



The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigra-



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Elyse Brown, Warren Brown, Daniel Cano, Liz Luera, Veronica Vallejo-Cano, John Cano, Sarah Sanchez and Danny Cano pictured in front of Santuario de Nuestra Señora de la Barca in Muxia, Spain.

A Family's Pilgrimage to 'El Camino de Santiago'

By Danny Cano

I had never heard of El Camino de Santiago until the summer of 2011 when my wife, Evelyn, and I learned about it while visiting the Shrine of La Virgen Morenita in Mont Serrat by Barcelona, Spain. We spotted hikers and backpackers trudging their way through a mountain trail following a marked path of sea scallop shells and yellow arrows. We learned that the path was one of many Caminos that converge at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela on the northwest side of Spain. It is here that thousands of pilgrims make their Camino treks to honor and visit the final resting place of St. James (Santiago) the apostle at

the Cathedral. As the apostles had spread throughout the world sharing the Word of God and Christianity, St. James had chosen to minister to the Celtic tribes in what is now northern Spain. After his martyrdom in Jerusalem, his remains were brought back to what became Santiago de Compostela. A tradition of pilgrimages to his site has been going on for centuries to seek his blessings or to offer gratitude for prayers answered.

We planned to make the Camino trip together in 2012 but that never happened. Evelyn had a change of heart and decided she had to make the journey by herself for reasons that she couldn't explain. I relented after she found two very good friends that

agreed to accompany her on her journey. Upon her return, she promised me that we would make our walk the following year. After that 62 mile Camino hike the summer of 2012, she was diagnosed with brain cancer eight months later. This started a 30 month treatment battle that ended in September 2015 when we lost her.

I clearly remember the day we drove to the hospital to check out the symptoms she was experiencing before we had a diagnosis...she had removed her Santiago religious medals and placed them around my neck to wear with a request for me to

See A Family's Pilgrimage, pg. 20





Bishop Brendan Cahill *A Shepherd's Message*

Ordained as Bishop June 29, 2015

It is Right and Just

Brothers and Sisters,

Two months after the Battle of Gettysburg President Abraham Lincoln received a letter from a citizen named Sarah Josepha Hale. A remarkable woman (among her many accomplishments she may be best remembered for writing Mary had a Little Lamb!), Ms. Hale had written to presidents for many years about the need to unify the day on which the nation gathers to give thanks to God Who is the author of all blessings. President Lincoln's response and proclamation continue to set the standard for each one of us as we honor a National Day of Thanksgiving. As I did last year I'll publish the entire Proclamation and I want to highlight two

aspects.

First is the reminder that in all times and seasons of life it is right and just for us to give thanks to God. As we pray in every Mass, the priest will say: "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God" and the people respond: "It is right and just." Not just in good times, but in all times God deserves our thanksgiving and praise. One of the points that Ms. Hale made in her many letters over the years was that as the country prospered it seemed to be that people were forgetting the source of their prosperity – every good thing comes from God. In forgetting the source people also could forget the purpose – every good thing is for the building up of the family,

community and society.

Second is the acknowledgement that there is a need to offer penance for the many ways in which we have forgotten the purpose. I remember reading a study of presidential addresses over the past 50 or 60 years which made the observation that presidents mention the need for national penitence less and less. As a people of faith it seems to me that we may need to maintain this tradition more and more, offering prayers and supplications to Almighty God for all our people. As we offer our days of penance, our prayers and our fasting we continually commit to uphold and defend every human life from conception to natural death.

As we come to the conclusion of the Church's Year of Mercy, may the coming years be marked by our commitment to use all that we have received from God for the building up of the family, community and society. May God's abundant blessing be upon you and your families,

+Brendan

NOTE: See President Lincoln's proclamation on page 13.



Obispo Brendan Cahill *Mensaje del pastor*

Ordenado como obispo
el 29 de junio de 2015

Es Justo y Necesario

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas,

Dos meses después de la batalla de Gettysburg el Presidente Abraham Lincoln recibió una carta de una ciudadana llamada Sarah Josepha Hale. Una mujer notable (entre sus muchos logros ella puede ser mejor recordada por escribir Mary had a little Lamb/María tenía un pequeño cordero!). La Sra. Hale había escrito a los presidentes durante muchos años acerca de la necesidad de unificar un día en que la nación se reúne para dar gracias a Dios quién es el autor de todas las bendiciones. La respuesta y la proclama del Presidente Lincoln continúa establecer el estándar para cada uno de nosotros como se honra el Día Nacional de Acción de Gracias. Como lo hice el año pasado voy a publicar todo el anuncio y quiero destacar dos

aspectos.

En primer lugar es el recordatorio de que en todos los tiempos y las temporadas de vida es justo y necesario que nosotros demos gracias a Dios. Al orar en cada Misa, el sacerdote dirá: "Demos gracias al Señor, nuestro Dios" y el pueblo responde: "Es justo y necesario." No sólo en los buenos tiempos, pero en todos momentos Dios merece nuestra acción de gracias y la alabanza. Uno de los puntos que la señora Hale hizo en sus muchas cartas durante los últimos años mientras que el país prospera parecía que las personas se estaban olvidando la fuente de su prosperidad - todo lo bueno viene de Dios. En olvidar el origen las personas también podrían olvidar el propósito - el propósito de todo lo bueno es para la edificación de la familia, la

comunidad y la sociedad.

El segundo es el reconocimiento de que existe una necesidad de ofrecer penitencia por las muchas formas en las que nos hemos olvidado el propósito. Recuerdo haber leído un estudio de los discursos presidenciales en los últimos 50 ó 60 años que hizo la observación de que los presidentes mencionan la necesidad de la penitencia nacional cada vez menos. Como un pueblo de fe me parece que necesitamos mantener esta tradición más y más, ofreciendo oraciones y súplicas a Dios Todopoderoso por todo nuestro pueblo. Cuando ofrecemos nuestros días de penitencia, nuestras oraciones y ayuno continuamente cometemos mantener y defender toda vida humana desde la concepción hasta la muerte natural.

Al llegar a la conclusión del Año de la Misericordia de la Iglesia, espero que los próximos años sean marcados por nuestro compromiso de utilizar todo lo que hemos recibido de Dios para la edificación de la familia, la comunidad y la sociedad. Que las bendiciones abundantes de Dios esten con ustedes y sus familias,

+ Brendan

NOTA: La proclamación del Presidente Lincoln está en la página 15.

Official Announcements

Effective immediately the **Reverend Gabriel Oduro Tawiah** has been appointed to the office of temporary parochial administrator of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Nada, until November 20, 2016.

As authorized by Bishop Brendan Cahill, and effective November 21, 2016, the following priests will accept new assignments:

Reverend Jacob Koether will be released from his duties as parochial vicar and temporary parochial administrator of Holy Family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus Church in Victoria, and appointed as parochial vicar of St. Joseph Church in Yoakum, and its mission of St. Ann Church in Hochheim.

Reverend Peter Yeboah-Amanfo will be released from his duties as pastor of St. Peter Church in Blessing, and its mission of St. Robert Church in Markham, and appointed as pastor of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Nada.

Reverend Gabriel Justus Mensah will be released from his duties as parochial vicar of St. Mary Church in Victoria, and appointed as parochial administrator of St. Peter Church in Blessing, and its mission of St. Robert Church in Markham.

Reverend Gabriel Bentil will be released from his duties as pastor of St. Joseph Church in Inez, and appointed as pastor of Holy Family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus Church in Victoria.

Reverend Barnabas Kyeah will be released from his duties as parochial vicar of Holy Family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus Church in Victoria, and appointed as parochial administrator of St. Joseph Church in Inez.





Bishop Brendan's Schedule

November

6 9:30 a.m. Veteran's Day Celebration Mass, Praha

7 8:00 a.m. Reading to children at Nazareth Academy, Victoria

5:00 p.m. Diocesan Liturgical Commission, Chancery Office

8 9:00 a.m. 5th grade vocation day at IWBS Convent, Victoria

10:00 a.m. Pension Board Meeting, Chancery Office

9 9:00 a.m. 5th grade vocation day at IWBS Convent, Victoria

10:00 a.m. Presbyteral Council Meeting, Chancery Office

11-18 USCCB Fall Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland

19 5:30 p.m. Formal closing of the Year of Mercy at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria

20 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
2:00 p.m. Holy Land Pilgrimage Meeting, Chancery Office

21 Most Reverend Bob Coerver's Ordination as Bishop of Lubbock

22 8:30 a.m. School Mass & visit at Holy Cross School, Bay City

28 3:00 p.m. Interfaith meeting, Victoria

7:00 p.m. Spanish Mass and Adoration at St. Rose of Lima, Schulenburg

29 7:00 p.m. RCIA visit at St. Mary's Hall, Victoria

30 8:00 a.m. School Mass & visit at St. Joseph's, Yoakum

December

1 6:30 p.m. Knights of St. Gregory Bishop and Priests' Christmas Dinner, Victoria

2 Noon Mass and Presentation for Serra Club, Victoria

3 11:00 a.m. Presidio La Bahia Christmas Rendezvous & Trade Fair, Goliad

5:30 p.m. Advent Dinner, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria

5 7:00 p.m. RCIA visit at OLV Religious Education Building, Victoria

6 5:30 p.m. Holy Sepulchre Dinner at Victoria Country Club, Victoria

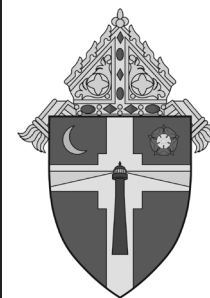
8 5:30 p.m. Immaculate Conception Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria

9-11 Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day Celebration, Covington, LA

13 Confirmation Mass at Stevenson Unit, Cuero



*In the Diocese of Victoria
there will be a Mass at
5:30 p.m. on November 19
for the formal closing of
the Year of Mercy at the
Cathedral of Our Lady of
Victory, Victoria.*



Jubilee Year of Mercy

December 8, 2015 – November 20, 2016

The Jubilee Year of Mercy that Pope Francis called on December 8, 2015 is an Extraordinary Jubilee. This designation as an "Extraordinary Jubilee" sets it apart from the ordinary cycle of jubilees, or holy years, which are called every 25 years in the Catholic Church. By calling for a holy year outside of the normal cycle, a particular event or theme is emphasized.

Mercy is "the beating heart of the Gospel." Pope Francis writes: "It is absolutely essential for the Church and for the credibility of her message that she herself live and testify to mercy." To live mercy, we must rediscover both the spiritual works of mercy (counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners, comfort the afflicted, forgive offences, bear patiently

those who do us ill, and pray for the living and the dead), and the corporal works of mercy (feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, heal the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead).

"True mercy, the mercy God gives to us and teaches us, demands justice, it demands that the poor find the way to be poor no longer," Pope Francis notes. "It asks us, the Church, us, the City of Rome, it asks the institutions -to ensure that no one ever again stands in need of a soup-kitchen, of makeshift-lodgings, of a service of legal assistance in order to have his legitimate right recognized to live and to work, to be fully a person" (Address to Jesuit Refugee Services, 9/10/13).

