



The Catholic Lighthouse

The cradle of Texas Immigration



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

VOL. 29, NO. 9

www.victoriadiocese.org



JANUARY 2016

As We Enter The Jubilee Year of Mercy...

How to Obtain Indulgences

- ~ Go to a Pilgrimage Church
- ~ Do Works of Mercy
- ~ Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- ~ Walk Through A Holy Door
- ~ Read Scripture
- ~ Receive Holy Communion
- ~ Pray Rosary and Devine Mercy Chaplet



Learn about Indulgences on page 4.

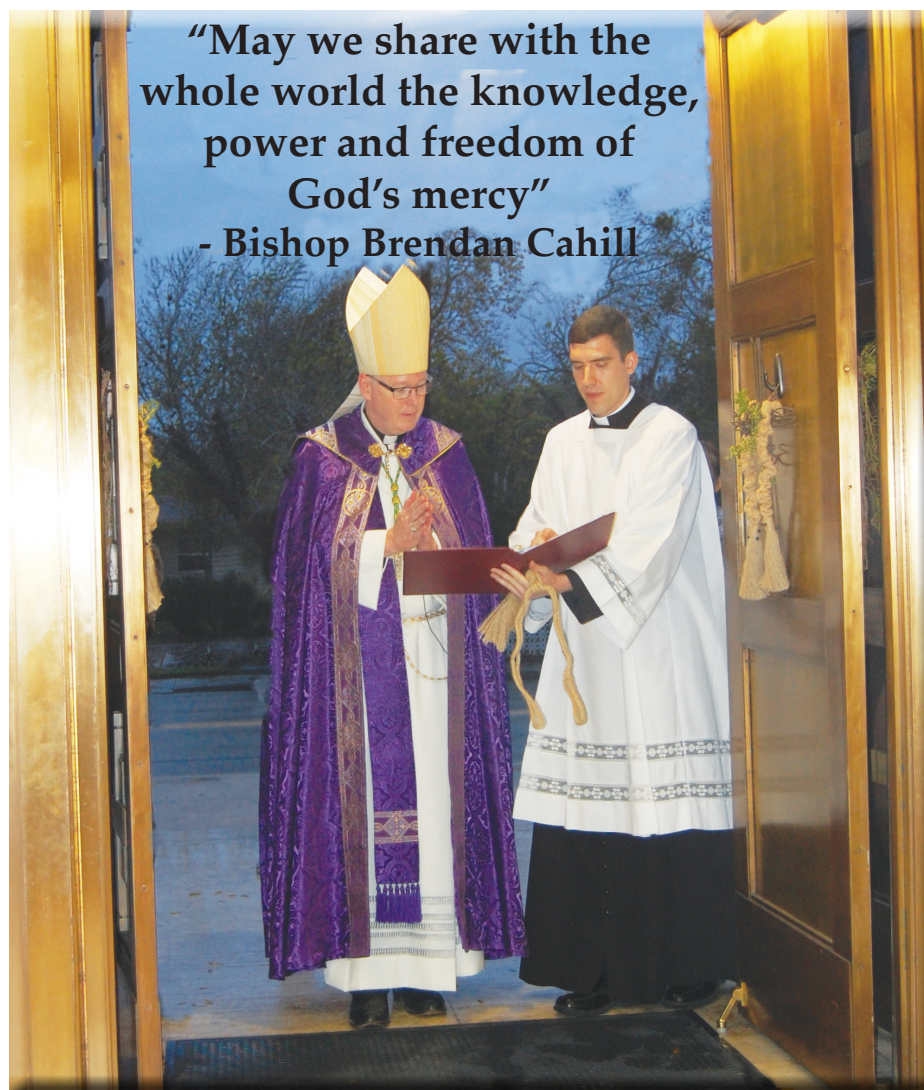
Vocations in the Diocese of Victoria



This past Summer (2015), The Diocese of Victoria was blessed with four newly ordained priests and one transitional deacon who accepted an extraordinary calling from God. The ordination to the Order of the Diaconate and Order of the Priesthood was held on June 6 at Holy Family Catholic Church in Victoria. Scott Hill, Francis Nguyen, Jacob Koether, and Kristopher Fuchs, joined the Diocese as new priests. They have been busy serving their assigned parishes for the past 6 months. Deacon Max Landman, has been serving in Ohio as a Transitional Deacon. He will be ordained a priest in June of 2016. Pictured also above is Bishop Brendan Cahill and Bishop David Fellhauer.

Meet the 4 newest priests, a friar, and others in formation in the Diocese of Victoria in the Vocations Section of this paper!!! Pgs. 7-10

"May we share with the whole world the knowledge, power and freedom of God's mercy"
- Bishop Brendan Cahill



The Bishops dinner was held December 6, to benefit the Spiritual Renewal Center. A Mass, entertainment by the Theatre Victoria Junior Company, dinner and an auction was enjoyed by all. Pictured (left-right) Deacon Jim and Laurie Koenig, Deacon Jarrel and Irene Novhavitza, Deacon John and Eileen McCourt and a young lady from the Theatre Victoria Junior Company.



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Brendan J. Cahill

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

Estimated Catholic population: 107,000.

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

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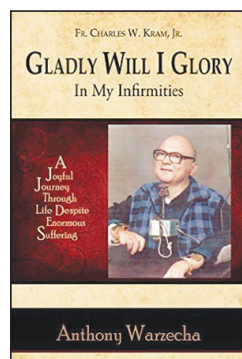
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Dear Brothers and
Sisters,

Forty years ago, on December 5, 1975, Father Charles Kram, Jr. was ordained a priest in his home church of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Shiner. Since I've been in the Diocese of Victoria I've met many people who personally knew Father Kram and his family, and it seems to me thousands who may have been at that Ordination Mass! The testimony to his holiness and the holiness of his family, friends and home communities of Shiner and Yoakum have been beautifully recorded in a book "Gladly Will I Glory in My Infirmities" by Deacon Anthony Warzecha. Having read the book and listened to many stories of his ministry I felt called to encourage devotion and prayer to him as part of our diocesan celebration of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Let me share with you this month a couple of the reasons that I think his wit-



at Amazon.com. Also, on paperback at IWBS Gift Shop and Heavenly Helpers just to name a few. Here is a part of what the book is about: This story is about the remarkable Father Charles Kram, Jr., the quadriplegic priest who served for nearly twenty-five years as a hospital chaplain doing what he enjoyed most in life: serving God and neighbor with an enormous amount of love. By never complaining about his suffering of pain and the humiliation of his dependency, Father Kram raised suffering to the dignity of the divine. In this way, he accepted the circumstances of his life as the will of God. To complain against the will of God would certainly be unworthy of a true Christian. To accept his suffering as the will of God made Father Kram's suffering a source of joy, a vehicle of unity with God here on earth.

Message From Bishop Brendan Cahill

ness continues to be so timely for us today.

First, Father Kram conscientiously chose to radiate the love and joy of Jesus each day. As a person begins to read and listen to his story this simple fact takes on heroic proportions. As a young man in the 1950's Charles Kram suffered a serious form of polio. When he suffered this he was in the final stages of his preparation to become a priest for the Archdiocese of San Antonio. Because he suffered this he spent over a year in intensive physical therapy and rehabilitation, with his parents faithfully by his side. After the year he was physically limited, so he wasn't able to be ordained to the priesthood. In the midst of what could have been devastating circumstances he and his parents maintained their love for one another and become strong witnesses of the power of faith, hope and love.



Father Charles
Kram, Jr.

Second, Father Kram helped others grow in holiness each day. After this initial setback, his friends and family continued to keep in touch and care for him. Many of his friends from the seminary kept a hope alive that one day he may be ordained to the priesthood. They commented on his joyful witness in the midst of his suffering, and thought that this could be such a powerful witness in a priest. For over twenty years they faithfully kept in touch and I'm sure that each person who visited the Kram household in those years would share how they felt uplifted by the Holy Spirit in the presence of the Kram family. Eventually the day would come when he would be ordained to the priesthood, and that must have been one of the most joyous, holy days in the history of this area!

There is so much more to share from his life that can be an inspiration for our faith. In this day when we seem to have a tendency to judge one another on what we can get out of them, it's beautiful to be reminded that it's so much more about what we can give. May God bless you and your families in this new year with a personal knowledge of the love and mercy of Jesus.

Let's keep one another in prayer,
+Brendan

St. Mary's Annual Parish Festival Sunday – February 14, 2016 Victoria Community Center

FESTIVAL
TIME !!



FESTIVAL
TIME !!



ROAST BEEF MEAL

**Roast Beef, Gravy, Country Potatoes, Green Beans,
Squash Casserole, Roll, Dessert & Drink**
Served 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. • \$9.00 PER PLATE
Plates to Go @ 10:30

LIVE AUCTION at 12:30 p.m.

Antiques – Collectibles – Crafts – Jewelry – Quilts

GAMES, BOOTHS, SILENT AUCTION – FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT



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.

