Officials also visited a now-closed Planned Parenthood clinic in Brownsville, one of the sources said. Officials would not confirm details of the investigation, but the sources said it's related to suspicions of misspent Medicaid money.



Catholic church is fighting loan sharks

Lenders charging exorbitant rates on payday loans in Arlington, Texas have a new force to contend with in their fight against regulation: the bishops of the Catholic Church. The Texas Catholic Conference — which serves as the public policy voice for the Catholic bishops of the state — announced it would join several local payday lending opponents in an effort to regulate payday and title loan lending.

Family said to be key to pope's vision as expressed in encyclical

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The family can play a vital role in the world's response to Pope Francis' call to better care for creation and be in solidarity with people on society's margins, attendees at a Catholic University of America conference heard. Chad Pecknold, associate professor of systemic theology at the university, reviewed how the pope repeatedly cites the importance of protecting and supporting the family in his encyclical, "Laudato Si", on Care for Our Common Home," during the Oct. 26 event that unpacked the document from the perspective of faith and science. While most analyses of the encyclical have analyzed the pope's words for what they mean politically and downplayed the role of family in its message, Pecknold said that the pope intends that the family be the foundation on which to rebuild right relationships among people and with the entirety of creation. The pope calls such relationships "integral ecology," in which all people, their scientific and economic systems, and the plant and animal species of the world itself, or creation, are connected and must be treated with respect and understanding. "The interconnectedness matters," Pecknold said.

Cause opens for Florida martyrs who proclaimed faith 'at all cost'

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (CNS) — A slight breeze stirred the Spanish moss of the ancient live oaks as the late October afternoon sun slanted across the wide lawn of the deserted mansion. It was easy to imagine going back more than 300 years to the dawn of the 18th century, hearing the sounds of an Apalachee village, and seeing the peaceful native people with their families. It was difficult to imagine the violence that would enter their world as they were brutally murdered by a British military force at war with their Spanish missionary friends. The outdoor Mass and opening of the sainthood cause for 86 Florida martyrs — known as Antonio Cuipa and Companions — was celebrated Oct. 12, just east of Tallahassee, the site of what will become the Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Martyrs. It's just a short distance from U.S. Hwy. 90, known during the Spanish exploration and settlement of north Florida as El Camino Real, the king's highway. The road once strung together the missions of Spanish Florida like a "string of pearls" bringing the Catholic faith to the indigenous people. Also along this road, atrocities were committed by the forces of a Protestant English king against these same people, in the name of conquest and colonization. Bishop Gregory L. Parkes of Pensacola-Tallahassee was the main celebrant of the Mass.

Gabriel Project Information Board!!

"A Pro-Life ministry / Outreach helping a mother
in a crisis pregnancy & Her unborn child!"
"An alternative to abortion"



WHAT'S GOING ON!!

- Our next monthly fellowship and general meeting will be on Tuesday, November 10 at 6:30 (light supper provided)! We meet at our Storage / Office Space at 101 W. Convent St., Victoria (behind St. Mary Church on Main St.)

Come learn and discern Christ Calling for You!!

There are Victoria Gabriel Chapters established, not only in Victoria, but these counties: Calhoun, Dewitt, Goliad, Jackson, Lavaca, Matagorda and Wharton. Call our central phone line 1-877-627-9243 to find one in your area;

- We are in need of BABY BEDS in the Victoria area (these need to have the sides that are stationary-not drop down sides;)
- There is ALWAYS a need for volunteers in various areas;

To volunteer, donate, or questions, please call our toll free number listed above or Barbara McCain Williams at (361) 649-1612!

Please remember, just a few hours a week or month, could help a Mom and save a Baby!

Your continued prayers for this ministry / outreach is deeply appreciated!!

"For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)



El Papa establece un nuevo dicasterio dedicado a los laicos, la familia y la vida

Por Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El papa Francisco anunció el establecimiento de una nueva dependencia dedicada a los laicos, la familia y la vida en la que se combinarán las responsabilidades de dos concejos pontificios.

El Papa hizo el anuncio el 22 de octubre, durante la sesión vespertina del Sínodo de Obispos dedicado a estudiar la familia.