In Memory of Fr. Joe Vrana



NADA—Father Joseph Louis Vrana, III, 76, passed away October 10, 2016. He was born in Houston, on December 21, 1939 to Joseph L. Vrana, Jr. and Helen Cyva Vrana. He attended the first through eighth grades in Sheldon, and transferred to Crosby High School in Crosby, for grades ninth through twelfth. It was during this period of time that he began to seriously consider the priesthood. After graduation from high school, he answered his calling to the priesthood and entered St. Mary's Seminary in Houston. He was among eight seminarians ordained by Bishop John L. Morkovsky on May 29, 1965, at Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral. Following his ordination, Father Joe was very happy to impart his priestly blessing to his parents, as their only child. Father Joe's first assignment was as temporary assistant at St. Mary's Co-Cathedral in Galveston. In January 1975, he was assigned as associate pastor of Holy Cross Parish in Bay City. He served the parish for four years. He served on the Western Deanery Diocesan Council of Catholic Women and the Archdiocesan

Galveston-Houston Marriage Policy Committee. He was appointed administrator of Holy Cross Parish in East Bernard in July 1975 and was appointed pastor on January 1, 1977, serving the parish for 10 1/2 years. On June 8, 1988, he was assigned as pastor of Holy Family Parish in Wharton and St. Joseph Mission in Boling. In 2006, he was assigned as pastor of St. Mary's Parish in Nada, and also, until 2009, as parochial administrator for St. John Nepomucene Parish in New Taiton. At St. Mary's Parish, he served as chaplain of the Knights of Columbus, Confraternity of Christian Mother's Society, Nada K.J.T., K.J.Z.T. Society #17, Catholic Life Insurance and the Catholic Daughters of America Court #1595. Father Joe enjoyed deer and bird hunting, as well as fishing and gardening. On May 29, 2015, he celebrated his 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

Father Joe was preceded in death by his parents and aunt, Jane Cyva.

Mass of Christian Burial was held Friday, October 14 at St. Mary's Church in Nada. Burial followed at St. Mary's Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to St. Mary's Church or Father Joseph Vrana Seminary Endowment Fund.



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Seminary Endowment Fund

Seminary Endowment Fund (formerly known as 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 25, 2016

	TOTALS
• General Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$106,404.00
In memory of Rev. Roy Rihn by M/M Donald Rihn	50.00
Total	\$106,454.00
• Rev. Tommy Chen Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$150.00
In honor of Rev. Tommy Chen’s birthday on Oct. 2 by Celestine (Tina) Hubenak	25.00
Total	\$175.00
• CDA #1374 Queen of Peace Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$8,322.12
In memory of Mary Ann Mehnert by CDA Court Our Lady Queen of Peace #1374	55.00
Total	\$8,377.12
• Rev. Wayne Flagg and Rev. Philip Brune Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$9,980.00
In memory of Neal Flagg by:	
Lambert and Carol Brune	25.00
E.J., Margie and Robert Socha	25.00
Bernice Schoenfeld	20.00
Dorothy Parr	100.00
M/M Larry Dittlinger	100.00
In honor of Rev. Wayne Flagg’s priestly ordination anniversary and upcoming birthday by Bernice Schoenfeld	30.00
Total	\$10,280.00
• Rev. Scott Hill Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$1,482.00
In memory of Rev. Dan Morales by C.D.A. Court St. Roch, Mentz #2328	260.00
Total	\$1,742.00
• Rev. Daniel P. Kahlich Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$10,950.00
In honor of Rev. Dan Kahlich’s 50th Ordination Anniversary to the priesthood by the Holy Rosary Parish family	1,000.00
Total	\$11,950.00
• Knights of Columbus Victoria Council #1329 Seminary Burse #4	
Balance from burse #3	\$767.50
In memory of Herman Krehmeier by K of C Victoria Council #1329	100.00
In memory of Lawrence “Buddy” Waida by K of C Victoria Council #1329	100.00
In memory of Charles Brossman by K of C Victoria Council #1329	100.00
In memory of Edward Miller by K of C Victoria Council #1329	100.00
Total	\$1,167.50

• Rev. Joseph Koebel Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$9,218.00
Donation by C.D.A. Court of Our Lady of the Rosary, Nada #1595	150.00
Total	\$9,368.00
• Rev. Dan Morales Seminary Burse in Honor of his Work for Vocations	
Previous Balance	\$5,893.00
In loving memory of Rev. Dan Morales by Paz and Andrea Morales	25.00
Total	\$5,918.00
• Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #7	
Previously reported	\$11,170.00
In memory of Alvin Polasek by Willie Barborak	10.00
Donation by Soila Sanchez	20.00
Total	\$11,200.00
• Rev. Msgr. Roy Rihn Seminary Burse	
In memory of Rev. Msgr. Roy Rihn by the Dick Wearden Family	200.00
Total	200.00
• Rev. Msgr. Robert Schmidt Seminary Burse #2	
Previously reported	\$370.00
In honor of Annie Schmidt’s 100th birthday celebration by Milburn and Marian Kram	25.00
Total	\$395.00
• Henry A. Schoenfeld Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$4,335.00
Birthday blessings to:	
Andrew Pitcher	25.00
Mark Schreiber	25.00
Joseph Schoenfeld	25.00
Chelsea Vincent	25.00
Stephen Vincent	25.00
Total	\$4,460.00
• St. John the Baptist Church, St. John In Memory of Rev. Brian Crookes Seminary Burse #2	
Previously reported	\$6,436.00
In memory of Alvin Polasek by Gary and Lindy Honish	20.00
In memory of Alvin Polasek by Andy Besetzny	20.00
Total	\$6,476.00
• Rev. Joe Vrana, In Honor of his Golden Jubilee Year	
Previously reported	\$4,375.00
In memory of Rev. Joe Vrana by Johnny and Linda Veselka	30.00
Total	\$4,405.00
• Cora Wostarek Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$7,100.00
Donation to the burse from Mike and Lisa Moeller Family	100.00
Anonymous donation intention for good health	1,000.00
Total	\$8,200.00

Education of Seminarian Fund

The Education of Seminarian Fund is where **all of the monies** donated to this fund, as well as the earnings, are available to cover the cost of educating seminarians. The proceeds of the special collection on Holy Thursday are deposited into the Education of Seminarians Fund. Publication of this fund will appear periodically when new contributions are received.

In Memory of Father Dan Morales:

Randal & Angela Rivers
Hospice of South Texas
John & Marlene Hennessey
Clyde & Margaret Svetlik
Scott & Darla Christman
Emmit & Rosalie Phillips
Serra Club of Victoria
Brian & Natalie Novian
Amalia Kafarella
Paz & Andrea Morales
Sandra & Russell Witte
Dan & Gail Sawyer
Peggy Buxkemper
William & Dolores Matheny
Don & Charlene Pennington

James & Mary Honish
Benito & Erlina Hernandez
M/M Otto Bleier
Allen & Ann Brown

Donation:

Domine Non Sum Dignus, LLC
Robert and Kathryn Kennedy

To contribute to the Education of
Seminarian Fund, send contributions to:

Diocese Of Victoria
Education of Seminarian Fund
P. O. Box 4070
Victoria, TX 77903



The Chancery
will be closed
Tuesday, December 8
for the Immaculate
Conception, a
Holy Day of Obligation.



The Chancery will
be closed for the
Thanksgiving holidays,
November 24-25.



Advent
Begins
Sunday,
November
27.

Those wanting to contribute to an existing
Seminary Endowment Fund may do so
by sending their contributions with the
appropriate fund designation to:

Diocese Of Victoria
Seminary Endowment Fund
P. O. Box 4070
Victoria, TX 77903

DSA update

2016 Diocesan Services Appeal
Diocesan Goal: \$ 1,936,221.00
Parish Pledge Totals: \$ 841,119.35
Parish Contribution Totals: \$ 770,140.54
Number of Parish
Families Participating: 2,910



STANDING UP FOR CANCER—Faculty and staff at Our Lady of Victory School in Victoria wore pink October 17 to raise awareness and to show support for breast cancer.



ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL "PINK OUT"—SMCS students in Weimar showed they care and committed themselves to prayer for those who suffer from cancer and other medical ailments. Students wore pink in honor of those who need healing and for those who are working to find cures.

A Year of Mercy Reflection

But the fruit
of the spirit is
LOVE
JOY **PEACE**
patience
KINDNESS
GOODNESS
FAITHFULNESS
gentleness
SELF
CONTROL
GALATIANS 5: 22-23

"We recognize a tree by its fruit, and we ought to be able to recognize a Christian by his actions. The fruit of faith should be evident in our lives, for being a Christian is more than making sound professions of faith. It should reveal itself in practical and visible ways. Indeed it is better to keep quiet about our beliefs, and live them out, than to talk eloquently about what we believe, but fail to live by it."

~St. Ignatius of Antioch

Ponder: How do people recognize you as a Christian? What do your actions say about you?

Pray: Holy Spirit, inspire my heart to service.

(from Sts. Cyril & Methodius bulletin)



The Catholic Conference was enjoyed by the many participants who attended. Bishop Cahill was one of the keynote speakers. He is pictured teaching the group of attendees at Holy Family Church in Wharton.

The Diocese of Victoria 29th Annual Catholic Conference: "A Beautiful Experience"

By Sr. Marian Sturm, IWBS

The Diocese of Victoria 29th Annual Catholic Conference, held on Saturday, October 1, 2016 was an experience of joy and a time for spiritual reflection. Over 300 people from throughout the diocese gathered at Holy Family Parish in Wharton, to listen to the keynote addresses of Bishop Brendan Cahill, Mrs. Charleen Katra and Ms. Rita Martinez as well as the presentations from various speakers on prayer, spirituality and catechesis.

The Family Center also teemed with publishers exhibiting their catechetical materials, with vendors displaying their religious articles and spiritual books and with participants who took advantage of these materials. The visiting, exchange of ideas and camaraderie at this time, as well as during the delicious lunch, demonstrated much joy and excitement. Characteristic statements following the presentations, which also spoke of great appreciation were: "I needed this workshop. An answer to my prayers." "Most interesting group work, fun, informative, very helpful and insightful." "Beautiful experience." "Made you feel relaxed and peaceful..." "This was a wonderful testimony to a life

of prayer..." "It was more than I expected."

Plans are now in process for the next Annual Diocesan Catholic Conference to be held on Saturday, September 23, 2017. It will focus on the Catholic Social Teachings. They are: The Life and Dignity of the Human Person, The Call to Family, Community, and Participation, Rights and Responsibilities, Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, The Dignity of Work and The Rights of Workers, Solidarity, and Care for God's Creation.



Sister Marian Sturm, IWBS was one of the speakers at this year's Catholic Conference. She spoke about praying the scripture through Lectio Divina, the Church's most ancient way of praying the scriptures.



Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi Celebrated

St. Francis of Assisi is the founder of the Franciscan Order, and was born at Assisi in Umbria, in 1181. Francis enjoyed a very rich and easy life growing up because of his father's wealth. Francis' conversion did not happen overnight. God had waited for him for twenty-five years.