December 18, 2015

	TOTALS
General Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$ 108,504.00
Donation in honor of Rev. Joe Vrana's 50th ordination anniversary to the priesthood by Nada K of C Council #3371 (previously reported in the General Burse in 5/15 moved to Rev. Joe Vrana's Burse)	<u><2,500.00></u>
Total	\$106,004.00

Rev. Joe Vrana, In Honor of his Golden Jubilee Year	
Previously reported	\$1,155.00
Donation in honor of Rev. Joe Vrana's 50th Ordination anniversary to the priesthood by Nada K of C Council #3371 (previously reported under the General Burse in 5/15)	2,500.00
In memory of Annie and William Joe Henneke's 68th wedding anniversary by Ann Henneke	20.00
In honor of Rev. Joe Vrana by K of C Council #3371 Nada	200.00
K of C Council #2500 East Bernard	\$500.00
Total	\$4,375.00

Rev. Wayne Flagg and Rev. Philip Brune	
Previously reported	\$4,565.00
In honor of Rev. Wayne Flagg's 66th birthday celebration by M/M Elbert Brune Family	<u>40.00</u>
Total	\$4,605.00

Louis and Edith Hickl	
Previously reported	\$12,570.00
In memory of all deceased family members of Louis and Edith Hickl by Edith Hickl	<u>1,230.00</u>
Total	\$13,800.00

Rev. Scott Joseph Hill	
Previously reported	\$1,278.00
In honor of Rev. Scott J. Hill for Christmas by the Chessher Family	<u>100.00</u>
Total	\$1,378.00

Rev. Joseph A. Koebel	
Previously reported	\$9,018.00
In loving memory of Rev. Joseph Koebel by Nada K of C Council #3371	<u>200.00</u>
Total	\$9,218.00

Rev. Msgr. Victor Schmidtzensky	
Previously reported	\$500.00
In loving memory of Rev. Msgr. Victor Schmidtzensky by Nada K of C Council #3371	<u>200.00</u>
Total	\$700.00

Rev. Dan Morales in Honor of his Work for Vocations	
Previous Balance	\$3,306.00
In honor of Rev. Dan Morales by Paz and Andrea Morales	25.00
In thanksgiving for Fr. Dan's unceasing	

efforts to increase vocations for the Diocese of Victoria by Dr./M Joseph W. Bitter	<u>200.00</u>
Total	\$3,531.00

Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Burse #7	
Previously reported	\$9,670.00
In memory of Josephine (Joyce) Orsak by Willie E. Barborak	10.00
In memory of Ben Kresta by Bernard and Mary Grahmann	10.00
Total	\$9,690.00

Rev. Msgr. John C. Bily Burse #2	
Previously reported	\$5,794.00
In memory of Sister Rita Rose Bily, C.D.P. by: the parishioners of Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church, Dubina	100.00
Bernice Dobecka	20.00
Betty Patalik	25.00
In memory of Eugene A. Patalik by Betty Patalik and Family	25.00
In memory of Helen Nowak by: Delores Schulze	5.00
Deacon Dan Nowak	5.00
In memory of Rev. Gene Shepard by Deacon Dan Nowak	5.00
Donation in honor of Rev. Msgr. John C. Bily for Christmas by KJZT Society #66, Weimar	25.00
In memory of Lawrence J. Klesel by James and Barbara Janak	<u>25.00</u>
Total	\$6,029.00

Catholic Daughters of America Our Lady Queen of Peace Court #1374	
Previously reported	\$8,022.12
In honor of B.G. & Betty Parma (Godparents) by Justin Turner (Godchild)	20.00
In honor of Chris Goerig (Confirmation Sponsor) by Justin Turner	20.00
In honor of Kimberly Hailey (Godchild) by Tommy and Carol Turner (Godparents)	20.00
In honor of Kody Witcher (Godchild) by Tommy and Carol Turner (Godparents)	20.00
In honor of Lindsey Priesmeyer (Godchild) by Carol Turner (Confirmation Sponsor)	20.00
In honor of Troy Riha (Godchild) by Carol Turner (Godparent)	20.00
In honor of Toby Riha (Godchild) by Tommy and Carol Turner (Godparents)	20.00
In honor of Will Orr by Tommy Turner (Confirmation Sponsor)	20.00
In honor of Lee Orr (Godchild) by Tommy Turner (Godparent & Confirmation Sponsor)	20.00
In honor of Scott Kulcak by Tommy Turner (Confirmation Sponsor)	<u>20.00</u>
Total	\$8,222.12

Bishop Brendan's Schedule

January

4-8	Bishop's Retreat, Oblate Renewal Center, San Antonio
11-15	Priests' Retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria
21	6:30 p.m., Gabriel Project Appreciation Dinner, St. Mary Church Activity Center, Victoria
23	10:00 a.m., Diaconal Ordination of Oscar Amo, Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Victoria
24	10:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Anthony Church, Columbus
27	10:00 a.m., Presbyteral Council Meeting, Chancery, 2nd Floor 7:00 p.m., Celebration of Life Program, St. Agnes Church, Edna
31	9:00 a.m., Catholic Schools Mass, The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
31-Feb. 3	Bishops' Jesus Caritas Meeting, El Paso Texas

February

3	10:00 a.m., Pension Board Meeting, Chancery, 1st Floor Conference Room 6:00 p.m., CCD Night, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Bay City
4	7:00 p.m., Holy League of Men, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Ganado
6	9:00 a.m., Heart of Worship Conference, St. Laurence Church, Sugarland
7	9:30 a.m., Confirmation Mass, Sacred Heart Church, Flatonia
9	6:00 p.m., Catholic School Awards Banquet, Hilton Garden Inn, Victoria

DSA update

2015 Diocesan Services Appeal

Diocesan Goal:	\$ 1,826,700.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$ 1,051,011.52
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 1,008,692.00
Number of Parish Families Participating:	3,442

9th Annual Catholic Knowledge Bowl

The Office of Catechetical Ministry is preparing for the Ninth Annual Catholic Knowledge Bowl, which will take place Sunday, February 21, at the Our Lady of Victory Gym from 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. Study questions along with the answers can be found at www.victoriadiocese.org (Ministries/Catholic Knowledge Bowl/Documents). Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, 3rd place in each division.

Forming a team is simple. There are three divisions: adults, teens, and families, with four persons on a team. Anyone over the age of 18 (not in high school) qualifies to be part of an adult team. Teens between

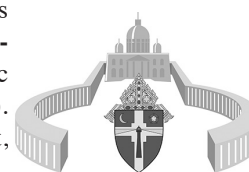


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Statues, Baptism & Wedding Items
Inspirational Gifts

the ages of 13-18 are eligible to join a teen team. Family teams can be comprised of parents, grandparents, or any other adult family member; however, at least one or more children must be on the team.

Registration is \$25 per team of four persons. The first five teams who register and pay will receive free t-shirts for team member. Register online at www.victoriadiocese.org or call (361) 573-0828 for more information. Early registration is encouraged.

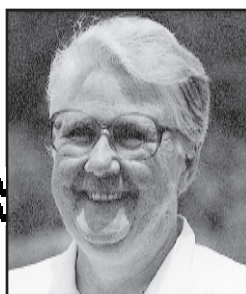
All are invited to come and cheer your favorite team. Refreshments will be available.





SISTERLY THOUGHTS

by Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



Jubilee Year of Mercy

Happy New Year! If you haven't made any New Year's resolutions (or even if you have and are still keeping them), there are some suggestions for you below.

We had not even finished the Year of Consecrated Life as our focus was being shifted to Pope Francis' proclaimed Jubilee Year of Mercy which began last month on December 8. Pope Francis tells us that "Mercy is the beating heart of the Gospel"; he also tells us how to practice this mercy. He asks us "... to bring a word and gesture of consolation to the poor, to proclaim liberty to those bound by new forms of slavery in modern society, to restore sight to those who can see no more because they are caught up in themselves, to restore dignity to all those from whom it has been robbed." (Misericordias Vultus, 16)

Now let us reflect on our own response to Pope Francis' plea, "to bring a word and gesture of consolation to the poor"; so who are the poor among us? Could it be someone who is struggling financially because of unemployment, illness, or unfortunate circumstances? Could it be someone who is experiencing physical loss of family members or friends who have died or moved out of their lives? Could it be someone who is suffering emotionally or

mentally? Or could it be someone who is facing the loss of their independence due to age or declining health? These poor among us can give us ample opportunity to extend an encouraging word and/or a supporting hand.

Then, how can we "proclaim liberty to those bound by new forms of slavery in modern society"? I think that the first step is to become more knowledgeable about and aware of human trafficking; I heard that our state is, unfortunately, one of the leading states in this exploitative endeavor.

Also, through our example of humility we can "restore sight to those who can see no more because they are caught up in themselves". We can encourage them, or better yet, have them accompany us in outreach activities so that they can see Christ, often the suffering Christ, in those about us.

Finally, how can we "restore dignity to all those from whom it has been robbed"? Society has a way of excluding the "other", -those who are different, those who do not live up to our expectations or our way of thinking. Let us become more respectful to others, remembering that whatever we do to these "others", we do to Christ, himself.