“Hemos decidido el establecimiento de un nuevo dicasterio con competencia para los laicos, la familia y la vida, que reemplazará al Concejo Pontificio del Laicado y el Concejo Pontificio de la Familia. La Academia Pontificia de la Vida se agregará a este nuevo dicasterio”, dijo el Papa.

Las responsabilidades de esta nueva dependencia se detallarán en un documento que prepara una comisión al respecto, que ya ha sido designada, dijo el Papa.

Proceso de anulación más corto no se trata de atajos, dice cardenal

Por Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Las reformas del proceso de anulación presentadas por el papa Francisco sirven solamente para evitar retrasos en casos en que los matrimonios son claramente inválidos, dijeron dos padres sinodales.

El cardenal Lluís Martínez Sistach de Barcelona, España, y el cardenal Wilfrid F. Napier de Durban, Sudáfrica, dijeron ante periodistas en una conferencia de prensa del 20 de octubre que el nuevo proceso salvaguarda contra cualquier atajo inapropiado.

El cardenal Martínez Sistach, abogado canónico, dijo que el proceso comienza más rápidamente, pero si se ve que llegar a la verdad no será simple o directo entonces el caso seguirá el proceso “ordinario” más largo.

Ambos cardenales Martínez Sistach y Napier abordaron preocupaciones de que la reforma pueda plantear riesgos de anular matrimonios demasiado rápidamente. El cardenal Martínez Sistach, quien ha servido tanto en el Pontificio Consejo para los Textos Legislativos como en el Tribunal Supremo de la Signatura Apostólica, dijo

Los miembros del Concejo Internacional de Cardenales del Papa han estado trabajando la idea durante meses. El cardenal Dionigi Tettamanzi, obispo jubilado de Milán, fue el encargado por el Papa para estudiar la viabilidad del nuevo dicasterio.

Después de una presentación hecha por el cardenal Tettamanzi, el Concejo presentó una propuesta formal para la fusión de los actuales Concejos, respectivamente dedicados al presente al laicado y a la familia, y para agregar la Academia Pontificia de la Vida a la jurisdicción del nuevo dicasterio.

Aunque no se ha recibido información sobre quién estará a cargo del nuevo dicasterio, el papa Francisco dijo que se presentará el texto de la comisión especial sobre la competencia del mismo y que se prestará a discusión ante el Concejo de Cardenales, puesto en el calendario del 10 al 12 de diciembre próximo

que el énfasis continúa puesto en “la formalidad y el respeto por la indisolubilidad del matrimonio y la verdad”.

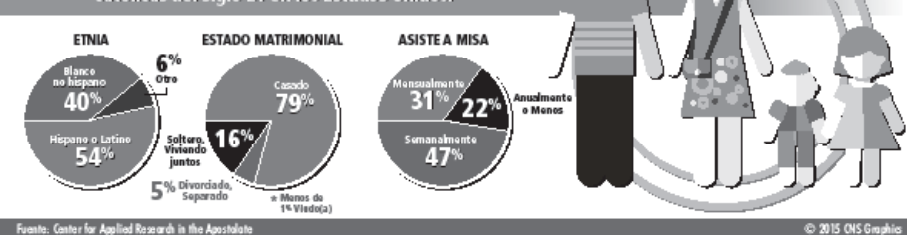
El cardenal Martínez Sistach dijo que la reforma enfatiza más que los pastores no son solamente pastores y maestros, sino también jueces. Sin embargo, los obispos podrían no tener el tiempo adicional o la preparación en derecho canónico necesarios. El cardenal dijo que la reforma es una manera de enfatizar “este ministerio nuestro, este servicio de misericordia justa para la gente”.

“Creo que la declaración de anulación es siempre, hablando lógicamente, que un matrimonio ha fracasado, que no ha encontrado el éxito que se quería y que en este sentido hace que uno sufra”, él dijo. “Pero de algunas maneras a través de la cruz y la muerte viene la resurrección. Y si una pareja obtiene una declaratoria de anulación ellos pueden absolutamente reedificar su familia”.

Contribuyó a este artículo Carol Glatz en el Vaticano.

FAMILIAS CATÓLICAS EN LOS EE.UU.