Francis' brotherhood included all of God's creation. Much has been written about Francis' love of nature but his relationship was deeper than that. We call someone a lover of nature if they spend their free time in the woods or admire its beauty. But Francis really felt that nature, all God's creations, were part of his brotherhood. The sparrow was as much his brother as the pope.

In one famous story, Francis preached to hundreds of birds about being thankful to God for their wonderful clothes, for their independence, and for God's care. The story tells us the birds stood still as he walked among them, only flying off when he said they could leave.

Francis' final years were filled with suffering as well as humiliation. Praying to share in Christ's passion he had a vision that he received the stigmata, the marks of the nails and the lance wound that Christ suffered, in his own body.

He died on October 4, 1226 at the age of 45. Francis is considered the founder of all Franciscan Orders and the patron saint of ecologists, animals and merchants.



The pet blessing ceremonies are one of the favorites for the students, faculty and staff of the Catholic schools and parishes around the Diocese of Victoria. Pictured are pets from St. Philip, El Campo, Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca, and Our Lady of Victory, Victoria.



Respect Life Month Observed in October

The theme of the 2016-17 Respect Life Program is *Moved by Mercy*. Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life activities shared a few words about the Respect Life Program as October, Respect Life Month began. He shared, "Every person is sacred and must be treated with the dignity they deserve. From each tiny child waiting to be born, to individuals nearing death, all are precious and deserve our care and protection."



Homeschool students gather with other Diocese of Victoria students to pray for the unborn and all affected by abortion.



St. Joseph High School, Victoria, sophomore, junior and senior students have made the trip to Houston for three years to pray for the unborn in front of Planned Parenthood.



Bishop Brendan Cahill praying in Houston at Planned Parenthood with students from Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca.



Gabriel's Golden Key



By Sarita V. Richmond

Do you love adventure? How about looking for gold? Do you have time for a rhyme?

If you answered yes, then you will want to grab yourself a copy of the children's book, *Gabriel's Golden Key*, written by local author, Heather Spears Kallus.

Heather, her husband, Russell, and their family are parishioners of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Inez, Texas. Heather attended Our Lady of Victory Catholic School from Kindergarten to 8th grade and St. Joseph High School from 9th to 12th grade. Her Catholic education played an important role in writing and publishing this book. She shares, "Catholic faith was woven into every second of the day and was part of who I became. Faith was beautifully knit into everything we did and learned at school. It became a special part of me that I wanted to share with others."

In her early days at OLV, she remembers singing and participating in Mass, playing the autoharp, and listening to the teachers read books to the class. Heather shares, "I was always very engaged when a good story came along. My teachers were instrumental in making me want to learn about Jesus." In high school, Mrs. Gretchen Boyle, her English teacher, played an important role in her writing future. Heather says, "She taught me how to write an amazing paper, step-by-step! Little did I know that Mrs. Boyle was planting seeds in me that would later bloom as me becoming an author." From Latin class to English class to Theology class, Heather's curiosity and love for words and the Lord continued to grow. Heather states, "I love words. I adore how words can stir something within and even be life-changing."

Her writing career began with a simple blog on a friend's website. She then created her own blog called Sips of Sunshine.

The blog led Heather to poetry writing. One of her poems, a Pro-Life Poem called

As a child, Heather really didn't enjoy pleasure reading nor did she think of reading as something "fun". However, after she had her own children, she realized how fundamentally important it is for them to be read to and to read themselves, so she wanted to write a book that children would want to read. She shares, "I like that kids are so curious. If you can foster a love for reading and faith at a young age, the opportunities are limitless!"

In her book, *Gabriel's Golden Key*, Gabriel, the main character in the book, wants to find the golden key and has a few questions during his journey. Through his minnow friend, Elah, he finds the clues he needs to unlock the mystery. The message the author wishes to convey through the story is to be thankful and to approach life

hopes the book will encourage parents to read with their children in order to carve out some quality time amidst incredibly busy schedules.

Heather's dream for this book would be for a copy to be in every home and on every child's book shelf. She shares, "I want it to be the tattered, well-worn book that has been read over and over again. I would love for *Gabriel's Golden Key* to be the 'go to' bedtime story each night."

Looking back, Heather realizes that her OLV and STJ teachers freely shared their love for God and that meant a great deal to her. "The Catholic school family always encouraged us to use the unique gifts and talents that God hand-picked for each one of us." So, with that in mind, Heather shares, "If you hear God knocking on your door, go ahead and open it. He has amazing things in store for those who simply say YES! He'll take good care of you. Get out there and use those God-given gifts and talents of yours! The world is waiting!"

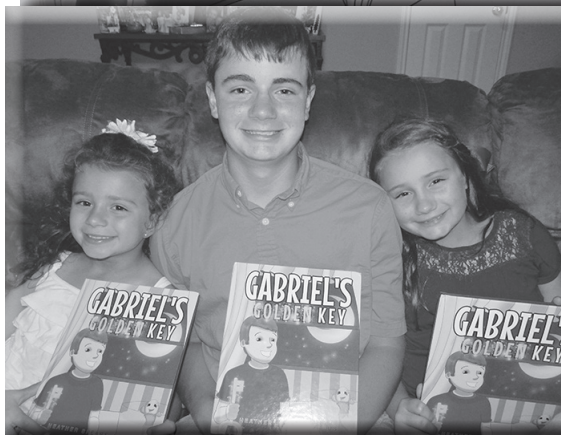
Gabriel's Golden Key can be ordered as a paperback or hard cover book through Amazon.

A digital version is coming soon. Follow Author, Heather Spears Kallus, at <http://sipsofsunshine.blogspot.com>. Schedule a book signing at your church or school by emailing her at heather.kallus@gmail.com.

"A real gem of a book! A beautiful story filled with rhymes, humor, and messages of faith, gratitude, and being the best you can be! My kids enjoyed the

full page illustrations that really helped bring the story to life. We bought the hard-back book for our family and will be buying more as gifts. While it is a children's book, there is a wonderful poem about teachers being angels without wings, which would make it a special gift for school and faith teachers! It would also be a good book to give your godchild!"

—An Amazon Customer Review



Top photo is the cover of the book, *Gabriel's Golden Key*. Also pictured above are the Kallus children, Reed (12), Autumn (9), Lyla (7). Right, Heather, husband Russell and children are very proud of their mother and wife for her hard work and accomplishments.



A Baby Book, won first place in a national poetry contest in 2012. People were engaging in her writings and newspapers were publishing her poems. This sparked yet another interest, a children's book! She felt a call to be God's writing instrument. She wanted to touch the hearts of children, parents, teachers, and the faithful.

She was inspired to do this in the form of a faith-based children's book.

with gratitude. With a grateful heart, we can all learn to recognize and appreciate the little things and the special people God places on our path. Our lives are full of "teachers" who guide and inspire us, so Heather wanted to show her appreciation for them with a special poem in this book as well. She also wants children to understand God's unconditional love for them and to always do and be their best. Heather

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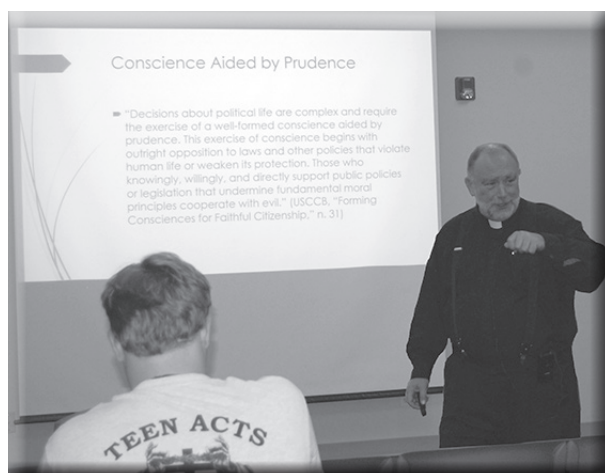


Look What's Happening! Catholic Student Association

The Diocese of Victoria Youth & Young Adult Office is privileged to have the opportunity to collaborate with Victoria College. The Catholic Student Association is an organization for Catholics and others exploring their faith. Activities include: Campus Mass, Recitation of the Rosary, Singing the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Bible Studies, Adoration, See You at the Pole, Life Chain, Social Nights, Praise and Worship, and more. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

Catholic Student Association Advisors for Victoria College are Melanie Yosko, Rachel Winkenwerder and Donna Rodriguez.

For more information visit the web at victoriadiocese.org/catholic-campus-ministry for schedule or contact the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at (361) 573-0828.



VOTE YOUR FAITH— Father Bob Knippenberg was the speaker at the Catholic Student Association and Office of Youth and Young Adult's latest event, "Vote Your Faith". He spoke about it being a moral obligation to take the time to vote. He also shared the following quote from the USCCB website. "Decisions about political life are complex and require the exercise of a well-

formed conscience aided by prudence. This exercise of conscience begins with outright opposition to laws and other policies that violate human life or weaken its protection. Those who knowingly, willingly, and directly support public policies or legislation that undermine fundamental moral principles cooperate with evil." (USCCB, "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," n. 31) For more information or to see the slides from his presentation visit www.victoriadiocese.org/documents/2016/10/Vote%20Your%20Faith.pdf



LEARNING OF FAITHS—Three local religious leaders discussed their beliefs, the presidential election campaign and other current issues during a "Faith Forum" on Tuesday, October 4 at Victoria College Student Center. About 40 people attended the event, which was hosted by VC's Catholic Student Association and emceed by VC Professor of Music and Fine Arts Department Chair Jonathan Anderson. Catholic Bishop Brendan Cahill of the Diocese of Victoria, Pastor Sharon Wiggins of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Cuero and Imam Osama Hassan of the Victoria Islamic Center fielded questions from Anderson and guests ranging from their favorite prayers to the challenge of maintaining an unbiased position in front of their followers during the current political season.



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

Calendar of Events



2016

December 11 – YLT meeting

2017

January 22 – YLT meeting

February 5 – Confirmation Retreat (Eagle Lake)

February 22 – Confirmation Retreat (Ganado)

April 30 – Camp David Planning

June 9-16 – Camp David

June 24-July 2 – Rocky Mountain High

Formation Training Dates

2016

November 10 — Leadership Development, Planning and Programming

December 8 — Prayer and Worship

2017

February 2 — Justice and Service

March 2 — Ethics and Crisis Management, Policy and Procedures

April 6 — Retreat Formation

Victoria College Campus Ministry Events

— **Sacrament of Reconciliation** (Victoria College Student Center)

Tuesday, November 8, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Please join us as we offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We will have several priests available to hear confessions. Please take advantage of this great opportunity.

— **Thanksgiving Mass and Meal** (Victoria College Student Center)

Wednesday, November 16, 12:15 p.m.

Please join us as we share Mass and offer thanksgiving together. A thanksgiving meal will follow after Mass.



Something To Know About Marian Apparitions



Devotion to Marian apparitions may help strengthen your faith. Millions of people have come to a deeper love of Christ through devotion to his Blessed Mother's appearances around the world. They are great signs of God's loving care for his people and can emphasize a point of faith the world needs to hear at this time.

Mary Pray For Us!



Father Jacob Koether, Parochial Administrator for Holy Family in Victoria introduces i.d.9:16 and explains how the ministry came to the Diocese of Victoria. Live-stream talks from the headquarters in Michigan are part of the program.