Just imagine how our society could be transformed if everyone of us took our Holy Father's words seriously and made them part of our practice.



SPECIAL GUEST AT JCDA MEETING—Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas #206 of Yoakum, were honored to have two special guests, Gilbert Ramon and his service dog Colt at their November meeting. Mr. Ramon informed the members of his military service and the dedication he has towards veterans and active military. He has a Facebook page Honor361 which informs people of service events and happenings. He also shared the touching story of how he has Colt in his life and about his faith in God.

Indulgences

What is an indulgence?

An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven" (Indulgentiarum Doctrina 1)

How does an indulgence wipe away the effects of sin?

It is not the forgiveness of a sin. Forgiveness of a sin is separate from the punishment of a sin. Indulgences deal with the punishments left after sins have been forgiven.

What are the effects of sin?

Every sin has a double consequence. Sin weakens our relationship with God. If it is a venial sin and it destroys our relationship with God if it is a mortal sin. Sin gives us an unhealthy attachment to created things, therefore making our conscience dull.

What is temporal punishment?

An indulgence takes away the temporal punishment one would receive in Purgatory. It purifies the soul of the temporal effects of sin. Partial indulgence takes part of the temporal punishment away and plenary indulgence takes away all temporal punishment. Temporal punishment could be compared to spilling coffee. The coffee can be wiped away but the stain remains. The stain that would be left behind is like the temporal punishment.

What are the conditions that must be met to receive indulgences?

The gaining of indulgences requires certain conditions and the performance of certain prescribed works. One must be in the state of grace, have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation, received Holy Communion and offered prayers for the Holy Father and his intentions.

How quickly after conditions are met must the works be carried out?

It is appropriate, but not necessary, that the sacramental Confession and especially Holy Communion and the prayer for the Pope's intentions take place on the same day that the indulgenced work is performed; but it is sufficient that these sacred rites and prayers be carried out within several days (about 20) before or after the indulgenced act. Prayer for the Pope's intentions is left to the choice of the faithful, but an "Our Father" and a "Hail Mary" are suggested. One sacramental Confession suffices for several plenary indulgences, but a separate Holy Communion and a separate prayer for the Holy Father's intentions are required for each plenary indulgence.

Who can receive indulgences?

Indulgences can always be applied either to oneself or to the souls of the deceased (once a day), but they cannot be applied to other persons living on earth.

What are the requirements for the Year of Mercy?

The requirements for the Diocese of Victoria are:

Requirements to Obtain Plenary Indulgences

Pilgrimage to the Cathedral of the Diocese and 2 of the other four Pilgrim sites. (The four Pilgrim sites in the Diocese of Victoria are: Holy Cross, Bay City; Holy Cross, East Bernard; Holy Cross, Yorktown; and Raphael's Refuge, Flatonia.)

- Pray for the pope and his intentions.
- Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Holy Communion in a timely manner.
- Make an act of faith by reciting the creed.

**Year of Mercy
December 8, 2015 -
November 20, 2016**

Resources and information about upcoming events for the Year of Mercy available at <http://www.victoriadiocese.org/year-of-mercy>.



**Grand Canyon & Red Rocks
May 2 - 11**

Video Presentation January 21
Sky Restaurant (Victoria)
11:30 a.m.

**NCL Cruise out of Venice
June 10-18**

**Alaska out of Seattle
July 30 - August 6**

**334 Jurek Road
Port Lavaca, TX 77979
(361) 552.2695 or (361) 920.3216
email: zkmnt@tisd.net
www.pathwayswithpatti.com**



ST. PHILIP STUDENTS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM— Mary (Katie Gubbels), Joseph (Brian Miska), and donkey lead the way to Bethlehem during the St. Philip Catholic School, El Campo, Christmas program held on December 9, 2015, as the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades presented Sights and Sounds of a Jr. High Christmas.

STJ STUDENT AMBASSADORS READ AT PARTNER SCHOOLS— Student Ambassadors at St. Joseph High School in Victoria, recently read Christmas stories to students at Nazareth Academy, Our Lady of Victory Catholic School and Trinity Episcopal School. STJ students who are former students of the schools, enjoy taking some time to go back to their grade school to read and share Christmas cheer.



Bishop Brendan Cahill visited St. Michael School in Cuero and spent time in the classrooms with the students.



Bishop Brendan Cahill celebrated Mass at St. Mary's with Nazareth Academy students in Victoria. Pictured are 8th grade altar servers.

Join the Catholic Schools throughout the Diocese of Victoria in celebrating Catholic Schools Week January 31 - February 6. All the schools will be featured next month in The Catholic Lighthouse.

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.

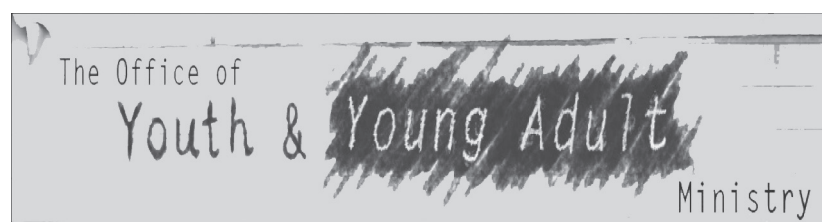


Our Lady of Victory Catholic School Open House

for
Prospective Parents and Students ~ Pre-K3 through 8th Grade

**Monday, February 1, 2016
6:30 p.m. • School Cafeteria**

(361) 575-5391 or
www.ourladyvictory.org



Wendy Eggert, Director • Ryan Leos, Associate Director
ym@victoriadiocese.org • (361) 573-0828 • www.victoriadiocese.org

Calendar of Events

2016

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



YOUTH GATHER AT ST. JOSEPH PARISH, INEZ—The CCD children 6th through 12th grade had a coke float social. The event included a picture booth. Pictured top left, is Father Gabriel Benteil, pastor, joining in the fun at the picture booth.



CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS WITH OTHERS—St. Mary's, Nada, LLC High School Class (9th-11th grades) went Christmas caroling on the evening of December 9. This is the 4th year that they share their gift of music!



YNIA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY DONATION—The Young Neighbors in Action of the Queen of the Holy Rosary Parish, Hostyn and Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, Plum, recently held a Pancake Supper to raise funds for Fayette County Habitat for Humanity. Pictured is Aaron Janda of YNIA presenting a check for \$1,356.59 to Habitat representatives Leonard Leffler and Richard Copeland.

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Nazareth Academy Open House

for
Prospective Parents and Students
Pre-K3 through 8th Grade

**Tuesday, January 26, 2016
6:30-8:00 p.m. • School Playroom**

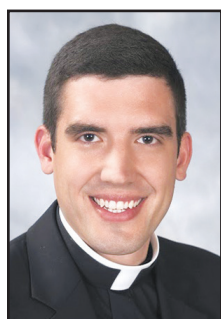
(361) 573-6651 or
www.nazarethacademy.org

BAKING FOR FUNDS—The Youth Ministry of Queen of the Holy Rosary Parish, Hostyn and Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, Plum recently made home-made apple strudels to raise funds for the middle school and high school summer mission trips. Pictured is Jennifer Faldyn, checking the progress of the dough.





Meet the Newest Priests From The Diocese of Victoria



Father Kristopher Fuchs

Father Kristopher is the son of, Kevon Fuchs and Lynette Butler. He is blessed to have two younger brothers: Jayson and Dylan. Jayson and his wife Maggie are

expecting their first child at the end of February. Father Kris shares, "I am excited about being "Uncle Father!" His parents and brothers live in Needville, Texas, where he grew up. Needville is in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. Father Kris attended Needville public schools from Kindergarten to 12th grade and is proud to be a Blue Jay! He was baptized at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church in Needville and was active in his parish life throughout his childhood. In the fourth grade, he started serving as an altar boy at Mass. He served at the altar until the seventh grade when his talents at the piano brought him to the choir loft, and he started playing the organ for Mass. This ended his being at the altar... at least for a while. Father Kris says, "I couldn't be at both the altar and the choir loft at the same time! In fact, now that I am a priest, this is probably the first time since the seventh grade that I have not played the organ every week for Mass!"

After graduating from Needville High School he went to Texas A&M and received a degree in architecture in 2009.

Continued on pg. 8



Father Scott Hill

Father Scott grew up in Mentz and attend St. Roch Catholic Church. He attended both St. Anthony School and the public school in Columbus, but ended up graduating

high school from Sacred Heart in Hallettsville. He attended Blinn in Brenham his freshman year of college and then transferred to Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, where he graduated in 2010. After Franciscan, he then moved to Houston and attended St. Mary Seminary to continue his studies towards the priesthood. His parents, Daryl and Joan Hill, still reside in Mentz. Father Scott is the third of four children and has three sisters. All three are married and he has seven nieces/nephews under the age of 5.

He was drawn to religious life at an early age. His parish priest at an early age had a profound impact on him. Father Scott shares, "In him, I saw a very excited and happy priest. At such a young age, the only thing I knew that was different between him and any other male role models in my life was that he was a priest." Therefore, at such a young age he was attracted to the priesthood and that attraction remained with him into college. During college, he finally decided to do something about his calling and became a seminarian during the summer of 2008.