Un nuevo estudio examina las prácticas religiosas y los cambios demográficos de las familias católicas del siglo 21 en los Estados Unidos.



Católico mexicanoamericano, con una canción, les insta a los muchachos a que ‘coman bien’

Por Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Aunque José-Luis Orozco ya no canta como niño en voz de soprano ante público, en su mayoría adulto, ahora lo hace, pero como adulto, ante público formado en su mayoría por muchachos.

En su último disco compacto (“CD” en inglés) que lleva el título bilingüe de “¡Come Bien! Eat Right!” les da a los muchachos y a sus respectivos padres varias lecciones musicales sobre alimentos sanos.

Orozco tiene ahora 64 años de edad y recuerda que recibió la Primera Comunión a bordo de un barco, sin que piense usted que se iba a pique. Dice que había compuesto 60 canciones para el disco compacto, que ha sido distribuido por “Smithsonian Folkways Recordings”; sin embargo, las canciones se interpretan primero en español y luego en inglés hasta completar 38 diferentes pistas en total. La letra de las canciones, en ambas lenguas, viene impresa con cada disco compacto.

Cuando Orozco llegó a los Estados Unidos con su familia él tenía 19 años de edad y “Me di cuenta de que había mucha más comida procesada por acá”, le dijo al “Catholic News Service” en una entrevista de teléfono. “Mi mamá iba todos los días al mercado para que pudiéramos comer comida fresca, como era la costumbre en su México natal y casi nada compraba que fuera empaquetado”.

“Pero acá en los Estados Unidos me di cuenta de que había muchos productos envasados. Lo primero que noté fueron las salsas para ensalada con colores llamativos y envases bien presentados... No me di cuenta de que la salsa mexicana era la más natural, simplemente con limón.

Orozco dijo que había seguido el viaje del papa Francisco a su visita a Cuba que hizo en septiembre pasado y también a

los Estados Unidos. Principalmente la etapa de Cuba se le quedó grabada pues él formaba parte del Coro de Niños de la Ciudad de México y cantó como solista.

Y a pesar de que Orozco ha viajado bastante, se ha acostumbrado a buenos hábitos de comer, en forma balanceada. Nos hospedábamos en la casa de familias de clase media o alta y nunca nos daban de comer más de la cuenta. Siempre nos decían que no comiéramos demasiado”, recuerda.

Con los hábitos saludables de comida con que creció, Orozco quería encontrar la manera de pasarle a la nueva generación la sabiduría adquirida en cuanto a comer bien. En sus canciones abarca la gama de comestibles como también de una dieta balanceada con tonadas pegajosas como “The Fruit Conga” (“La Conga de la fruta”), “The Legumes Dance” (“La Danza de las legumbres”), “Juanito’s Chicken” (“El pollo de Juanito”), que se dobla como canción para contar, y “Compadre, Buy Me a Coconut” (Compadre, cómpreme usted un coco). Orozco tuvo que reducir muchas de las canciones sobre verduras para que el álbum saliera de tamaño razonable y no compuso ninguna canción con tema referente a carne de res.

“Cualquier persona puede comer lo que apetezca, pero lo que recomendamos es una dieta balanceada. Lo que se coma debe de ser con moderación”, dijo Orozco.

Y con respecto de la Primera Comunión mencionada antes: “Yo viajaba de Cuba a España”, dijo Orozco. “Unos señores que nos vieron nos preguntaron: ‘¿Cuántos de ustedes no han hecho todavía la Primera Comunión?’ Así que nuestro padrino fue el capitán del barco, en alta mar, en medio del Atlántico”.

Nota del editor: Para comprar el disco compacto se puede ir a www.folkways.si.edu. En el mismo sitio se ofrece gratis una pista de descarga.



Students and Seminary Directors for the 2015-16 student body outside of the Abbey Church at Saint Joseph Abbey and Seminary College.

Seminary Welcomes Record Number of Students

Saint Joseph Seminary College, located near Covington, La., welcomed a record 137 students this year for the Fall 2015 semester, an 83 percent increase from just five years ago, when 75 seminarians enrolled.