Young Adults Invited to Attend i.d. 9:16 Ministry

Holy Family in Victoria, St. Michael in Cuero, and the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory parishes are sponsoring i.d. 9:16 ministry for adults in their 20s- 30s, single or married, kids or no kids.

The name i.d. 9:16 = i.d. - International Disciples; 9:16 - 1 Corinthians 9:16 "If I preach the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for necessity has been laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel."

i.d. 9:16 is held every first Thursday of the month at Holy Family in Victoria. The evening consists of 6:00 p.m. daily Mass, dinner, a talk live-streamed from the headquarters in Michigan, followed by fellowship.

Child Care is available to those who RSVP. It is open to all young adults of the diocese.

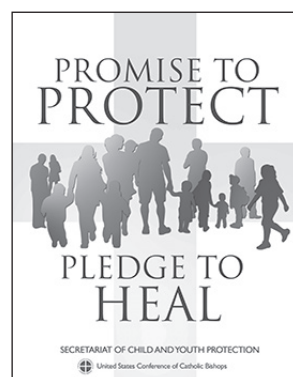
Young adults can join their Facebook group i.d.9:16-Victoria or email them at id916victoria@gmail.com for more information and to RSVP for events.

Office of Safe Environment Sets a Record

The Safe Environment Office for the Diocese of Victoria trained 18 new individuals this year as Safe Environment Trainers, Site Administrators and Transportation Facilitators. This is a record number for this office. Below is a list of all new trainers and their locations.

- Sandra Thompson
Holy Cross, Bay City
- Natalie Friesenhahn
Holy Cross School, Bay City
- Dawn Jemelka
St. Michael School / Parish and Our Lady of Guadalupe, Cuero
- Gwen Edwards
St. Philip School, El Campo
- Laura Glaze
St. Philip School, El Campo
- Sharon Heinsohn
Sts. Peter and Paul, Frelsburg
- Karen Ryman
St. John the Baptist, Hungerford
- Hannah Pilat
St. Roch, Mentz
- Carol Barta
St. Mary, Praha
- Randall Barta
St. Mary, Praha
- Shannon Villarreal
St. Mary, Nada
- Juana Salinas*
Our Lady of Gulf Parish, Port Lavaca
- Liza Lara*
St. Rose of Lima Parish, Schulenburg
- Kim Ulcak
Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Shiner
- Bill Reardon
Queen of Peace, Sweet Home
- St. John, Koerth
- Margaret Pruett
Holy Family, Victoria
- Katherine Vasquez
Our Lady of Sorrows, Victoria
- Tracey Schimcek
St. Michael School, Weimar

*Spanish Trainer



SISTERLY THOUGHTS

by Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



Continued Growth

The newly-built convent/school building (which currently stands next to St. Mary's Church and is now called our "Old Convent") was the realization of the dream of the Sisters who had originally begun the convent school in 1867 in a hastily-built room which was only thirty by sixteen feet with a six foot wide gallery.

After the 1904-1905 building was completed the old wooden building was renovated and served as the kitchen and dining rooms for the Sisters and as living spaces for the young Sisters in formation. The new building housed the school, the boarders' living space, and the Sisters' home, thus providing the much-needed space for the Sisters to conduct an excellent program of studies and cultural advancement to the students and to the city at large. In addition to the school curriculum, the Sisters offered private instruction in music, art, sewing, speech, drama and languages. Thousands of students have gone forth with an education which equipped them to become outstanding members of society in spiritual, educational, social and civic endeavors.

The year 1916 marked two significant milestones. It was with joy that the Sisters and the people celebrated the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the Sisters to Victoria in 1866. Sister Regis Chavassieux, who had come directly from France as a Novice, was the only member of the original founding Sisters who was alive at the time.

The second milestone was the lifting of the cloister for the Sisters. When Jeanne Chezard de Matel founded the Order of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament in France in the 17th century, she had no option but to establish a religious foundation that was cloistered—that is, an institution in which the members were bound to remain within the monastery and live lives of contemplation, good works and the leading of others to the Incarnate Word through instruction and example. They had been able to teach; however, the students had to come to the monastery for the classes. When the Sisters came to Victoria, they were only allowed to minister within the monastery or convent. Therefore, they accepted boarders and day

students who could come to the Sisters for their education.

After 1916, when the Sisters were no longer bound by the cloister, the Sisters maintained much of the contemplative, aspect of their former lifestyle and to this day we consider ourselves to be contemplative active religious responding to the current needs of the Church through various forms of Christian education and health care. After the Sisters were no longer required to remain within Nazareth Convent, they sallied forth into the field to teach in parochial schools and catechetical programs. Group by group, Sisters were being sent to staff Catholic schools and hospitals. These Sisters were welcomed in many parishes and several hospitals as they brought the knowledge and love of the merciful Incarnate Word through their ministry. Some of our readers may have memories of when they had been students or patients of these Sisters.

As a significant result of this expansion of ministry, the number of Sisters soared as young women in the outlying areas were intrigued by the lives and ideals of the Sisters. Many of them entered a convent discernment process to discover whether perhaps they were being called to join the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament.

(to be continued)

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Diocese of Victoria in Texas • 2016-17

PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS



Deacon Jacob Mendoza
Theology IV
St. Mary's Seminary
9845 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77024
Birthday: June 6



Deacon Stephen Vacek
Theology IV
St. Mary's Seminary
9845 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77024
Birthday: June 26



James Dvorak
Theology II
St. Mary's Seminary
9845 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77024
Birthday: March 24



Dalton Ervin
Theology II
Pontifical College Josephinum
7625 North High St.
Columbus, OH 43235
Birthday: August 25



Chase Goodman
Theology II
Pontifical College Josephinum
7625 North High St.
Columbus, OH 43235
Birthday: March 22



Tran Dinh
Theology I
Holy Apostles Seminary
33 Prospect Hill Rd.
Cromwell, CT 06416
Birthday: June 10



Nick Aparicio
College IV
St. Joseph Seminary College
75376 River Rd.
Saint Benedict, LA 70457
Birthday: August 13



Ryan Kapavik
College III
St. Joseph Seminary College
75376 River Rd.
Saint Benedict, LA 70457
Birthday: November 14



Aaron Padilla
College III
St. Joseph Seminary College
75376 River Rd.
Saint Benedict, LA 70457
Birthday: November 15



Jordan Morgan
College I
St. Joseph Seminary College
75376 River Rd.
Saint Benedict, LA 70457
Birthday: October 31



Philippe Dubourdieu
College I
St. Joseph Seminary College
75376 River Rd.
Saint Benedict, LA 70457
Birthday: June 2



vocations@victoriavocations.org

www.victoriavocations.org

National Vocation Awareness Week Set For November 6-12

WASHINGTON—The Catholic Church in the United States will celebrate National Vocation Awareness Week, November 6-12. This annual event 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 homily at the final Mass of the 2016 World Youth Day in Krakow, encouraged the youth of the world to open their hearts to Jesus. "Don't be afraid to say 'yes' to him with all your heart, to respond generously and to follow him!" said Pope Francis. "Don't let your soul grow numb, but aim for the goal of a beautiful love which also demands sacrifice."

National Vocations Awareness Week, sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, 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 are encouraged to include, during the first week in November, prayer and special activities that focus on vocation awareness.

"Prayer for vocations is the responsibility of the entire Church. Often times we think that vocations will come from somewhere else, and yet God invites us to consider that he is raising up vocations to priesthood, consecrated life, and the permanent diaconate from within our own communities, even our own families" said Bishop Michael F. Burbidge, bishop designate of Arlington, Virginia, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations. "Our

willingness to invite those within our own communities and families to consider that God may be calling them to Priesthood or consecrated life will bear abundant fruit in the Church and bring great joy and happiness to those called. We want what is best for our children; even more so does God desire their happiness."

Research suggests that community encouragement plays an important role in the discernment process. "Following God's will is the greatest adventure any person can experience," said Father Luke Ballman, USCCB's associate director of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations. "Fear of losing something holds many people back from responding generously to God, and yet it is when we embrace the adventure wholeheartedly for ourselves or those whom we love that we experience joy unlike anything we have known thus far in our lives."

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 USCCB 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.

More information and resources for National Vocations Awareness Week, including a prayer card, suggested prayers of the faithful and bulletin-ready quotes are available online at: <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/national-vocation-awareness-week.cfm>



Currently in initial formation at Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament are Sister Patricia Marie Lohre as temporary professed; 3 novices: Sister Rosario Resendez (second year novice), Sister Veronica Munoz (second year novice), and Sister Anita Schori (first year novice). For more information email iwbsvoc@yahoo.com.

Happy Birthday to Our Seminarians!



Ryan Kapavik is in College III at St. Joseph Seminary College in St. Benedict, Louisiana. His home parish is Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, Shiner, Texas. His birthday is November 14. Please show your support for this seminarian by writing to: Ryan Kapavik, St. Joseph College Seminary, 75376 River Road, St. Benedict, LA 70457



Aaron Padilla is in College III at St. Joseph Seminary College in St. Benedict, Louisiana. His home parish is Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Victoria, Texas. His birthday is November 15. Please show your support for this seminarian by writing to: Aaron Padilla, St. Joseph College Seminary, 75376 River Road, St. Benedict, LA 70457



SERVING GOD AND COUNTRY—Congratulations to James Dvorak, a seminarian from the Diocese of Victoria in Texas who was commissioned as an Ensign in the United States Navy October 17 after vespers. James is a 2nd-year theologian and is co-sponsored by the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA. Pictured above, left to right, Chief Leroy Pullins, Officer Recruiter; his father Victor Dvorak Jr., James, his mother Gail Dvorak and Lieutenant Chaplain Diane Hampton, Chaplain Recruiter.

National Collection for the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA

The National Collection for the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS) is a triennial collection approved by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in 2012 and first taken in 2013.

The first National Collection for the AMS was timed to coincide with Veterans Day November 2013 and raised more than \$8.2 million from collections taken by 179 dioceses. The second National Collection was taken in most dioceses and parishes across the country at weekend Masses November 5-6, 2016. While second collections are not allowed in U.S. military chapels, military personnel will have the opportunity to contribute independently by sending in individual donations in response to the Archdiocese for the Military

Services, USA Appeal.

There are many organizations that support U.S. military and their families, but there is no other diocese or non-profit organization like the AMS. The AMS provides the same pastoral care and services as any other Catholic diocese, to Catholics serving in the United States Armed Forces, enrolled in U.S. Military Academies, undergoing treatment at any of the 153 Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers in the U.S., Puerto Rico and Guam, working in civilian jobs for the federal government beyond U.S. borders, and the families of these populations.

If you would like to support and obtain more information go to www.milarch.org and search National Collection 2016.



Diocesan members of the Holy Equestrian Order of Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem met recently in Little Rock Arkansas. Attending were, left-right, section representatives Sir Joseph J. Morris, Sr., KGCHS, Lady Joyce B. Morris, LGCHS; Bishop Brendan Cahill, KC*HS, Lady JoAnn Jalufka, LGCHS and Sir Daniel Jalufka, KGCHS. Sir Daniel received a promotion to the rank of Knight Grand Cross, pictured left with Bishop Cahill. Next year the meeting will take place October 20-23, 2017, in Oklahoma City.