Continued on pg. 8



Father Jacob Koether

Father Jacob was born in Bay City and grew up near Sargent, a small community south-east of Bay City. He attended church at Holy Cross and also went there for elementary school.

In junior high and high school he attended Van Vleck where his family moved and remained. For college Father Jacob attended Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio where he studied Catechetics and Philosophy. He was accepted as a seminarian for the Diocese of Victoria as a sophomore at Franciscan. After graduating he attended St. Mary's Seminary where he did his theological studies. Father Jacob shares, "My parents were both born and raised Catholic and they raised us the same!" He has two sisters and one brother and he is the 3rd child.

Father Jacob was drawn to the priesthood by a few things including his pastor, Msgr. Casey Jarzombek who modeled a very joy filled, fruitful, and holy priesthood. He shares, "He would also invite me to take his place once he retired." Deacon Walley Rodriguez, who he would eventually ask to be his confirmation sponsor, was also very supportive of his vocation and influential in helping him discern God's will. Terri Busha, his youth minister at Holy Cross played such a profound impact in his life

Continued on pg. 8



Father Francis Nguyen

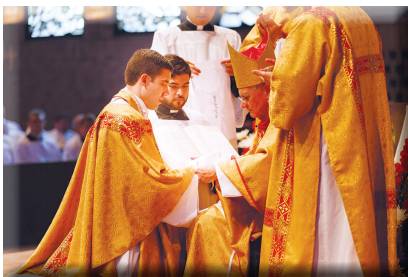
Father Francis grew up in Vietnam and in a Catholic family. He has three sisters, and two brothers. His parents and siblings live in Houston. Father Francis gradu-

ated from The University of St. Thomas with a degree in Liberal Arts, and from Holy Apostles Seminary with his Masters in Theology. He shares, "God called me in special way to serve Him and His people. I entered the Franciscan Order in Vietnam, and I continued my vocation when I arrived to the United States." Father Francis shares, "On the ordination day, when I went to the altar to con-celebrate with the Bishop and all priests, I felt very emotional as I wanted to cry out that now I am a priest of God because I followed my vocation for 26 years and pursued toward priesthood." He is assigned to St. Philip Apostle Church in El Campo. Father Francis says, "I have a wonderful time serving God and His people. I want to sincerely say thanks to all people who have supported and prayed for my vocation."



Bishop Fellhauer anointing Father Francis Nguyen's hands.

Father Kristopher Fuchs



Bishop Fellhauer anointing Father Kristopher Fuchs' hands.

He was even fortunate enough to study for a semester in Italy during that time. Although he really enjoyed his time at Texas A&M, he knew God was calling him to the priesthood. During the Fall semester of his senior year at A&M, Father Kris called Father Dan Morales about possibly applying for the seminary. A meeting was scheduled and Father Dan drove up to College Station. Father Kris shares, "I'll never forget us sitting on those wooden benches in Potato Shack on Northgate while I told him my life story!" After being accepted as a seminarian for the Diocese of Victoria, he was sent to Holy Trinity Seminary in Dallas for his first two years of studies. During the first few summers as a seminarian, he worked in the chancery. Although he thought Dallas was "up north," he was later sent even further north to finish his last four years in the seminary at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio.

When asked what drew him to the priesthood Father Kris answered, "For as long as I can remember, I have felt a deep connection with God. I always enjoyed being at church and would sometimes be asked by people if I ever thought about being a priest. I would say that I had thought about it, but that I was not going to be a priest." When he was in high school, he went through a time in his life where he came to appreciate the Catholic Faith in a way that he had not before. When he turned 16, he was moved to make a promise to God to spend an hour once a week in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Father Kris went every week in the middle of the night. He shares, "While I sat still in that very quiet chapel, I learned how to listen in prayer. It would be in those moments of silence before Jesus, that I first heard that call. There was a desire, deep in my heart, to be His priest. However, it scared me, so I tried to push it aside." He also remembers being very appreciative of his pastor, Father James Ramsey, who was his pastor from when he was 3 until he was 21. Father Ramsey asked if he would be on a parish vocations committee, which Archbishop Fiorenza asked that every

parish have. The members of this committee went to a workshop at St. Mary's Seminary in Houston. Father Kris said, "After attending that workshop, the idea of the priesthood never left my mind and heart. Through continued prayer and guidance, I came to understand that I needed to enter the seminary to become a priest if I was truly going to be happy and live out the purpose for which God made me."

Father Kris grew up on a farm outside the small town of Needville. When he was considering the seminary, he naturally thought of applying for his home Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, however, realized that the majority of that archdiocese is made up of Houston and its suburbs. Small towns like Needville are not very common. He just couldn't see himself living in Houston for the rest of his life. Father Kris told this to a seminarian friend at the time, who is now a priest in the Diocese of Austin, and he suggested that he consider the Diocese of Victoria. It really made perfect sense. Victoria is a rural diocese and the culture is very similar to where he grew up. He says, "To put it plainly, the Diocese of Victoria just felt like home."

When Father Kris was asked if there were any special moments during his ordination he said, "The Litany of Saints, the Laying on of Hands, and the Anointing with Sacred Chrism at the ordination and the Consecration at the first Mass were all very special moments. But there was a point at each where I got emotional and started to cry. At the ordination I started to cry during the third verse of the Offertory Hymn, "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" at the phrase, "I'm looking for the coming of Christ; I want to be with Jesus." I guess this just summed up everything. My whole life, my desires, everything that led me to that moment, could be summed up with that phrase.

He is assigned as parochial vicar at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. He is very grateful for this assignment. There is always something going on from being with the kids at the school and CCD program, to the people who come to "talk to Father." He is able to interact with many different people which brings much fulfillment in his ministry.

Father Kris shares, "There's so much peace in my life right now, and six months later, that is still how I feel. God has given me peace as I live this vocation."

Father Kris would like to thank the people of the Diocese of Victoria who have been so supportive over the years. He says, "I am very thankful for all of you. Most of all, it is you, the people of this diocese, who have made this diocese home for me."

Father Scott Hill



Bishop Fellhauer anointing Father Scott Hill's hands.

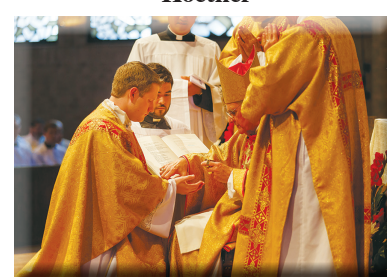
He shares, "The ordination and my first Mass were both incredible. I was very touched to see a large crowd come celebrate with us, and I was especially overjoyed to see so many people from my home parish that made the drive to Victoria." He celebrated his first Mass at his home parish, St. Roch Catholic Church in Mentz. Father Jacob described the whole day as amazing and said it was truly special to have so many people celebrate with him. He says, "It's still sometimes hard to believe I'm a priest! But I'm very happy being a priest and at peace with where I am. I'm also acutely aware that I have a lot to learn."

Father Jacob asks the Diocese of Victoria to continue praying for priests. He is currently the Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of the Gulf in Port Lavaca and her missions (St. Joseph in Port O'Connor, St. Patrick in Seadrift, and St. Ann in Point Comfort).

Other information about Father Kristopher Fuchs, Father Scott Hill, Father Jacob Koether and Father Francis Nguyen:

Ordained to the diaconate:
-May 2014
-The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria

Father Jacob Koether



Bishop Fellhauer anointing Father Jacob Koether's hands.

that Father Jacob found it difficult to put into words. He also said, "My parents provided a very fertile and encouraging space for the thought of priesthood to grow and eventually bear fruit."

He shares about a moment that stood out from the ordination, "Seeing all of the people - family, friends, parishioners - who helped get me to that point and made me the person I am today. It's really profound to see so many people supporting and affirming your vocation." Father Jacob's speaks of his first Mass. He shares, "One moment in my first Mass that was special to me was at the very beginning standing at the presider's chair, the place where I had seen Msgr. Casey celebrate so many masses before, and realizing that this was indeed what God intended for my life."

Father Jacob often tells people that every day has been better than the day before it. He feels satisfied, engaged, challenged, affirmed, and confident in the Lord. "I truly believe that this is what I'm supposed to be doing with my life", he shares.

He asks for continued prayers for vocations (because the prayers are working) and for the guys already in seminary. He shares, "It can be challenging to be formed and to follow God's will. Thank you for your support of vocations."

He is currently assigned to Holy Family in Victoria.