Saint Joseph Seminary College is a community of faith and learning in the liberal arts rooted in the Benedictine tradition that promotes the development of the whole person. The formation program fosters the commitment of seminarians to the Roman Catholic priesthood in accordance with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Program of Priestly Formation. The Seminary College also supports preparation for service in lay ministries and makes available its educational and other resources to the local community.

Father Gregory Boquet, O.S.B, president and rector of the seminary college, credits not only the presence of the Benedictine community to the growing student body over the years, but also the reputation of the baccalaureate and pre-theology programs.

"Our seminarians not only have the opportunity to live, learn and grow spiritually alongside the Benedictine community, who have made this their home since 1889, but also benefit from a stellar group of faculty and staff who are dedicated to making sure students achieve their full potential," Father Boquet said.

"We realize the decision to attend Saint Joseph Seminary is a defining moment for students and strive to make sure everybody is on the right path. This sentiment goes a long way with our students and is a big part of the reason so many young men decide to pursue their education here," Father Boquet added.

One of those young men who didn't take the decision to attend Saint Joseph lightly is Luke Mayeux, a second year seminarian from Orange, Texas. Mayeux believes that the enrollment has increased so much within the last few years because

of the growing awareness of the need for priests that young men are witnessing today.

"I truly believe that most guys have a genuine desire to do something with their lives that is greater than themselves. The priesthood is just that," Mayeux added.

In addition to Mayeux, students this year are representing 20 archdioceses and dioceses from across the Gulf South region, including: Atlanta, Ga.; Galveston-Houston, Texas; Mobile, Ala.; New Orleans; Alexandria, La.; Austin, Texas; Baton Rouge, La.; Beaumont, Texas; Biloxi, Miss.; Corpus Christi, Texas; Dallas, Texas; Fort Worth, Texas; Houma-Thibodaux, La.; Jackson, Miss.; Lafayette, La.; Lake Charles, La.; Memphis, Tenn.; Shreveport, La.; St. Augustine, Fla.; and Victoria, Texas. Those attending from the Diocese of Victoria are Adam Shimek, Pre-Theology I; Ryan Kapavik, College II; and Nick Aparicio, College II.

Joseph Hastings, a senior from Memphis, Tenn., thinks word of mouth plays a large role in the decision for students across the South to visit campus and eventually make it their second home for four years.

"Another cause for the increase is the example that Pope Francis is setting for the world. He not only preaches the Gospel, but he goes out and lives it; by encountering people in the streets. He's an example of what a true shepherd is called to be, a man of prayer and action, and this example is attractive to men everywhere," Hastings said.

To help continue support the growing number of seminarians, Saint Joseph Abbey + Seminary College hosted its annual fundraising gala, Deo Gratias, Latin for "thanks be to God," on Saturday, October 24, on the beautiful grounds of Saint Joseph Abbey. All proceeds from this event benefit Saint Joseph Seminary College, celebrating more than 125 years of service to the southeastern region of the U.S.

National Vocation Awareness Week Calls Catholics to Foster Culture of Vocations

'A culture of vocations is one that provides the necessary support for others to hear and respond to God's call in their lives.'

WASHINGTON—The Catholic Church in the United States celebrated National Vocation Awareness Week, November 1-7, this year. This observance, sponsored by the U.S. bishops' Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, is a special time for parishes in the U.S. to foster a culture of vocations for the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life.

Pope Francis, in his message of April 26, 2015 on the 52nd Day of World Prayer for Vocations states; "Responding to God's call means allowing Him to help us leave ourselves and our false security behind, and to strike out on the path which leads to Jesus Christ, the origin and destiny of our life and our happiness." The Holy Father stresses, "The Christian vocation, rooted in the contemplation of the Father's heart, thus inspires us to solidarity in bringing liberation to our brothers and sisters, especially the poorest."

Discerning Women

A woman who enters consecrated life chooses to deepen her baptismal commitment by taking vows which emphasize the values of prayer, loving service, and simple living in community with others. Consecrated women serve the Church and community in many ways, including: youth ministry, homeless and hungry, battered women, education, healthcare, family life and parish pastoral ministry. Some sisters are totally dedicated to the contemplative life. The resources here are to help a discerning woman discover the next steps in her journey. May God bless you as you search for his holy will.