CDA DONATES TO STATE PROJECT—Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Ann #369 donated school supplies to the Cameron Colonias. Pictured, left to right, Donna Moeller, Regent and Joan Schramek, #34 District Deputy. The After School Tutorial Program was organized as part of "Proyecto Juan Diego", an initiative to improve the quality of life in Cameron Park Colonia. The students use old computers donated by the community or private donors, such as Texas CDA and JCDA. Cameron Park Colonia is located in Brownsville, Texas. According to the Census Bureau, this is the poorest place in the United States.

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PRAYER FOR PEACE AND VOCATIONS—A rosary for peace and vocations to Religious Life was held at the Incarnate Word Convent outdoor rosary path on the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, October 7. Bishop Brendan Cahill, Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament and friends gathered to pray on the rosary path. This event was held in conjunction with the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters celebrating 150 years of their Victoria Foundation.



PRESENTATION OF GIFT—At the October monthly St. Rose CDA Court #1597 of Schulenburg, meeting Regent Rosa Galipp, right, presented Past Regent Barbara Veselka, left, with a Past Regent Pin for service as Regent of St. Rose Court #1597 years 2012 – 2016.



ADORATION AND HEALING—St. Rose CDA Court #1597, Schulenburg, hosted an evening of worship on September 29. The evening started with an hour of adoration led by Deacon John McCourt of Hostyn; reconciliation followed by a healing Mass and service celebrated by Father Robert Guerra of Eagle Lake. An overflow crowd filled the Chapel of the Holy Innocents at Raphael's Refuge in Flatonía. As many as 200 participants from the surrounding areas took part in the evening that concluded with a social gathering.

THE TRAVELER—Bishop Brendan Cahill was presented recently the Arkansas Traveler Award by Bishop Anthony B. Taylor, KC*HS, Little Rock, Arkansas on behalf of Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson. Bishop Cahill received the award during his visit to Little Rock for the Southwestern Lieutenantcy of the Holy Equestrian Order of Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem Annual meeting and Investiture from October 14-17, 2016.



V Encuentro

What is the V Encuentro? The V Encuentro is a 4 year process that is starting at a grass-roots level and calling for the development of resources and initiatives to better serve the fast-growing Hispanic population in dioceses, parishes, ecclesial movements and other Catholic organizations.

The main goal of the V Encuentro is to discern ways in which the Church in the United States can better respond to the Hispanic/Latino presence and to strengthen the ways that Hispanics/Latinos respond to the call to the New Evangelization as missionary disciples serving the entire Church.

At the local level, the Diocese of Victoria and Bishop Cahill have begun this 4 year process with an initial group that will soon reach out to the parishes throughout the diocese. It is the objective of the V Encuentro to reach out to Hispanic Catholics and stimulate a new wave of faith formation and leadership development in the Church.



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• Frequent The Sacraments – Mass as often as possible + monthly Confession.

• Serve someone in need and do so with a smile.



Final resting place: Vatican releases instruction on burial, cremation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Professing belief in the resurrection of the dead and affirming that the human body is an essential part of a person's identity, the Catholic Church insists that the bodies of the deceased be treated with respect and laid to rest in a consecrated place.

While the Catholic Church continues to prefer burial in the ground, it accepts cremation as an option, but forbids the scattering of ashes and the growing practice of keeping cremated remains at home, said Cardinal Gerhard Muller, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

"Caring for the bodies of the deceased, the church confirms its faith in the resurrection and separates itself from attitudes and rites that see in death the definitive obliteration of the person, a stage in the process of reincarnation or the fusion of one's soul with the universe," the cardinal told reporters Oct. 25.

In 1963, the congregation issued an instruction permitting cremation as long as it was not done as a sign of denial of the basic Christian belief in the resurrection of the dead. The permission was incorporated into the Code of Canon Law in 1983 and the Code of Canons of the

Eastern Churches in 1990.

However, Cardinal Muller said, church law had not specified exactly what should be done with "cremains," and several bishops' conferences asked the congregation to provide guidance.

The result, approved by Pope Francis after consultation with other Vatican offices and with bishops' conferences and the Eastern churches' synods of bishops, is "Ad resurgendum cum Christo" ("To Rise with Christ"), an instruction "regarding the burial of the deceased and the conservation of the ashes in the

case of cremation."

Presenting the instruction, Cardinal Muller said, "shortly, in many countries, cremation will be considered the ordinary way" to deal with the dead, including for Catholics.

Cremation, in and of itself, does not constitute a denial of belief in the immortality of the soul and the resurrection of the body, the instruction says. Nor does it "prevent God, in his omnipotence, from raising up the deceased body to new life."

However, the Catholic Church wholeheartedly recommends continuing the "pious practice



An urn containing cremated remains is seen in a niche in a cemetery mausoleum. During an Oct. 25 news conference in Rome, Cardinal Gerhard Muller, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, said that while the Catholic Church continues to prefer burial in the ground, it accepts cremation as an option, but forbids the scattering of ashes or keeping cremated remains at home. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)

of burying the dead," Cardinal Muller said. It is considered one of the corporal works of mercy and, mirroring the burial of Christ, it more clearly expresses hope in the resurrection when the person's body and soul will be reunited.

In addition, he said, when a person is buried in the ground — and, at least to some extent — when the urn of the person's ashes is placed in a columbarium or tomb, the final resting place is marked with the person's name, the same name with which the person was baptized and by which the person is called by God.

"Belief in the resurrection of the flesh is fundamental," he said. "A human cadaver is not trash" and an anonymous burial or scattering of ashes "is not compatible with the Christian faith. The name, the person, the concrete identity of the person" is important because God created each individual and calls each individual to himself.

In fact, when asked if there was any way to rectify the situation when a person's ashes already had been scattered, Cardinal Muller suggested making a memorial in a church or other appropriate place and including the name of the deceased.

What is more, he said, labeling an urn or tomb in a public place is an expression of belief in the "communion of saints," the unending unity in Christ of all the baptized, living and dead.

"Other believers have a right to pray at the tomb" and to remember deceased members of the Catholic Church on the feast of All Saints and All Souls.

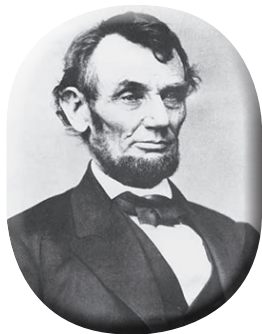
Keeping ashes at home on the mantel, he said, is a sign not only of love and grief, but also of not understanding how the loved one belonged to the entire community of faith and not just to his or her closest relatives.

Placing the ashes in a sacred place also "prevents the faithful departed from being forgotten or their remains from being shown a lack of respect," which is more likely to happen as time goes on and the people closest to the deceased also pass away, the instruction said.

NOTE: For more information that has been approved by Bishop Brendan Cahill on cremation burials in the Diocese of Victoria go to victoriadiocese.org/cremation-qa. Also, available through the Victoria Catholic Cemeteries is a grave site locator. Locate grave sites by visiting the on-line database at www.vccms.org. You can check interment information, print data, location map and check for available grave sites.

A Proclamation

By the President of the United States of America - Abraham Lincoln 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



KJT FUNDS RAISED AND MATCHED FOR PRIEST AND RELIGIOUS—
The Nada KJT Society #34 held a Priest and Religious Retirement Fundraiser in July at the Nada Community Center. The event also featured a bake sale to benefit the Nada New Hall Building Project. A matching grant donation from the State KJT Home Office was received for this effort. Pictured are Nada KJT #34 society officers receiving the matching grant check from the KJT State Home Office. Left-right: Anita Meismer, secretary, Father Joe Vrana, St. Mary's pastor and society Chaplain accepting the check from Donald Naiser society president and Sean Korene, vice president.



St. Michael School, Weimar pre-k4 students celebrate twin day during mission week at the school.

Students Celebrate Mission of the School

WEIMAR—During the week of October 24-28, the students of St. Michael Catholic School in Weimar celebrated the mission of the school - to be friendly, respectful, responsible and Christ-like!

On Monday, the students took spirit day to the extreme. They showed how much they are committed to living their school mission and are proud of their Catholic school by wearing spirit shirts and crazy socks and hats.

On Tuesday, the students found a friend and became their twin or found a group and became their favorite sports team. A rosary was prayed for the school family.

On Wednesday, the students showed they care and committed themselves to prayer for those who suffer cancer and other medical ailments. The students wore pink and prayed a special rosary for those who are sick and for healthcare workers.

On Thursday, students wore red, white, and blue to show their patriotism for our great country. Each grade level completed service projects and a rosary was prayed for our country, elected officials and the military.

On Friday, the students attended Mass with Bishop Brendan Cahill presiding and performing the installation ceremony for Fr. Wayne Flagg. Bishop Brendan then visited with each of the classes.

ESPAÑOL



El Camino de Santiago es una ruta que recorren los peregrinos de todo el mundo para llegar a la ciudad de Santiago de Compostela, donde venerán las reliquias del apóstol Santiago el Mayor. Una familia local viajó hasta España este verano pasado y caminaron parte del Camino de Santiago. Fueron en este viaje en memoria de su mamá, Evelyn. Querían dar gracias para el amor y las bendiciones que su vida les habían dado a ellos. En la foto se encuentra Elyse Brown.

V Encuentro

El V Encuentro es un proceso de reflexión y acción eclesial de 4 años. Todos los líderes en las diócesis, parroquias, movimientos laicos eclesiales y otras organizaciones e instituciones católicas están invitados a salir al encuentro con Hispanos/Latinos católicos, particularmente aquellos que viven en la periferia, mediante del proceso misionero de evangelización y consulta del V Encuentro.

La meta general del V Encuentro es discernir formas en las que la Iglesia en los Estados Unidos pueda responder mejor a la presencia de los Hispanos/Latinos, y potenciar formas en que los Hispanos/Latinos respondan como discípulos misioneros al llamado de la Nueva Evangelización, sirviendo a toda la iglesia.

Al nivel local, Obispo Cahill y la Diócesis de Victoria han empezado el proceso de 4 años con un grupo inicial. Es el objetivo estimular una nueva ola de formación en la fe y de las iniciativas de desarrollo de liderazgo en la iglesia Católica.

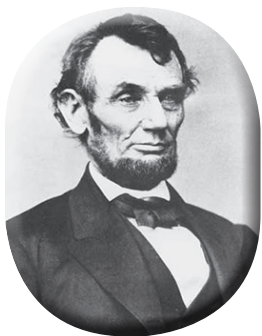


Things To Be Thankful For Today!

1. God – He loves us enough to become one of us. To die for us
2. Life – What a gift. You exist!
3. Faith – Treasure it. Not everyone has it.
4. Family – Even if not perfect, your family is something to thank God for.
5. The Church – Fullness of grace and truth. Family of God.
6. Your parish – Again, not perfect, but has many treasures.
7. Food – You probably don't have to wonder where your next meal is coming from.
8. Water – Millions don't have access to clean water in our world. Still.
9. Love – God loves you. He made you for love. Thanks God!
10. The Bible – God gave you his love letter. Open it today!