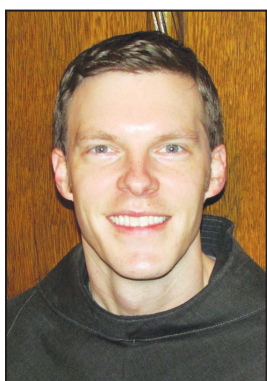
Ordained as priests:
-June 6, 2015
-Holy Family Church, Victoria

*For more information about priestly vocations contact:
Diocese of Victoria Vocations Office at (361) 573-5304*

*For women religious vocations contact:
Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament at (361) 575-7111*



Franciscan Priest From Diocese of Victoria



Bryan Hajovsky is the youngest of five children of Bernie and Nancy Hajovsky of Cuero. He and his siblings attended grade school at Saint Michael's School and received the Sac-

raments of Baptism, First Reconciliation and Holy Communion at Saint Michael's Catholic Church. They attended catechism classes at Holy Family Catholic Church in Victoria and received the Sacrament of Confirmation at Holy Family. In 2002, he graduated from Cuero High School. In 2006, he completed a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M University in College Station. In 2012, he completed an S.T.B. and Master of Divinity from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He loves being a being an uncle and shares, "It is delightful! For some reason, my nieces and nephews find me mysteriously interesting. If only they actually knew how practical and predictable I actually am!"

Father Bryan was drawn to the priesthood during his years at Texas A&M. He had a sense that the Lord may be calling him to religious life and specifically, within the Franciscan spirituality. During his final year at Texas A&M, he became acquainted with the Conventual Franciscan Friars, who have a friary in San Antonio. It was there that he established a good relationship with Brother Tim Unser and with the other friars, and was exposed to their -at times, chaotic - rhythm of prayer, ministry and fraternity. He shares, "Life with the friars is far from the epitome of orderliness and solemnity, but it is certainly a Christ-centered, dynamic and comical life!"

Father Bryan is often asked, "What is a friar?" He explained, that all the [male] Franciscans are friars, and are called "friar", however; some of the friars are called to the Franciscan brotherhood, and are called "brother". Those called to the Franciscan priesthood are called "Father." Within the Franciscan Family, there are 3 Orders. The First Order is directly founded by Francis of Assisi himself, and it composed of three branches. The Second Order is directly related to Clare of Assisi and includes all the Poor Clares. The Third Order is composed of any and all other Franciscan groups throughout the world. Historically, the Conventual Franciscans were the friars who

chose to dwell in cities and live in "convents." The Conventuals care for the tomb and Basilica of Saint Francis in Assisi and the tomb and Basilica of Anthony in Padua.

There are some distinct differences between friars and diocesan priests. One difference is that religious orders express the charism of their founders. Franciscans are supposed to manifest a Franciscan spirituality: to be brotherly/sisterly to all people and to help others understand Jesus Christ through the lens of Francis. Another difference involves obediences. Diocesan priests have direct obedience to the bishop of their diocese. Franciscans have direct obedience to the friar they elect to govern their province. Father Bryan is currently assigned to the Diocese of Toledo, therefore; the Bishop of Toledo governs where he will minister. Another difference involves poverty. Diocesan priests are able to maintain their own bank accounts and receive stipends. Friars vow to live without anything of our own, including a bank account.

Father Bryan professed simple vows to the Order Friars Minor Conventual in Mishawaka, IN. In August of 2014, he professed solemn vows to the Order in Carey, OH. In November of 2014, he received the Sacrament of Orders to the [transitional] diaconate from Archbishop Gustavo in San Antonio. In October of 2015, he received the Sacrament of Orders to the presbyterate from Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv, in San Antonio. Father Bryan shares, "Oddly enough, as the presbyterate ordination date drew nearer, I actually became more at-ease! I assume it was because I was stepping into the fullness of what our Lord had called me toward: Franciscan priesthood." He was honored that Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv, his mentor and friary guardian was willing and able to travel from Lexington, KY, to San Antonio to celebrate the Mass of Ordination.

Although his family and fellow friars could attend the Mass of Ordination, sadly, his dad had to remain in the ICU at Saint Luke's Hospital in Houston during the ordination. Father Bryan shared, "Dad and my family were on FaceTime the entire time. During the responsorial Psalm, I looked over and saw Dad's face on the telephone screen and saw how intently he was watching. That certainly brought tears of mixed and fervent emotion."

He celebrated his first Mass in his hometown of Cuero. While he loves being a friar, Father Bryan admits that he misses South Texas!

Father Bryan lives in Carey, OH and ministers at the Basilica and National

Transitional Deacon

Deacon Max Landman



Max Landman is from Uvalde and is currently serving as a Transitional Deacon in Ohio. He shares, "A great sense of peace drew me to the priesthood, I was drawn to the priesthood by the example of fine priests, along with the desire to share the treasure of the Catho-

lic faith, and a great deal of encouragement from people who prayed for me." Max also shares, "I have learned a lot about theology and the life of the Church, but perhaps more important is that I have come to learn more about our Lord's call. I have learned to love the Mass and the Cross, and to pray that I may embrace them all the more, especially during the tumult of life, and when I might not want to put that love first." He looks forward most of all to the celebration of the sacraments, especially reconciliation, the Eucharist, and anointing.

Deacon Max Landman at his diaconate ordination with Bishop David Fellhauer.



To Be Ordained Transitional Deacon

Oscar will be ordained a transitional deacon of the Church by Bishop Brendan Cahill on Saturday, January 23, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Victoria. All are invited to attend his ordination.

Peter Oscar Kofi Amo



Oscar is from Ghana. He shares, "As a young boy of 14 years I lived in a small town with my parents and my three other siblings. I remember about 27 years ago when I was serving on the altar, all of us were readily waiting for the arrival of the priest to celebrate the Holy Eucharist with us on a Sunday. The small church was full and the priest came in very late. Yet, nobody decided to go home because it was a mission church at the time where we usually had a Priest visiting the Church at most once in two-three months. That day when the priest was late and as a child, I said to myself, Oh, I wish I were a

Priest. I would have celebrated the Holy Eucharist with the church community since the priest was so very late that day." Little did Oscar know that as an ordained minister you will not be sent to your hometown as the pastor. He says, "Look at where I am now, in Texas!"

He has learned a lot while in formation, He shares, "I think that it is always important to realize that the world is really hungry for the Word of God. A world which keeps changing needs disciples of Christ to proclaim it to the world. The youths are my targets."

Oscar says, "As I am preparing myself for final vows I know I can never do that by my own strength but will always rely on the Holy Spirit."



Peter Oscar Kofi Amo at the Rite of Candidacy within the context of Vespers (Evening Prayer).

Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation.

He is a full-time teacher at OLC High School and was recently appointed as Parochial Vicar of the Basilica & Shrine.

Father Bryan knows that life is undoubtedly filled with grace and challenges! He

shares, "I used to wonder what religious and priests do all day. Now I no longer wonder! My days and nights are readily consumed with a multitude of tasks within community life, Franciscan life, ministry, etc. Nonetheless, I love being a friar!"



Others in Formation in the Diocese of Victoria

Sisters of Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament

Sr. Patricia Marie Lohre
Annually professed

“It was put on my heart when I was a teenager that I would live my life in God’s service. Many years I searched for a religious order to join yet it was always blocked in some way. When I was 50 I met Sister Laura Toman who invited me to consider being a IWBS Sister. There were no blocks this time except my own reluctance. Once in formation I have grown in knowing myself and God which has enabled my relationship with God to deepen.”

Sr. Veronica Marie Munos
Novice Sr.

“I have been drawn to religious life since the age of five. When I met the IWBS sisters of the it was their joy, love and service to others that drew me to this congregation. I have learned that religious life is a beautiful vocation. God is the one who calls us first and we respond yes to God out of love.”



Maria del Rosario
Novice

“The desire to devote my life to the Lord was what actually brought me to this life. At home I volunteered at my parish and was involved with many ministries but I never felt like it was quite enough. I can say that I have learned much during this process and it is like a very long engagement, which is great! I learned much about prayer life; the IWBS congregation and Canon law.”



*Apostles of the
Interior Life*

Cherise Keklar
Hallettsville, Texas

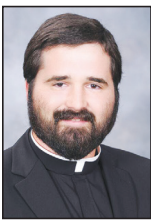
“I first started seriously considering a possible call to the consecrated life when the Lord spoke to my heart in prayer and told me that my primary identity is that I am loved by Love Himself. I look forward to adding another “yes” to the string of “yes’s” that I desire my life to be to the Lord. In the end, my deepest desire is to just live in the simplicity of being His.”



Jacob Mendoza
Theology III

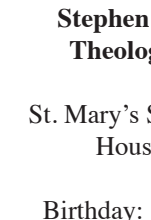
St. Mary’s Seminary,
Houston

Birthday: June 6



Chase Goodman
Theology I

Pontifical College
Josephinum,
Columbus, OH
Birthday: March 22



Stephen Vacek
Theology III

St. Mary’s Seminary,
Houston

Birthday: June 26



Adam Shimek
Pre-Theology I

St. Joseph College
Seminary,
St. Benedict, LA
Birthday: January 26



Ryan Kapavik
College II

St. Joseph College
Seminary,
St. Benedict, LA
Birthday: November 14



James Dvorak
Theology I

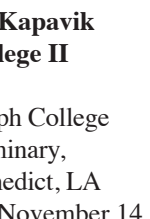
St. Mary’s Seminary,
Houston

Birthday: March 24



Nick Aparicio
College II

St. Joseph College
Seminary,
St. Benedict, LA
Birthday: August 13



Dalton Ervin
Theology I

Pontifical College
Josephinum,
Columbus, OH
Birthday: August 25

Robin Reinhold
Postulant

“One thing that drew me to religious life were unique persons gathered together in like minds, in communion with one another, on their own spiritual journey. I have learned that God calls persons of many diversities and talents to live and work together. I look forward to being closer with God, learning about our foundress, and being more patient with the process of my journey.”