Prayer To Know One's Vocation

Lord, my God and my loving Father, you have made me to know you, to love you, to serve you, and thereby to find and to fulfill my deepest longings. I know that you are in all things, and that every path can lead me to you.

But of them all, there is one especially by which you want me to come to you. Since I will do what you want of me, I pray you, send your Holy Spirit to me: into my mind, to show me what you want of me; into my heart, to give me the determination to do it, and to do it with all my love, with all my mind, and with all of my strength right to the end. Jesus, I trust in you. Amen

National Vocations Awareness Week is designed to help promote vocation awareness and to encourage young people to ask the question: "To what vocation in life is God calling me?" Parish and school communities across the nation were asked to include, during the first week in November, prayer and special activities that focus on vocation awareness.

"Encouraging others to recognize the prompting of the Holy Spirit and to follow Christ without reservations are key elements in supporting a culture of vocations," said Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Raleigh, North Carolina, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations. "With God's grace, we can have a positive impact on others who may be open to considering a vocation to priesthood or religious life, by simply inviting them to think and pray about it. Our enthusiasm and willingness to speak directly to others about vocations just might be the conversation someone needs to respond to God's call."

A 2012 study, "Consideration of Priesthood and Religious Life Among Never-Married U.S. Catholics," conducted by the Georgetown University-based Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), highlighted the role community encouragement plays in the discernment process. (Full study: www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/survey-of-youth-and-young-adults-on-vocations.cfm)

"Over and over again when asked, newly ordained priests and newly professed men and women religious, credit the encouragement of family members, coworkers, friends and clergy, as being a significant factor in their pursuing a vocation," said Father Ralph O'Donnell, USCCB's executive director of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations.

Observance of Vocation Awareness Week began in 1976 when the U.S. bishops designated the 28th Sunday of the year for the celebration. It was later moved to Feast of the Baptism of the Lord in January. The Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations moved the observance of National Vocation Awareness Week to November to engage Catholic schools and colleges more effectively in this effort.



EVENTS

The Catholic Lighthouse
Page 15 — November 2015

Meals • Picnics and more

November

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.

Victoria—St. Joseph High School Open House for prospective students and families, Nov. 12 at 6:15 p.m. in the STJ Gym. For more information call (361) 573-2446 ext. 217 or visit STJvictoria.com/admissions

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

Victoria—CDA Court Daughters of the Holy Family #2665 is having a Craft and Bake Sale on Saturday, Nov. 21 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Holy Family Church in St. Peter's Hall. Homemade soup, sandwich, cookies, and tea will be available at 11:00 a.m. for \$6 p/p.

Victoria—Our Lady of Sorrows is having a concert on the Feast of St. Cecilia Nov. 22 at 5:00 p.m. For more information call the rectory at (361) 575-2293 and talk to Father Philip Brune.

December

Victoria—Spiritual Renewal Center Annual Fundraiser with Bishop Brendan Cahill and Bishop Emeritus David Fellhauer on Dec. 5. Contact the Renewal Center for ticket information at (361) 572-0836 or renewalcenter@victoriadiocese.org.

New Taiton—St. John's Scholarship Games Party, Dec. 6 at 6:00 p.m. at the Taiton Community Center. Enjoy an evening with your family playing games, door prizes, drawings, auctions and plenty of refreshments. Proceeds benefit the youth of St. John Parish.

Victoria—KJZT #101 and KJT#115 joint Christmas party Dec. 6 starting at 2:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Victory School Cafeteria. Bring a covered dish (meat provided) for meal at 5:00 p.m. RSVP by calling (361) 573-2669.

January 2016

Edna—Saint Agnes Church, will sponsor a "Celebration of Life" program for all denominations, the youth, parents, ministers, and the general public of Jackson and surrounding counties on Wednesday, January 27, 2016, at the Jackson County Services Building, 411 N. Wells Street, Edna, Texas, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. The program will show the need to safeguard the dignity and sanctity of every human person, the need for respect and justice for the unborn and all life, and the value of faith in today's families. Bishop Brendan Cahill, will be a guest speaker. Refreshments will be served and admission is free. For questions, call Madeline Novian at (361) 782-2933.