Una proclamación Por el Presidente Lincoln de los Estados Unidos de América



El año que está llegando a su fin ha estado pleno de bendiciones con fértiles campos y benéficos cielos. A estos bienes, que tan constantemente disfrutamos por lo que somos propensos a olvidar la fuente de la que vienen, se han sumado otros que son de una naturaleza tan extraordinaria que inevitablemente penetran y suavizan incluso el corazón habitualmente insensible a la siempre vigilante providencia de Dios Todopoderoso.

En medio de una guerra civil de magnitud y gravedad inigualables que a veces parecía invitar y provocar a la agresión de estados extranjeros, se ha mantenido la paz con todas las naciones, se ha mantenido el orden, se han respetado y obedecido las leyes y la armonía ha prevalecido por doquier excepto en el escenario del conflicto armado, aunque ese escenario se ha contraído grandemente debido al avance de las fuerzas militares y navales de la Unión.

La necesaria desviación de riqueza y fortaleza de los campos de la industria pacífica hacia la defensa nacional no han detenido el arado, el transporte o el barco; el hacha ha ensanchado los límites de nuestros asentamientos; y las minas, tanto de hierro y carbón como las de nuestros metales preciosos, han rendido incluso más abundantemente que antaño. La población ha crecido firmemente a pesar de las pérdidas en el campo, el sitio y el campo de batalla, y el país, regocijándose en el conocimiento de una mayor fortaleza y vigor, se permite esperar una continuidad de años con un gran aumento de libertad.

Ninguna mente humana ha diseñado ni ninguna mano mortal ha construido estas grandes cosas. Son los gentiles dones del Altísimo que, aunque se molesta con nosotros por nuestros pecados, a pesar de todo tiene muy presente la misericordia.

He creído adecuado y apropiado que tales dones deberían ser reconocidos solemne, reverente y agradecidamente con un solo corazón y al unísono por todo el pueblo americano. Por tanto, invito a mis conciudadanos en cualquier lugar de Estados Unidos y también en tierras extranjeras, a señalar y guardar el último jueves de noviembre próximo como un día de acción de gracias y alabanza a nuestro Padre benefactor que mora en los cielos.

Y les recomiendo que, mientras hacen las ofrendas en justicia a Él debidas por tan singulares salvaciones y bendiciones, también encomienden, con humilde penitencia por nuestra perversidad y desobediencia nacionales, a Su amoroso cuidado a todos los que hoy son viudas, huérfanos, deudos o dolientes de la lamentable lucha civil en que estamos inevitablemente involucrados y que fervientemente imploran la intervención de la mano del Todopoderoso para restañar las heridas de la nación y restablecerla tan pronto como esto coincida con el propósito divino para el pleno disfrute de paz, armonía, tranquilidad y unión.

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Heritage Libertad

Pena de muerte ‘no satisface justicia’, dicen obispos católicos de Texas

Por Catholic News Service

AUSTIN, Texas (CNS) — Los obispos católicos de Texas pidieron el fin de la pena de muerte, o pena capital, el 10 de octubre, denunciando sus efectos no solamente para las víctimas pero para otros que se ven afectados, incluso la sociedad.

“La pena capital destruye la capacidad de misericordia y amor de nuestros corazones”, dijeron los obispos en un comunicado emitido por la Conferencia Católica de Texas en Austin. “La pena capital no solamente no equivale al bien común, en realidad le hace mucho daño”.

El comunicado, emitido durante el Día Mundial Contra la Pena de Muerte, se dio en un momento en que apoyo para la pena capital entre los estadounidenses, incluyendo los tejanos, está disminuyendo.

Los resultados de una encuesta emitidos el 29 de septiembre por el centro de investigación Pew Research Center mostraron que el apoyo de los estadounidenses a la pena capital está en el nivel más bajo que ha estado en más de cuatro décadas. Estos dicen que solamente el 49 por ciento de los estadounidenses actualmente favorece la pena capital para personas convictas de asesinato. Eso es un descenso del 56 por ciento que en marzo del 2015 dijo que la apoyaba. La nueva encuesta muestra que el 42 por ciento de los estadounidenses ahora se opone a la pena capital.

El 56 por ciento de las personas encuestadas en Texas en el 2015 dijo que apoyaba la pena capital para asesinos

convictos, un descenso del 75 en 1993.

El comunicado de los obispos también sirvió como su discurso anual ante católicos de Texas durante el Mes del Respeto por la Vida, observado por la Iglesia Católica de Estados Unidos cada octubre.

El mes ofrece a los católicos una oportunidad de “reflexionar sobre el preciado don de la vida y de recomprometernos con el trabajo hacia una cultura que verdaderamente acoja y proteja la vida humana en nuestra sociedad”, escribieron los obispos de Texas.

“Este año nosotros los obispos llamamos atención particular a nuestro consistente llamado a la abolición de la pena capital en Texas, ya que reconocemos que este es innegablemente un asunto provida”, ellos dijeron.

Los obispos citaron en su comunicado varias maneras en que ellos dijeron que ejecutar la pena capital inflige daño:

– La pena capital “es usada desproporcionadamente en la población de los pobres, las minorías y personas con incapacidades mentales.

– Los costos implicados en los casos de pena capital “son tres veces” más altos que los de casos en que los convictos son sentenciados a cadena perpetua.

– La “finalidad de la muerte” no permite la rehabilitación de los presos ni provee “consolación para las familias de las víctimas”.

– Estudios han demostrado que estados han ejecutado personas inocentes y que los

índices del crimen no son afectados por el uso estatal de la pena capital.

“La pena capital influencia negativamente la formación moral de nuestros niños y nuestra cultura porque no permite misericordia ni redención”, dijeron los obispos.

“Nuestro llamado a abolir la pena capital no es un llamado a negar justicia”, ellos escribieron. “Al contrario, es un llamado a toda la comunidad a reconocer que la pena de muerte no satisface la justicia ni consuela a los desconsolados”.

Un comunicado de prensa dijo que la Conferencia Católica de Texas, que es la rama de política pública de los obispos, estará trabajando en la próxima sesión de la Legislatura de Texas para mejorar los derechos de los jurados que sirven en casos de sentencia de pena capital.

Según Jennifer Carr Allmon, directora ejecutiva de la conferencia, la ley de Texas “es intencionalmente engañosa porque re-

quiere que los jueces y abogados le mientan a los jurados sobre el nivel de unanimidad requerido para una sentencia de muerte”.

“Aunque continuaremos nuestros esfuerzos para terminar el uso de la pena capital en Texas, esta legislación por lo menos mejorará la imparcialidad del sistema actual”, ella dijo en un comunicado.

Los jurados de Texas están emitiendo la pena capital menos durante las últimas dos décadas, dijo la conferencia católica. El más alto tribunal de Texas para casos penales, el Tribunal de Apelaciones Criminales de Texas, ha concedido un alto número de indultos durante los últimos dos años, esta dijo, debido a preocupaciones “sobre la imparcialidad y la precisión de las convicciones implicando la pena capital”.

Texas tiene el índice de ejecuciones más alto que cualquier estado. Este año el estado realizará su menor número de ejecuciones desde 1996.





POPE CAMPER VATICAN—Pope Francis blesses a camper before a jubilee audience at the Vatican October 22. The camper was donated to the pope for use by the Diocese of Rome in the service of the needy. (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano, handout)

For vocations, one must go out, listen, call, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In its ministry to young people, and especially in vocations promotion work, church workers must step out of the sacristy and take seriously the questions and concerns of the young, Pope Francis said. Young people are searching for meaning, and the best response is to go out to where they are, stop and listen to them and then call them to follow Jesus, the pope said Oct. 21. Meeting participants at a vocations promotion conference sponsored by the Congregation for Clergy, Pope Francis emphasized the need

for church workers to be on the move and to echo the vocations call Jesus used with the disciples, "Follow me." "Jesus' desire is to set people out on a journey, moving them from a lethal sedentary lifestyle and breaking through the illusion that they can live happily while remaining comfortably seated amid their certainties," Pope Francis said. The seeking and desire to explore that comes naturally to most young people "is the treasure that the Lord puts in our hands and that we must care for, cultivate and make blossom," the pope said.

Papal summer residence opens to the public for the first time

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope Francis is throwing open the doors to the papal apartment -- including the bedroom where popes have slept -- in the Apostolic Palace at Castel Gandolfo. The palace was for centuries the summer residence of the Roman pontiffs, but Pope Francis has decided not to use it. Instead in 2014, he opened the palace gardens to the public and last year opened a portion of the Apostolic Palace as a portrait gallery. Pope Francis "wanted this place — so rich in history and so significant — to be a gift for the people," Antonio Paolucci, director of the Vatican Museums, said Oct. 20 at the grand opening of the papal apartment. "Whoever passes through the gate of the Apostolic Palace of Castel Gandolfo will find pure beauty," Paolucci said. Among the rooms open now to the public are the Room of the Throne, the Consistory Room, the pope's bedroom and private study.

Jesuit church no longer open for talks on South African university crisis

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — After chaos broke out in a Catholic church as it hosted a meeting to resolve a university crisis, South Africa's Jesuits said the church would no longer be open for these talks. The "safe and neutral space" of Holy Trinity Church in Johannesburg "has been violated by those who declared God's house to be exclusively theirs," Father David Rowan, regional superior of the Jesuits in South Africa, said in an Oct. 20 statement. Adam Habib, vice chancellor and principal of the University of the Witwatersrand, slipped out of a back door after angry students objected to his presence at the Oct. 19 meeting. Students in the church said Habib should have been arrested, instead of student activist Mcebo Dlamini, who faces charges of public violence, theft, assault and malicious damage to property. The Jesuit statement said the dialogue at the church "was part of an ongoing attempt to find a peaceful solution to the current crisis at the university."

Catechism not enough to know Christ; need prayer, too, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — To truly know Jesus, reading the Bible and studying the catechism are not enough, Pope Francis said in a morning homily. Prayer, silent adoration and recognizing one's sinfulness also are needed to grasp the mystery of Christ and the immensity of his love,

the pope said in his homily during Mass at Domus Sanctae Marthae Oct. 20. How is it possible to comprehend the breadth and depth of Christ's love, which surpasses all knowledge? the pope asked. "Christ is present in the Gospel (so) by reading the Gospel we know Christ," he said, and people learn more about who Christ is by attending religious education classes. "But this isn't enough," he said. It's also necessary to immerse oneself in prayer, on one's knees, invoking the Holy Spirit for Christ to dwell in one's heart. Adoration is also necessary, he said, adding that this practice of silently sitting before the Lord, in adoration of his lordship and mystery, is perhaps not very well known or followed by many people.