Anita Schori
Postulant

“It is very difficult to articulate what brought me to this moment in my discernment. I trust that at the heart of it all is God. I can think of no better way to spend my life than to live and work to extend the Incarnation. This is the mission of this order and, God willing, I will find my home among these sisters.”

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What will you do for Lent this year?

Lent, a season of spiritual renewal and transformation, offers us all a very special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and to deepen our commitment to a way of life rooted in our baptism. In our busy world, Lent provides us with an opportunity to stop and reflect upon how we are living our life, to pray more deeply, experience sorrow for what we've done and failed to do, and to be generous to those in need. It is like a 40-day retreat for growing in holiness. What will you do this Lent in this "Year of Mercy"?

The Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament invite you to join a faith-sharing group using Disciples on the Journey Lent 2016. This resource, first published in 2004 by the Diocese of Victoria and by the Incarnate Word sisters since 2012, has been used in parishes in 46 states.

Taking an hour and a half each week of Lent to meet with a small group of fellow parishioners, family, or friends to talk about what Jesus means to you can

be the best decision you will make on your Lenten journey toward Easter. There are no right or wrong answers; it is faith sharing.



You might think, "But I have done this program for the last 15 years; it's the same readings! Then ask yourself, "Why go to Mass, I hear the same readings year after year in the Liturgy of the Word." Hearing and reflecting on Scripture is not like reading a novel or a detective story. The Word of God

is always fresh and new. Each time you read Scripture you are in a different place on your faith journey, and God's word can have a powerful transformative impact on your spiritual life right now.

Call your parish today to see about joining a Disciples on the Journey group or form your own group. Visit the website: www.disciplesonthejourney.org, email dj@disciplesonthejourney.org, or call (361) 485-0866 to order. Books are sold in packs of 10 for \$30.

Pope names Dallas priest as auxiliary bishop of Dallas Diocese

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Francis has named Msgr. Gregory Kelly, a priest of the Diocese of Dallas and vicar for clergy, to be an auxiliary bishop of the diocese.

The appointment was announced Dec. 16 in Washington by Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, apostolic nuncio to the U.S.

A native of Iowa, Bishop-designate Kelly, 59, was ordained a priest of the Dallas Diocese May 5, 1982. He has been vicar for clergy since 2008. Pope Benedict XVI named him monsignor in 2013.

Dallas Bishop Kevin J. Farrell will ordain him a bishop Feb. 11 at the Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe in downtown Dallas. That date coincides with the day in 2002 when Bishop Farrell was ordained an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Washington. He has headed the Dallas Diocese since 2007.

Bishops from throughout Texas and the Southwest along with hundreds of priests, deacons, nuns, religious brothers and consecrated men and women from the Dallas Diocese of Dallas will be invited to join Bishop-designate Kelly's family, friends and former parishioners at his ordination Mass.

"This is such a wonderful day," Bishop Farrell said at a news conference at the diocesan Pastoral Center. "It's great for the Diocese of Dallas.

"I could not think of a better person. He is such a hard-working priest. ... This is the pope sending a special Christmas gift to the Diocese of Dallas."

He said his new brother bishop "is extremely well-respected by priests and parishioners alike. He has done an outstanding job as pastor and chaplain, and has been very helpful to me in his role as



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Sunday Readings from Jan. 10 - Feb. 10

January 10 - The Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

Psalms 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10

Acts 10:34-38

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

January 17 - Second Sunday in

Ordinary Time

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalms 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

John 2:1-11

January 24 - Third Sunday in

Ordinary Time

Nehemiah 8:2-4A, 5-6, 8-10

Psalms 19:8, 9, 10, 15

1 Corinthians 12:12-30

Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

For daily and Sunday readings, as well as a daily reflection video, visit

www.usccb.org/bible/readings.

Brought to you by: Catholic Communications Campaign



January 31 - Fourth Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19

Psalms 71:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15-17

1 Corinthians 12:31—13:13

Luke 4:21-30

February 7 - Fifth Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Isaiah 6:1-2A, 3-8

Psalms 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

February 10 - Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:12-18

Psalms 51:3-4, 5-6AB, 12-13, 14 and 17

2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Victoria March for Life January 28 ~ 7:00 p.m.

Beginning at DeLeon Plaza to Our Lady of Sorrows with guest speaker following. Watch church bulletins for details.

Five Ways Abortion Rules Are Changing For Texas Minors

Underage Texas women seeking abortions without their parents' consent will face a tougher set of legal hurdles in the new year. State law already requires minors — those under age 18 — to get sign-off from at least one parent before receiving an abortion, unless doing so could put the young woman in danger of physical, sexual or emotional abuse. In those cases, a judge can be asked to approve the procedure. New legislation that takes effect Friday tightens the rules for seeking such "judicial bypass," including heightening reporting requirements and adding a new civil penalty of up to \$10,000 for anyone found to "intentionally, knowingly, recklessly or with gross negligence" violate the law. For complete story go to www.texastribune.org/2015/12/31/how-abortion-rules-are-changing-minors-texas/.

Benefit Dinner for Missionary Catechist of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary

Sunday, January 17, 2016

CWV Hall

1007 S. Main Street

Victoria, Texas 77901



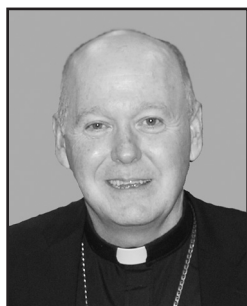
Bar-B-Que Chicken and Sausage with Trimmings
\$9.00 p/p

Live Auction starting at 11:45am

Please join in supporting the work of our Sisters.



Mensaje de Nuestro Obispo Brendan



Hace cuarenta años, el 05 de diciembre de 1975, Padre Charles Kram, Jr. fue ordenado sacerdote en la iglesia de los Santos Cirilo y Metodio en Shiner. Ya que he estado en la diócesis de Victoria he conocido a mucha gente que conocía personalmente a Padre Kram y su familia. ¡Me parece que miles de personas podrían haber estado en esa misa de ordenación!

El testimonio de su santidad y la santidad de la familia, los amigos y las comunidades de origen de Shiner y Yoakum han sido bellamente grabado en un libro "Gladly Will I Glory in My Infirmities" por Deacon Anthony Warzecha. Después de leer el libro, y escuchar muchas historias de su ministerio, me sentí llamado fomentar la devoción a él, como parte de nuestra celebración diocesana del Año Jubileo de la Misericordia. Permítanme compartir con ustedes este mes unas de las razones que creo que su testimonio sigue siendo tan oportuna para nosotros hoy.

En primer lugar, Padre Kram intencionalmente eligió irradiar el amor y la alegría de Jesús cada día. Como un hombre joven en la década de 1950 Charles Kram sufrió una forma grave de polio. Cuando sufrió esto

era en las fases finales de su preparación para hacerse un sacerdote para la Archidiócesis de San Antonio. Pasó más de un año de intensa terapia física y rehabilitación, con sus padres fielmente a su lado, así que no fue capaz de ser ordenado al sacerdocio. Él y sus padres mantuvieron amor el uno por el otro y creció la fe, la esperanza y el amor entre ellos.

En segundo lugar, Padre Kram ayudó a otros crecer en la santidad cada día. Después de este retraso inicial, sus amigos y la familia siguieron manteniéndose en contacto y sintiendo cariño por él. Muchos de sus amigos del seminario mantuvieron viva una esperanza que un día él podía ser ordenado al sacerdocio.

Durante más de veinte años se quedaron en contacto él y sus amigos del seminario. Finalmente llegará el día en que sería ordenado sacerdote! Debe haber sido uno de los más alegres, santo días en la historia de este área!

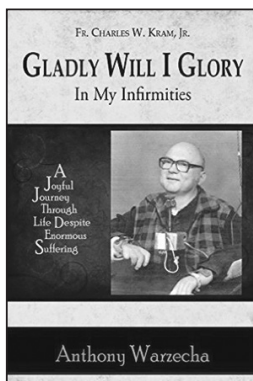
Hay mucho más para compartir de la vida de Padre Kram, que puede ser una inspiración para nuestra fe. En el día de hoy, cuando parece que tenemos una tendencia a juzgar uno al otro en lo que podemos conseguir de ellos, es hermoso recordar que es mucho más de lo que podemos dar.

Que Dios los bendiga a ustedes y a sus familias en este año nuevo con un conocimiento personal del amor y la misericordia de Jesús. Vamos a mantener unos a otros en oración.

Brendan+



Padre Charles Kram, Jr.



¿Qué son los requisitos para las indulgencias del Año de la Misericordia?

Los requisitos para las indulgencias son:

* Peregrinación a la Catedral de Nuestra Señora de la Victoria en Victoria y dos de los otros cuatros sitios de peregrinación.