Amor Meus Spirituality Center Events

1101 N E Water Street – 361 – 575 – 7111 email - amormeus@yahoo.com

www.amormeusspiritualitycenter.org

Overnight Retreat –Private or Directed

Take time from a busy week to experience a quiet, peaceful, and prayerful weekend retreat.

Friday, November 20, 5:00 p.m. until Sunday, November 22 at noon or pre-arranged. Call three days in advance to register.

Spiritual Direction – On-Going opportunity for guidance and discussion on one's spiritual journey with experienced spiritual directors. Call for an appointment.

Solemn Vespers – the Liturgical Evening Prayer of the Church prayed with people of all faith traditions - Incarnate Word Convent Chapel beginning November 29, December 6, 13, 20, at 5:00 to 5:45 p.m.

For details or more information, contact Sister Emilie or check the website.

Conferences • Masses • Retreats and more

Bay City—Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Mission Nov. 22, 7:00-8:30 p.m. and will continue for four consecutive nights. All are invited to attend the mission with the theme: Mission is Conversion. Child care available.

El Campo—Seminar and Mass with healing prayer at St. Philip the Apostle Parish, Dec. 11-12, with Father Joseph Nguyen, C.S.Sp. of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit. Mass times are Friday, 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, 5:00 p.m. The Seminar is Saturday from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. For more information or to register contact Gwen Edwards at (979) 637-0277 / dennis1e@sbcglobal.net or Jan Dorank at (979) 541-3609 / jan.hair@sbcglobal.net.

Flatonia—The ninth annual Mass for the Feast Day of the Holy Innocents at Raphael's Refuge will be held Monday, Dec. 28. Rosary will begin at 9:30 a.m., followed by announcements and introductions. Bishop Cahill will celebrate the Mass at 10:30 a.m. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Midge at (361) 865-3021, or (361) 258-1514, or visit www.raphaelsrefuge.org.

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.

PASTORAL INSTITUTE 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.

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, Encourage, 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.wmme.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.



(above) Bishop Brendan Cahill taking questions from students at Holy Cross School in Bay City. (right) Is Pope Francis with Bishop Cahill in Bay City?



Bishop Brendan Cahill supporting those Astros.



Bishop Brendan Cahill blesses the new St. Joseph Pastoral Center in Yoakum.

Bishop Blesses St. Joseph Pastoral Center

YOAKUM—St. Joseph Parishioners in Yoakum gathered on Wednesday, October 7, for Mass celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary and to experience Bishop Brendan Cahill's first pastoral visit to the parish and the school. After the Mass which was attended by the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Honor Guard of the Yoakum Assembly, Bishop blessed the newly constructed office. After a small reception with Bishop Cahill the students presented him with tokens of affection, the bishop toured the school and visited the classrooms. The visit concluded with Bishop Cahill joining the students for lunch.

The Pastoral Center is designed to compliment the style of the church and to include historical photos and items within as décor. The front of the building bears a large Venetian Glass Mosaic of the Holy Family surrounded by angels in which St. Joseph is placing his hand of blessing

on an image of the parish Church. Above the image are the devotional words, *Itē ad Ioseph — Go to Joseph —* reflecting an Old Testament account of the Israelites being sent to the care of Joseph, Pharaoh's vizier — and used by the early Christians as a reference to St. Joseph. Near the entrance of the facility is a Marian garden surrounding a bronze image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Inscribed on its pedestal are the words she spoke to St. Juan Diego, "am I not your Mother...."

Yoakum's Catholic community stretches back to the early 1850's and the use of private homes and a log cabin for the celebration of the Mass. The parish was canonically erected and its first established Church was built in 1869 near the Parish Cemetery (the ruins left by a fire still stand). The present Church was built in 1912. The parish school was established in 1891.

Bishop Cahill visits St. Rose in Schulenburg. (right) blesses 1st graders; (left below) Bishop Cahill holding Easton Dayton Helms, in front Avery (left) and Blake Helms.



(above right) The youngest 3k students eagerly presented cards and pictures to Bishop Cahill. (left) dedication of the Dayton Helms Memorial Plaza. Read complete story on page 6.



Bishop Brendan Cahill continues his tour of the Diocese of Victoria with a stop in Bay City for the Safe Environment Training.