Sorrow and joy: Marking the Reformation with honesty about the past

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As Catholics and Lutherans prepare to mark the 500th anniversary of the start of the Protestant Reformation, Pope Francis said they should feel "pain for the division that still exists among us, but also joy for the brotherhood we have already rediscovered." The pope will travel to Lund, Sweden, Oct. 31, to participate in an ecumenical prayer service launching a year of anniversary activities. Lutherans mark Oct. 31 as Reformation Day, honoring Martin Luther, who was a Catholic priest in 1517 when he began the process that became the Protestant Reformation. His "95 Theses" were a list of topics on which, Luther believed, the Catholic Church needed to reform. Asserting that faith, not deeds, leads to salvation, many items on the list were triggered by the "selling" of indulgences, a practice the Council of Trent later banned. The Catholic Church believes that Christ and the saints have accumulated a treasure of merits, which other believers -- who are prayerful and repentant -- can draw upon to reduce or erase the punishment they are due because of sins they have committed. Colloquially, an indulgence is described as a promise of reduced time in purgatory. While making money from indulgences was a spark, the heart of the Reformation became different understandings of justification, or how people are made righteous in the eyes of God and saved. In 1999, after years of theological study, discussion and review, a joint declaration on justification was finalized and signed. It said Lutherans and Catholics agree that justification and salvation are totally free gifts of God and cannot be earned by performing good works, but rather must be reflected in good works.

Journeys of Faith with Ceci *Upcoming Pilgrimages*

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Sunday Readings from - November 6 — December 18

*November 6 - Thirty-second Sunday
in Ordinary Time*

2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14
Psalms 17:1, 5-6, 8, 15
2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5
Luke 20:27-38

*November 13 - Thirty-third Sunday
in Ordinary Time*

Malachi 3:19-20A
Psalms 98:5-6, 7-8, 9
2 Thessalonians 3:7-12
Luke 21:5-19

*November 20 - The Solemnity of Our
Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe*

2 Samuel 5:1-3
Psalms 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5
Colossians 1:12-20
Luke 23:35-43

November 27 - First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalms 122: 1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:37-44

December 4 - Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalms 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17
Romans 15:4-9
Matthew 3:1-12

Holiday of Obligation

*December 8 - Solemnity of the Immaculate
Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

Genesis 3:9-15, 20
Psalms 98:1, 2-3AB, 3CD-4
Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12
Luke 1:26-38

December 11 - Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-6A, 10
Psalms 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

December 18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-14
Psalms 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-24

*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



From a Pastor's Desk

By. Father Tim Kosler
St. Rose Church, Schulenburg

How we love to “get things done.” Whether we are wearing a suit and carrying a planner, or dressed in jeans with a tattered piece of paper, it’s great to check the last task off our list.

We’re pre-programmed to expect a good dose of self-indulgence to follow any demanding work schedule. And that expectation is supported by hundreds of self-help books and success seminars. Get all your work done and then settle back to enjoy yourself. You’ve earned it!

But the work of God doesn’t come

with a to-do list. Luke 17:5-10 tells us that even if we do all that God commands us, we can’t expect to sit back and rest on our laurels.

As his children, we should be constantly seeking another opportunity to serve him.

Every morning newspaper carried the proof that there is still so much to be done for the world in his name.

Our rest and reward will come, but not here on earth. And although we cannot say relax and say “all done” here, if we consistently strive to serve him, he will say “well done” when we arrive in heaven.

Pope announces 17 new cardinals, including three from U.S.

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis will conclude the Year of Mercy by creating 17 new cardinals, including three from the United States: Archbishop Blase J. Cupich of Chicago; Bishop Kevin J. Farrell, prefect of the new Vatican office for laity, family and life (formerly Bishop of the Diocese of Dallas); and Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin of Indianapolis. Announcing the names of the new cardinals Oct. 9, Pope Francis said, “Their coming from 11 nations expresses the universality of the church that proclaims and witnesses the good news of God’s mercy in every corner of the earth.” The new cardinals — 13 of whom are under the age of 80 and therefore eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a new pope and four over 80 being honored for their “clear Christian witness” — will be inducted into the College of Cardinals Nov. 19, the eve of the close of the Year of Mercy. The next day, Nov. 20, they will join Pope Francis and other cardinals in celebrating the feast of Christ the King and closing the Year of Mercy, the pope said.



Pictured is a volunteer with the Mercy Chef Organization. Mercy Chefs is a faith-based, non-profit disaster relief organization. They are making a difference in the lives of people affected by natural disasters, national emergencies and extreme poverty by providing meals to those in need.

Mercy Chefs Providing Relief Following Hurricane Matthew

PORTSMOUTH, VA—Mercy Chefs, a Hampton Roads based non-profit, disaster relief and humanitarian aid organization, is now providing relief on three fronts following Hurricane Matthew - in Haiti, South Carolina and North Carolina.

Mercy Chefs is currently stationed at the Emergency Operations Center in Lumberton, North Carolina, where they are feeding first responders, police officers, search and rescue teams and the National Guard. In addition to the 1,800 meals for emergency personnel, they are cooking for one of the seven shelters in the area, as well as, several nearby churches.

Lumberton, North Carolina is an emerging disaster zone. After the hurricane hit, the city sat quiet. Then, the levees failed. Immediately, the city and surrounding county were inundated with water. Now residents are facing widespread, extreme flooding. For days, the greater area of Robeson County has been overrun by these floodwaters.


Officials have just announced that the

water supply for Robeson County has been contaminated by the flooding and will remain so for two to three weeks. Residents are now facing the daunting reality of an extended period without access to the most basic of human necessities - water. This is the first time in Mercy Chefs’ history that we have needed to respond to a water crisis here in the United States. The organization is preparing to have a water filtration unit, capable of providing 120 gallons of clean water per hour delivered to their North Carolina base. The unit will service the water needs of 5,000 people daily.



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Bishops Call for Abolition of Death Penalty

AUSTIN — The Texas Conference of Catholic Bishops has released a statement calling for the abolition of the death penalty, denouncing its effects not only on victims

and others immediately affected, but also on society. “Capital punishment vitiates our hearts’ capacity for mercy and love,” the bishops write, noting that “the death penalty not only does not correspond to the common good, it actually does great harm to it.” In their statement, the bishops cite several ways that harm is inflicted: 1) Capital punishment is used disproportionately on the poor, minorities, and people with mental disabilities; 2) Costs for capital punishment cases are three times that of a prisoner with life imprisonment; 3) The finality of death does not allow for rehabilitation or for consolation for victims’ families and 4) Studies have shown that

innocent people have been executed by the state and that crime rates are not affected by a state’s use of the death penalty.

Instead, the bishops write, “The death

sentencing cases,” explained Executive Director Jennifer Carr Allmon. “Texas law is intentionally misleading as it requires judges and attorneys to lie to jurors about

the level of unanimity required for a death sentence. While we will continue our efforts to end the use of the death penalty in Texas, this legislation will at least improve the fairness of the current system.”

The statement is being released on the World Day Against the Death Penalty and at a time when Americans’

-- including Texans’--

support of the death penalty is declining. Fewer Texas juries are giving death sentences than at any time in the last two decades, and Texas’ highest criminal court has granted an unusually high number of reprieves over the last two years due to concerns about the fairness and accuracy

of death penalty convictions. This year, the state will see the lowest number of executions since 1996.

The statement also serves as the bishops’ annual address to Texas Catholics during Respect Life Month. The month offers the opportunity for Catholics to “reflect on the precious gift of life and recommit ourselves to working toward a culture that truly welcomes and protects human life in our society,” the bishops write.

“Our call to abolish the death penalty is not a call to deny justice,” the bishops write. “On the contrary, it is a call to the whole community to recognize that the death penalty does not fulfill justice, nor does it console the inconsolable.”

The Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops is the association of the Roman Catholic bishops of Texas. Through the TCCB, the bishops provide a moral and social public policy voice that includes monitoring all legislation pertaining to Catholic moral and social teaching; accredit the state’s Catholic schools; and maintain records that reflect the work and the history of the Catholic Church in Texas.



penalty negatively influences our children’s moral formation and our culture as it fails to allow for mercy and redemption.”

“The Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops will also be working in the upcoming Texas legislative session to improve the rights of jurors serving in death penalty

Help Stop Predatory Loan Practices

By Jennifer Carr Allmon
Texas Catholic Conference

AUSTIN—In our charitable ministries we see the high cost of being broke every day. We hear the same stories of debt and despair throughout the state of Texas, where virtually no regulation means thousands of Texans are trapped in the never-ending payday and auto-title lending cycle of debt.

Payday loans are marketed as short-

term small cash advances for unexpected costs. Typically, it is a two-week loan term and requires access to a debit account as collateral. An auto-title loan is similar, but your car title serves as collateral. If a borrower fails to pay off the loan in 30 days, the loan company takes the vehicle.

In Texas, almost one-third of clients of the Catholic Church’s charitable ministries have outstanding payday and auto title loans. They are caught in a cycle of debt that is based on the premise that they will never pay off these loans. Research shows

that about 80 percent of payday loans are re-borrowed within 14 days. Annual percentage rates (APR) can be as high as 500 percent.

The median income for Texans who use payday loans is \$22,464. Borrowers often do not understand loan terms and don’t realize that credit unions offer affordable alternatives.

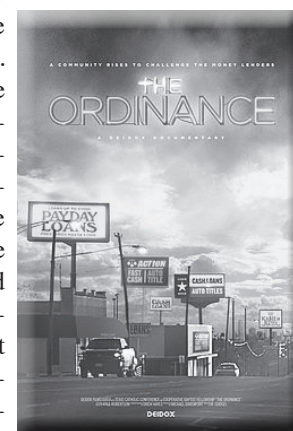
As Bishop Placido Rodriguez of Lubbock explains, “Borrowers using payday loans are not shopping around — they are poor and desperate, and lenders capitalize

on that desperation for huge profit at the expense of poor families.”

Loans from credit unions and community banks are the just alternative to predatory payday and vehicle title loans. To guarantee that individuals in a crisis have access to these loans, the rule should be streamlined so that credit services organizations (CSO)

and lenders are included in the proposed protections. The rules should exempt credit union products which cost less than 36 percent APR.

“We must halt the unscrupulous lenders from targeting the poor and most vulnerable among us,” Fort Worth Bishop Michael Olson said in a statement recently. “In tandem, good local payday lending regulations and the proposed federal rules will greatly assist those in desperate financial straits from becoming hostages of unscrupulous payday lenders.”



Caribbean Cruise
Galveston to Honduras
July 8-15, 2017

**Rhine Getaway
Riverboat Cruise**
August 6-13, 2017

Riverboat Cruise
Paris to Prague
August 17-26, 2017

Cruise
Venice to Athens, Greece
October 18-26, 2017

ABCATS TRAVEL
Call Jim or Malvina Slovak
(361) 578-0828 • slovakjim@att.net
www.abcatstravel.com

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.



EVENTS

The Catholic Lighthouse
Page 19 — November 2016

Meals • Picnics and more

November

Port Lavaca—Our Lady of the Gulf Altar Society Turkey Dinner, catered by Werners, Nov. 6 at St. Jude Hall. Plates are \$8 p/p from 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., with dine-in or drive-thru available. Baked goods and raffle tickets will be sold.