Los Otros Sitios Son:

Iglesia de La Santa Cruz, Yorktown, TX

Refugio De Rafael, Flatonia, TX

Iglesia de La Santa Cruz, Bay City, TX

Iglesia de La Santa Cruz, East Bernard, TX

* Rezar por el Papa y sus intenciones.

* Confesarse y recibir la Sagrada Comunión de manera oportuna.

* Hacer un acto de fe recitando el Credo.

Del 8 de diciembre de 2015 al 20 de noviembre de 2016

¿Qué harás para la Cuaresma este año?

Cuaresma, un tiempo de renovación espiritual y la transformación, nos ofrece a todos una oportunidad muy especial para crecer en nuestra relación con Dios y profundizar nuestro compromiso con una forma de vida arraigada en nuestro bautismo. En nuestro mundo ocupado, la Cuaresma nos ofrece la oportunidad de parar y reflexionar sobre cómo estamos viviendo nuestra vida, a orar con mayor profundidad, la experiencia tristeza por lo que hemos hecho y dejado de hacer, y ser generosos con los necesitados. Es como un retiro de 40 días para crecer en la santidad. ¿Qué vas a hacer esta Cuaresma en este "Año de la Misericordia"?

Las Hermanas del Verbo Encarnado y Santísimo Sacramento le invitamos a unirse a un grupo de compartimiento de fe- usando Discípulos en el Camino Cuaresma 2016. Este recurso, publicado por primera vez en 2004 por la Diócesis de Victoria y por las hermanas del Verbo Encarnado desde 2012, se ha utilizado en las parroquias en 46 estados.

Tomando una hora y media cada semana de la Cuaresma para reunirse con un pequeño grupo de feligreses, familiares o

amigos para hablar de lo que Jesús significa para usted puede ser la mejor decisión que usted hará en su camino cuaresmal hacia la Pascua. No existen respuestas correctas o incorrectas; es compartir la fe.

Se podría pensar, "¡Pero me ha hecho este programa durante los últimos 15 años; son las mismas lecturas!" Entonces te preguntas, "¿Por qué ir a misa, oigo un año tras otro año las mismas lecturas en la Liturgia de la Palabra?"

Al escuchar y reflexionar sobre la Escritura no es como leer una novela o una historia de detectives. La Palabra de Dios es siempre fresca y nueva. Cada vez que usted lee las Escrituras que se encuentran en un lugar diferente en su camino de fe, y de la palabra de Dios puede tener un poderoso impacto transformador en su vida espiritual en este momento.

Llame a su parroquia hoy para ver en unirse a un grupo de discípulos en el viaje o formar su propio grupo. Visite el sitio web: www.disciplesonthejourney.org, dj@disciplesonthejourney.org correo electrónico, o llame al (361) 485-0866 para pedirlos. Los libros se venden en paquetes de 10 por \$ 30.



Journeys of Faith with Ceci

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HOLY YEAR OF MERCY PILGRIMAGES

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JULY 2016

FATIMA-LOURDES WITH FR. TOMMY CHEN

OCTOBER 2016

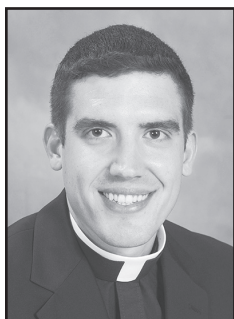
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Las Vocaciones en la diócesis de Victoria



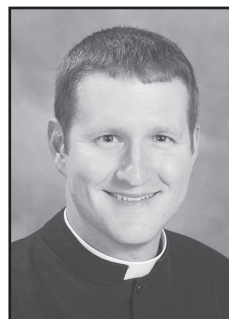
**Padre
Kristopher
Fuchs**

De Needville
La asignación:
The Cathedral
of Our Lady of
Victory, Victoria



**Padre
Scott
Hill**

De Mentz
La asignación:
Our Lady of the
Gulf, Port Lavaca
and Missions



**Padre
Jacob
Koether**

De Bay City area
La asignación:
Holy Family,
Jesus, Mary and
Joseph, Victoria



**Padre
Francis
Nguyen**

De Vietnam
La asignación:
St. Philip
the Apostle,
El Campo

“Desde que puedo recordar, me he sentido una profunda conexión con Dios. Hay mucha paz en mi vida en este momento, y después de seis meses todavía es cómo me siento. Dios me ha dado paz en mi vocación.”

“Fuí atraído a la vida religiosa cuando era joven. La ordenación y mi primera Misa fueron increíbles. Es a veces difícil creer que soy un sacerdote! Estoy muy contento y en paz.”

“Es realmente profundo ver tanta gente apoyando y afirmando mi vocación!” Cada día ha sido mejor que el día antes. Yo sé que esto es lo que yo debería estar haciendo con mi vida. “

“En el día de la ordenación, cuando fui al altar para celebrar con todos los sacerdotes y el obispo, me sentí muy emocional que quise gritar que ahora soy un sacerdote de Dios porque seguí mi vocación durante 26 años y perseguí hacia el sacerdocio”

¿Qué es la ordenación?

1. ¿Qué es la ordenación? Es el acto sacramental en la que un hombre se convierte en un diácono, sacerdote o un obispo. Hay tres ordenaciones en el sacramento del Orden: diaconado; sacerdocio; y episcopal. La ceremonia de ordenación incluye diversos rituales, rico en significado y la historia.

2. ¿Cuándo realmente ocurre la ordenación? El rito esencial del sacramento, ocurre con la imposición de manos y la oración de consagración.

3. ¿Quién puede ordenar a un sacerdote? Sólo un obispo puede ordenar a un sacerdote.

4. ¿Cuál es el significado de la imposición de manos? El obispo ordenante y los otros sacerdotes invocan al Espíritu Santo que desciende sobre aquel ser ordenado, dándole un carácter sagrado y lo aparta para el ministerio designado.

5. ¿Por qué la próstata se encuentran ordenando durante la ordenación? Simboliza su indignidad para la oficina para ser asumido y su dependencia de Dios y de la oración de la comunidad cristiana.

6. ¿Cuál es el significado del sacerdote recién ordenado recibir la estola y la casulla? Estas son las vestiduras que se refieren a su oficina y que tienen un significado simbólico. La estola simboliza la autoridad y la responsabilidad de servir a imitación de Cristo. La casulla es el principio de prendas de vestir del sacerdote que celebra la Eucaristía y es la vestidura exterior.

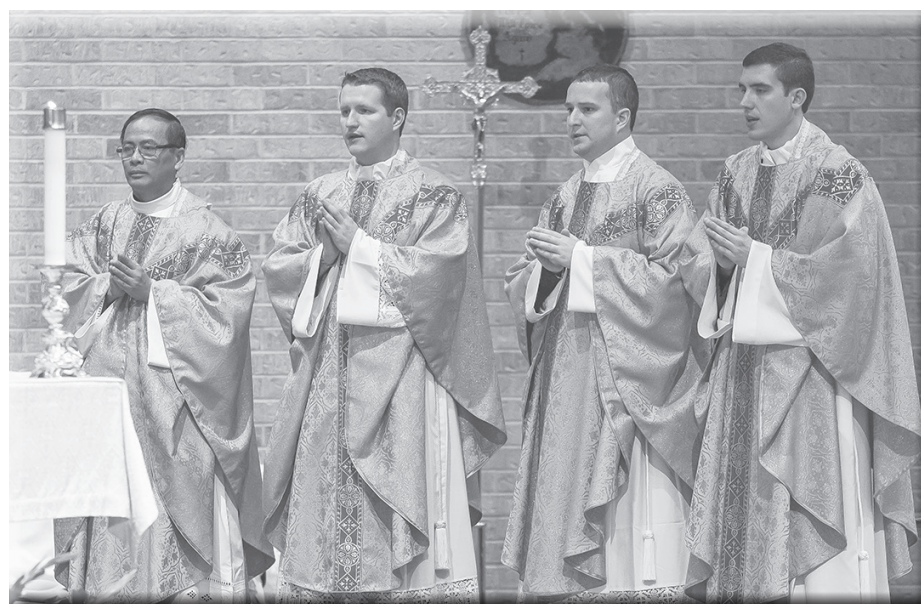
7. ¿Qué significa la unción de las manos significa? Unción con aceite se deriva del Antiguo Testamento e indica que alguien está apartado para una tarea sagrada. La unción de las manos significa que las manos del sacerdote recién ordenado se están preparando para los deberes

sagrados y los vasos que van a formar parte del ministerio sacerdotal, por ejemplo, ofreciendo el pan y el vino, la unción de los enfermos y la bendición de la gente.

8. ¿Por qué le da el obispo al ordenante un cáliz y la patena? Este ritual relieves la importancia de la celebración de la Eucaristía en la vida del sacerdote y su significado, como se ve en las palabras que se hablan por el obispo:

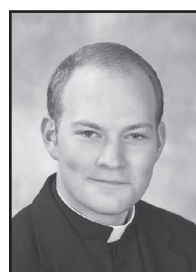
9. ¿Cómo se prepara uno para la ordenación al sacerdocio? Un hombre tiene que participar en un programa ambicioso de formación sacerdotal que dura de cinco a trece años. Hay tres niveles de seminario: la escuela secundaria; universidad / preteología; y la teología. Seminarios abordan cuatro tipos de formación: humana, espiritual, académica (intelectuales) y pastorales. Además del trabajo del curso académico, seminaristas participan en un programa completo de actividades espirituales, por ejemplo, la misa diaria, Liturgia de las Horas, y la dirección espiritual y retiros. En cada nivel de formación en el seminario, el seminarista se prepara para el futuro ministerio pastoral en diversos ámbitos. Toda la formación tiene en cuenta la persona humana. La formación de los futuros sacerdotes incluye aprendizaje práctico como presidar en la Misa y la consejería pastoral.

10. Sacerdotes hacen votos? Sacerdotes que pertenecen a una orden religiosa. Toman los votos de pobreza, castidad y obediencia. Los sacerdotes diocesanos hacen dos, castidad y obediencia; estas promesas son parte de la ceremonia de ordenación. También se espera que los sacerdotes diocesanos llevarán una vida de simplicidad en consonancia con las personas a las que sirven.



Este verano de 2015, la diócesis de Victoria fue bendecido con cuatro recién ordenados sacerdotes y un diácono transitorio que aceptó un llamado extraordinario de Dios. La ordenación a la orden del diaconado y el orden del sacerdocio se celebró el 6 de junio en Sagrada Familia la iglesia católica en Victoria. Francis Nguyen, Kristopher Fuchs, Scott Hill y Jacob Koether, se unió a la diócesis como nuevos sacerdotes. Ellos han estado muy ocupados sirviendo a sus parroquias asignadas durante los últimos 6 meses. Max Landman, ha estado sirviendo en Ohio como un diácono transitorio. Él será ordenado a sacerdote en junio de 2016.

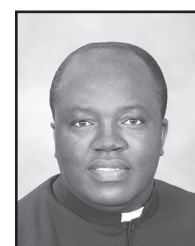
Diácono Transitorio



Max Landman
Max dice, "He aprendido mucho sobre teología y la vida de la iglesia. También amar la Misa y la cruz especialmente durante el tumulto de la vida."

Max espera sobre todo la celebración de los sacramentos, especialmente la reconciliación, la Eucaristía y unción.

Invitación a la Ordenación de Diaconado



Peter Oscar Kofi
Peter Oscar Kofi Amo será ordenado diácono por el Obispo Cahill el Sábado, 23 enero, 2016 a las 10:00 a.m. en la iglesia Nuestra Señora de Los Dolores en Victoria. Todos están invitados a su ordenación.

EVENTS



Meals • Picnics and more

January

Columbus—Right to Life Walk, Saturday, Jan. 23 at 2:00 p.m. starting at Windshield Xpress to the square. Guest speaker from *Texas Right to Life*.

Wharton—Mardi Gras Dance sponsored by the Catholic Daughters, Court No. 1990 on Saturday, Jan. 23, 8:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m. at the KC Hall (2820 N. Fulton St.). Music by Legacy, along with a silent and cake auctions. Tickets are \$6 p/p, doors open at 7:00 p.m. For more call (979) 532-1466.

East Bernard—Catholic Daughters, Court Saint Bernadette No. 1108, annual Chicken Noodle Soup and Sandwich Supper and Raffle on Wednesday, Jan. 27, American Legion Hall, Hwy. 60. Serving at 5:00 p.m. till sold out. Soup is \$3 a bowl and a chicken salad sandwich is \$3. Dine-in or bring your own containers and enjoy at home. A variety of pastries will be available. Check out the silent auction.

Yoakum—Catholic Daughters, Court Our Lady of Guadalupe, No. 206, annual fundraiser on Jan. 31, at the St. Joseph Family Center. A chicken-fried steak dinner with dessert served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Dine-in or plates-to-go. PRE-SALE TICKETS ONLY are \$9 p/p and can be purchased at St. Joseph Pastoral Center, St. Joseph School Office, First State Bank, Yoakum National Bank, Prosperity Bank, Kunetka's, Guys & Gals Hair Salon, Gaus, Natho & Swaney Attorneys and CRA members. There also be a raffle, country store/bake sale and homemade noodles available for sale.

February

Victoria—St. Mary's Parish Festival, Feb. 14 at the Victoria Community Center. Roast beef dinner, 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at \$9 p/p. Live auction begins at 12:30 p.m. See ad on pg. 2.

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—Jan. 29-31, April 29-May 1, June 3-5, Sept. 16-18, Nov. 4-6. 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.wvme.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.

St. Francis and St. Clare Fraternity/Secular Franciscans—For dates, contact Mary Ann LeBlanc at (361) 575-1858 or visit www.lostrescompaneros-sfo.org.

Conferences • Masses • Retreats and more

Victoria—"Come and See" Discernment Weekend for single Catholic women 18 to 50 years of age on Feb. 6-7, at Incarnate Word Convent. For more information see www.iwbsvictoria.org, call (361) 575-7111 or email iwbsvoc@yahoo.com.

Victoria—Holy Family Church Altar Society will host a Lenten mini-retreat on Saturday, Feb. 6. It will begin with Mass at 8:00 a.m., in the main church. The retreat will be in St. Peter Parish Hall at 9:00 a.m., with Father Jacob Koether leading the Lenten retreat, "THE ALTAR OF YOUR HEART!". Lunch will be served and there is no fee for the retreat. All are welcome, men and women. For reservations please call Margaret Svetlik at (361) 798-4009, Betty Frederick (361) 573-5850 or Jan Tisdale after 6:00 p.m. at (361) 894-5059.

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.

AMOR MEUS SPIRITUALITY CENTER EVENTS

1101 NE Water St, Victoria, TX 77901 (361) 575-7111 email – amormeus@yahoo.com
www.amormeusspiritualitycenter.org

GUIDED ONE DAY RETREAT: Saturday, January 16, from 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Theme: "Becoming Who You Already Are: Living with the Heart of a Mystic"

The Retreat will include at least two reflections, liturgy or prayer service and ample time for personal prayer, walking and reflecting. To register or call for more information.

TAIZÉ PRAYER: Tuesday, January 19, from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. This form of prayer is a meditative Christian experience of both sung and chanted prayer. It consists of meditation, silent reflection and scriptural readings.

OVERNIGHT RETREAT/PRIVATE OR DIRECTED: Friday, February 5, 5:00 p.m. until Sunday, February 7 at noon. Take time from a busy week to experience a quiet, peaceful, and prayerful weekend retreat. Call 3 days in advance to register.

SOLEMN LENTEN VESPERS: Sundays, February 14, 21, 28, March 6, 13, and 20. 5:00 - 5:45 p.m. The Liturgical Evening Prayer of the Church prayed with people of all faith traditions, Incarnate Word Convent Chapel.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION: On-Going opportunity for guidance and discussion on one's spiritual journey with experienced spiritual directors. Call for an appointment.



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RETIREMENT ANNUITIES



OLV Breaks Ground for Parish Center



The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory broke ground on Sunday, December 6 for a new Parish Center. The old J.C. Penney building (inset) is 60,000 square feet but the church can afford to renovate about 24,000 at this time. Phase one and two should be completed in early 2017. The first two phases will include a new roof, fix the parking lot, gym, family center, kitchen and meeting rooms. When more funds are raised, the remainder of the renovation will begin.



SPREADING THE CHRISTMAS JOY—Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Roch of Mentz No. 2328 and the Knights of Columbus No. 10249, put together goody bags to deliver to local nursing homes in Columbus. The group went that afternoon caroling and handing the Christmas bags to residents.

Position Available: High School Principal

Established in 1868 in Victoria, Texas, St. Joseph High School, with a current enrollment of 330 students is actively seeking a dynamic leader to serve as President/Principal. St. Joseph's current President/Principal is retiring after 17 years of innovative and productive leadership. The school's talented faculty, staff and administration have contributed to the supportive atmosphere that permeates every aspect of the school. The successful candidate will be a practicing Catholic who will honor the unique culture, traditions and history of St. Joseph High School and will provide the necessary leadership in taking the school to the next level of achievement.

To learn more about St. Joseph and the President/Principal position see www.stjvictoria.com.

To apply, submit an application in PDF format to:
STJPresidentPrincipal@stjvictoria.com



CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE—Parishioners of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Bay City watch dancers participate in the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the streets. Other events took place in the church.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE—The Queen of the Holy Rosary Catholic Daughters Court #2282 of Hostyn participated in the Sole Hope project as their 2015 Make a Difference activity. The project helps children in Uganda by providing shoes. These shoes protect their feet from jiggers, also known as sand mites, from embedding into the feet. The diseases can lead to paralysis, amputation and even death in these children. The members were able to send 60 pairs of cut material to be made into shoes to help this cause.



COUNSELING CENTER OPENS—Bishop Brendan Cahill blesses The Emmaus Counseling Center on the day of the ribbon cutting ceremony. The center is now open and taking appointments by calling (361) 212-0830.