Shiner—30th Annual Shiner Homemade Apple Sale on Saturday, Nov. 12, sponsored by Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church. Unbaked \$15 with simple baking instructions. Pick up at K.C. Hall 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. For orders in Victoria, call Karen (361) 573-5283 or karen.pustka@yahoo.com. For Shiner orders, call Margie Kresta (361) 594-2361 or Quality Pharmacy (361) 594-2262. Orders and delivery in other cities, call Fran in Yoakum (361) 594-2438, Philip & Jennifer in Moulton & Flatonia (361) 594-8468, and Betty in Cuero (361) 649-4248 or bmkosler@sbcglobal.net. Place orders no later than Thursday, November 10.

Victoria—Our Lady of Lourdes Fall Festival Nov. 13 at the Victoria Community Center, doors open at 10:00 a.m. Serving a turkey and dressing dinner at 11:00 a.m.

Victoria—St. Joseph High School Open House for prospective students and families, Thursday, Nov. 17 at 6:15 p.m. starting in the STJ Flyer Dome. Experience STJ with a campus tour, department presentations and meet the faculty and coaching staff. Bring a friend. For more information call (361) 573-2446 ext. 217 or visit STJvictoria.com/admissions. You'll love the Journey. ®

Ganado—Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church 5K Fun Run/Walk Nov. 19 starting in the parish hall parking lot at 9:00 a.m. Entry fee is \$30 for adults and \$10 for children 5-12 if registered before Nov. 11. Fee includes lunch. For more information contact Jan Wooldrige at (361) 781-2570. Proceeds benefit their maintenance fund.

December

Victoria—KJZT #101 and KJT#115 Christmas Party Dec. 4 at Our Lady of Victory Cafeteria starting at 2:00 p.m. Bring a covered dish, meat provided. The meal served at 3:00 p.m. RSVP by calling Irene at (361) 573-2669.

Yorktown—Christmas Craft Show sponsored by the Holy Cross Catholic Daughters #1598 on Dec. 10. Looking for vendor; prices starting at \$25 to rent. For more information, call Myra Yeretsky at (361) 564-9663 or (281) 794-9213 (cell). See their event page on Facebook, Christmas Craft Show and Café - Holy Cross CDA.



You're Invited to the Bishop's Advent BBQ Dinner

Join the Diocese of Victoria
Bishop Cahill & Bishop Emeritus Fellhauer
for an evening of good food, friendship and fun
Saturday, December 3

Spiritual Renewal Center
5:30 p.m. Mass / 7:30 p.m. Dinner
Donation \$160 per couple

Also available overnight accommodation
with a brunch in the morning at \$30 per person.

Reservations: renewalcenter@victoriadiocese.org
Deacon Joe Duplan: (361) 572-0836

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.

Emmaus Center—Offers Individual, Couples, Family, Adolescent and children's counseling as well as specialized Support Groups for Men, Women and those afflicted by Grief. Spiritual Direction is also available on request. The Emmaus Center is located at 1908 N. Laurent St., Suite #140 (behind the VA Clinic). Appointments may be made by calling (361) 212-0830.

Engaged Encounter—Jan. 20-22, 2017, 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 barbamccain85@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—An on-going Grief Group meets at Holy Family Church, Victoria in the Conference Room, 7:00 p.m., on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month. Every adult, who has experienced the death of a loved one, may attend (after three months has passed). Please call Sharon at (361) 578-7572 before attending.

id.9:16 Ministry—For adults in their 20s-30s, single or married. Is held at Holy Family in Victoria every first Thursday of the month. Starts with the 6:00 p.m. daily Mass, dinner, a talk live streamed from the headquarters in Michigan followed by fellowship. Child Care is available to those who RSVP. It is open to all young adults of the diocese. For more information or to RSVP for events email id916victoria@gmail.com.

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.

Mothers of Grace—A new mothers' group at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. They meet every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Pilgrimages

Spiritual Director: Father Kristopher Fuchs (OLV) – 12 Day Pilgrimage to Portugal, Spain & France visiting Lisbon, Aljustrel, Valinhos, Fatima, Santiago de Compostela, Burgos, Leon, Lourdes, Zaragoza & Madrid on June 14-27, 2017. For a copy of the itinerary, please e-mail Dora Silva at dsilva4415@gmail.com. Deposit and payments must be submitted to Little Flower Tours & Travel, for further payment information please contact Susan at (888) 843-7373.

Spiritual Director: Bishop Brendan Cahill – Holy Land Prayer & Encounter Jan. 23-Feb. 3, 2017, to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. The Gospels and the Rosary come to Life as we visit Nazareth, Bethlehem, Cana, sail on the Sea of Galilee, Mt. Tabor, Jericho, and pray the Stations of the Cross in Jerusalem on the way to an early Mass in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Contact: Ceci Triska by email at jctriska@sbcglobal.net or call (979) 543-8575. Informational meeting on November 20 at 2:00 p.m. at the Chancery Office. See ad on pg. 16.

in the Early Childhood Center. For more information contact Jennifer Ruiz at jenniferschobey.ruiz@yahoo.com.

Natural Family Planning—NFP is the only church-approved form of family planning. To learn about the NFP class schedules in the Victoria area, contact David and Annie Coffey at victorianfpteachers@yahoo.com. For the CREIGHTON MODEL Fertility Care System (CrMS) featuring NaPro TECHNOLOGY™ contact Susanne Koch in Wharton 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

ACTS Retreats—For information, visit www.actsmiissions.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. 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. For more information, contact Sr. Louise Marie Jones at iwbsvoc2@yahoo.com.

Amor Meus

Taizé Prayer Service: November 22, from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Taizé Prayer is a meditative Christian experience of prayer that includes sung and chanted prayers, meditation, and periods of silence, reflection and liturgical readings. Amor Meus Prayer room.

Solemn Lenten Vespers: November 27, December 4, 11, & 18 from 5:00-5:45 p.m. Solemn Vespers is the Liturgical Evening Prayer of the Church. This prayer focuses on praying the psalms, giving thanks for the day and offering praise to God. Solemn Evening Praise closes with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Private / Directed Overnight Retreats: December 9, 10, 11, renew, reflect and relax! Enjoy the peaceful accommodations at the Amor Meus Spirituality Center. Whether you prefer one day or a few days overnight, an individual retreat can be created to fit your needs. Call Sister Emilie Eilers for more information or to arrange for a retreat.

Guided One Day Retreat: December 10, from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Theme: My Soul in Stillness Waits. Presenter: Deacon Leo Sharron. The retreat will include at least two reflections, liturgy or prayer service and ample time for personal prayer, walking and reflecting.

Call for appointment, register or more information. All the above events are held at Incarnate Word Convent/Amor Meus Spirituality Center, 1101 N.E. Water St., Victoria, TX 77901; (361) 575-7111; e-mail: amormeus@yahoo.com website: www.amormeusspiritualitycenter.org



What is "El Camino de Santiago"?

Pilgrims have traveled for more than a thousand years on one of the world's oldest pilgrimage routes, which travels over the Pyrenees from France into Spain. This network of trails that make up the Route of St. James – or El Camino de Santiago – converges at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela where the relics of the Apostle St. James are interred in the cathedral. The route has given rise to historic and religious sites that represent centuries of European architecture. People from all over the world with all kinds of motivations: sport, culture, religion, nature, adventure etc., travel El Camino de Santiago, or parts of it, in a lifetime experience.



Danny Cano at the kilometer zero point for pilgrims at the Faro (lighthouse) at Finisterre (the medieval end of the world) facing the northwest Atlantic coast of Spain.

A Family's Pilgrimage to 'El Camino de Santiago'

Continued from pg. 1

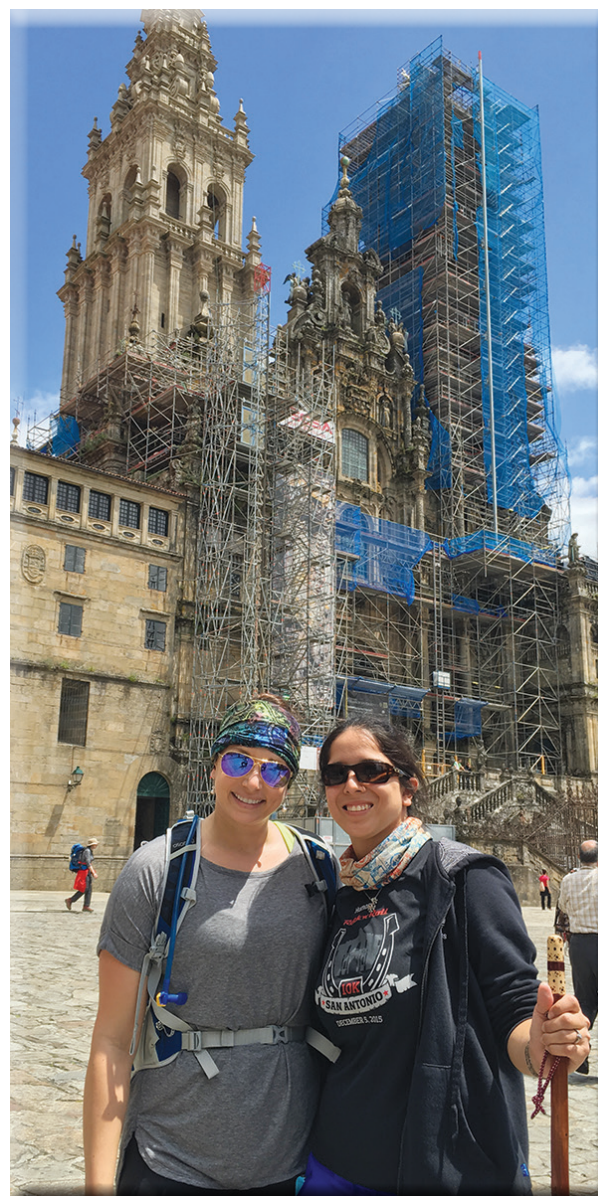
finish our walk. I honored that request two months after she passed away by walking the Camino alone but with her in spirit. Those Santiago medals clinked against my chest right next to my heart reminding me of her with every step.

The Camino is not an easy walk, it is a physically challenging hike and I only opted for a short 62 mile segment from Sarria which qualifies for an official pilgrim certificate issued by the Cathedral upon review of a pilgrim passport that documents that the proper seals were collected along the Camino. Next year, I'm hoping to complete the entire Camino Frances which will cover 500 miles with a start in France which crosses the Pyrenees mountains before

descending to the northwest coast of Spain.

Last summer, I repeated the same Camino segment but this time with our four grown children, their spouses, and a niece...following the same path that Evelyn had covered. It was a Faith journey to honor her memory and give thanks for the love and many blessings her life had brought to all of us.

Ours is a personal story but the Camino is there for anyone who seeks to unplug from daily life and find meaning through meditation and prayer. The pains and aches of the walk are a part of opening your heart to God as you make that hike. God's blessings and Santiago are the spiritual rewards that await you.



Sarah Sanchez and her father Danny Cano pictured hiking on the Camino.



Why is the scallop shell of significance?

The scallop shell, typically found on the shores in Galicia is one of the most iconic symbols of the Camino de Santiago and of Saint James. It is used along the pathways with yellow arrows to guide pilgrims heading to Santiago de Compostela along its many different routes. There are many stories, legends and myths explaining the link between the scallop shell and the way of St. James.

Liz Luera and Sarah Sanchez are standing in front of the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela.