



# The Catholic Lighthouse

The cradle of Texas Immigration



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

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FEBRUARY 2016



## Fasting and Abstaining During Lent

During Lent we are called to abstain from meat on Fridays as a reminder that our Lord offered His body for our sins. We also abstain from meat and fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

**Fasting:** Having only one full meal a day which is sufficient to maintain one's strength. Two other meatless meals are allowed, but are to be light and penitential. Everyone 18 years of age but not yet 60 is bound to the law of fasting.

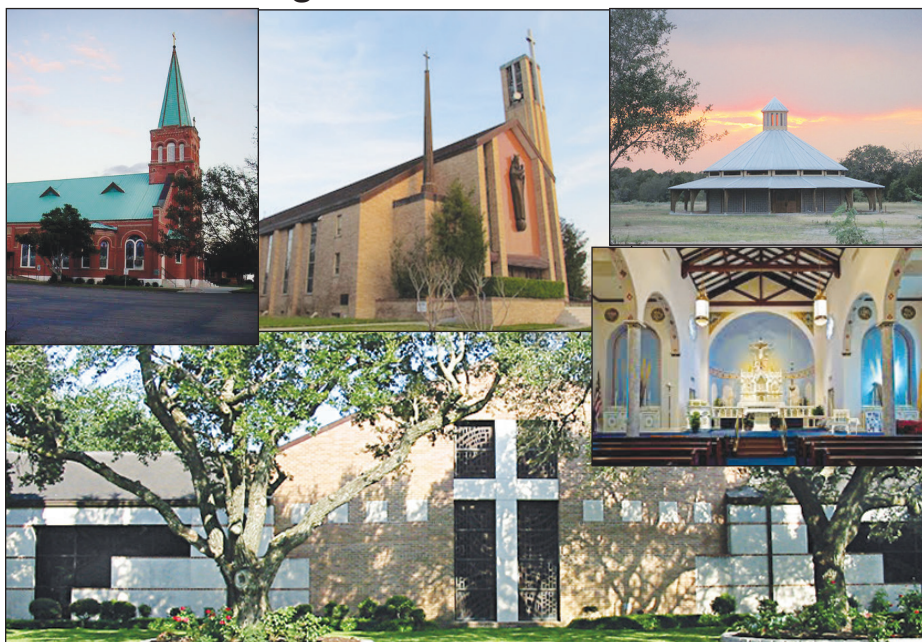
**Abstaining:** Everyone 14 years of age and older is bound to the law of abstinence. One must be mindful of his/her own physical condition.

See pg 3 for Lent Resources



## Catholic Schools Special Edition Pgs. 9-12

## Local Pilgrimage Sites For Year of Mercy and Pope Francis' Teachings on how to Obtain Indulgence if Unable to Travel



One of the ways to receive an indulgence for the Jubilee Year of Mercy is to make a pilgrimage to a Holy Door site. If a person is physically unable to make a pilgrimage, particularly the sick and people who are elderly and alone, confined to the home or incarcerated there are other ways to make your pilgrimage. The following is an excerpt

See Visiting Pilgrimage Sites, pg. 5



(left) Youth group from Shiner pictured at the end of the March for Life in front of the Supreme Court Building.

(right) Youth groups from Cuero and Palacios pictured together at the end of the March for Life in Washington, D.C.



## Local Youth and Sponsors Brave Blizzard in D.C. for March For Life

WASHINGTON, DC—The youth and young adults of Palacios, Cuero and Shiner (St. Anthony, St. Michael, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Sts. Cyril and Methodius) united in a pilgrimage for life as they journeyed to Washington, D.C. in January. There were 2 groups that went representing the Diocese of Victoria. Both groups joined thousands of people as they celebrated the Vigil Mass in the National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception on the eve of the March. Cardinal Timothy Dolan presided over the Mass and led the congregation in greater appreciation of life. He challenged them as a society to be more inviting and welcoming to others in order that the culture of life can become more prevalent.

This was the 1st trip to the march for the youth groups from Palacios and Cuero. They began the pilgrimage at Arlington Cemetery where they laid a wreath on behalf of the Diocese of Victoria at the tomb of the unknown soldier in thanksgiving for their sacrifices and a reflection on the tragedy that is war. The pilgrimage then continued at the Holocaust Museum where they entered into the tragic history of genocide of millions as well as the rally of the allies to stand firm to end the evils

of such horrific events. The group was reminded of the necessity of allowing the past to inform the present and give guidance to the steps into the future as it unfolds. One of the young adults shared, "I loved seeing how all the different aspects of life could be tied together throughout the places we visited." Another said, "Being able to share the reality of the March for Life together definitely helped us to appreciate our own lives, and not to take so many things for granted. We all learned to choose life. Being caught in D.C. because of the weather really helped my peers and me to appreciate how much home actually means to us."

The Youth Ministry group from Sts. Cyril and Methodius have traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in the National March For Life now for 4 years. They visited the WWII and Vietnam Memorials and prayed a decade of the rosary at each for the men and women who died and their families. They also visited the Holocaust Museum where they witnessed the reality of such a terrible historic time. Despite the weather it was the best march so far because the group was able to complete the entire march which ended in front

See Local Youth, pg. 7





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The Most Rev.  
Brendan J. Cahill

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**DEADLINE IS THE 15th  
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## Bishop Brendan Cahill- “More Courageous Than Cautious”

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

An obituary written in 1994 included the following:

“He was in Birmingham when racial antagonisms and protests came to a boil in 1963. He and a handful of white colleagues called on Dr. King and ‘outsiders’ to desist and let the courts work toward integration. Dr. King, in jail by then, responded with a long letter to ‘my dear fellow clergymen’ to explain that blacks could wait no longer. He voiced disappointment in the white priests, ministers and rabbis, saying ‘they should be among our strongest allies.’ Dr. King wrote: ‘All too many have been more cautious than courageous and have remained silent behind the anesthetizing security of stained glass windows.’ His ‘Letter from Birmingham Jail’ has probably been reprinted more than anything else he wrote. ... ‘The real message in the letter didn’t hit home until later,’ Bishop Durick said in 1969.”

The real message did hit home for



Bishop Joseph Durick, one of the clergymen whom Dr. King directly addressed in that famous letter. He was to become the Bishop of Nashville, Tennessee. After the murder of Dr. King in Memphis, Bishop Durick arranged a Memorial Mass in Memphis and participated in other Memorial Services with men and women of different denominations, faiths and colors.

As we are celebrating Black History Month, I’m thinking this may be a good time to re-commit ourselves to our ministerial alliances to promote the dignity of every human person. One of the strengths of the Civil Rights Movement was that many white priests, rabbis and ministers became more “courageous than cautious,” and joined their African-American brothers and sisters in peaceful protests of unjust conditions. Whether it be for racial fairness, the right to life of an unborn child, or upholding the sacredness and value of the family – there are many areas where we can continue to join arms with men and women of goodwill.

Also in Black History Month I think it is good to call to mind the great contribution of so many African-Americans to the Catholic Church. People seem surprised sometimes when I mention that there are

over 3,000,000 African-American Catholics in the United States – more than many other denominations. Especially after the emancipation of slaves many African-Americans sought to join the Catholic Church. In 1889, Daniel Rudd called together the first National Black Catholic Congress, held at St. Augustine Catholic Church in Washington, D.C. The history of African-American Catholics in Texas includes participation in some of these Congresses in the 1800’s - a man named William Easton traveled from Galveston to represent the Diocese of Galveston.

For more information on this rich Black Catholic history you can go to the web-site or Facebook page for the National Black Catholic Congress.

This issue of the Lighthouse will highlight some of our Pro-Life Activities as a Diocese. May we be courageous in standing up for the rights of the most vulnerable in our society. God bless you and your families, thank you for your beautiful, strong witness of the Catholic faith! Let’s keep one another in prayer,

+Brendan

### Official Appointments

**Effective January 21, 2016**, Reverend Robert Knippenberg has been appointed Postulator for the Diocesan Phase of the Cause for Sainthood for the Canonization of Father Charles W. Kram, Jr.

**Effective January 22, 2016**, Reverend Dominic T. Nguyen has been incardinated into the Diocese of Victoria in Texas. He will continue his current ministry with the Vietnamese Apostolate at Assumption Chapel, Palacios, Texas.

**On January 23, 2016**, Deacon Peter Oscar Kofi Amo was ordained a Transitional Deacon at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Victoria and will exercise his ministry there until his priestly ordination.

### DSA update

**2015 Diocesan Services Appeal**

Diocesan Goal:	\$ 1,826,700.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$ 1,077,171.58
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 1,052,550.39
Number of Parish Families Participating:	3,487

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

FESTIVAL  
TIME !!



FESTIVAL  
TIME !!



## ROAST BEEF MEAL

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

**LIVE AUCTION at 12:30 p.m.**

**Antiques – Collectibles – Crafts – Jewelry – Quilts**

**GAMES, BOOTHS, SILENT AUCTION – FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT**



Obituary

Sr. Pauline Ermis, IWBS passes away

Sister Pauline Marie Ermis, IWBS, 95, of Victoria, died January 5, 2016. She was born November 30, 1920, in Ellinger, Texas to the late Ignac and Annie Vaclavik Ermis. She was a Sister of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament. She completed grammar school at St. Jerome School in Plum and attended high school at St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner. She entered St. Ludmila Convent on September 15, 1937 and pronounced first vows on June 5, 1939. She received her BA degree from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio with a major in history and a minor in social science, and held a teacher's permanent elementary certificate. During the 76 years of her religious profession, Sister Pauline Marie taught in the primary, elementary, and junior high grades at the following schools: Immaculate Conception School in Sealy, Holy Trinity School in Duquesne, Pennsylvania, Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville, Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Selma, St. Mary School in Nada, Holy Cross School in East Bernard, St. John School in San Marcos, Nazareth Academy in Victoria,



St. Michael School in Weimar, Holy Cross School in Bay City, Holy Trinity School in Corn Hill, St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner and Blessed Sacrament Parish School in San Antonio. Sister Pauline Marie retired from full-time active classroom duties in 1996 to reside at Incarnate Word Convent where she assisted in various household duties. In her later years she resided at the Incarnate Word Convent Healthcare where her cheerful presence was an inspiration to all as she engaged in the apostolate of prayer and suffering.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her brothers, Ignatius and Sylvester; and her sister, Annie Bettis

Survivors include her brother, Basil; her sisters, Evelyn Przyborski, Agnes (and Elmer) Weikel, Lillian Machala, and Loretta Brugger.

A Funeral Mass was held on Friday, January 8, at 10:30 a.m. at Incarnate Word Convent. Burial followed at Catholic Cemetery No. 3.

Pallbearers will be Alfred Ermis, Timothy Machala, Sylvester Ermis, Jr, Wayne Brugger, Norman Ermis, Larry Ermis. Honorary Pallbearers are Elmer Weikel, Michael Kurtz.

Memorials may be made to Incarnate Word Convent, Hospice of South Texas or donor's choice.

Lent.  
a season of spiritual preparation

Resources:

Video

Tune in every week during Lent to listen to Bishop Brendan Cahill's Lent video messages. They will be posted to Facebook and the victoriadiocese.org website. The first video message will be posted on Ash Wednesday.

BEST LENT EVER

Dynamic Catholic's free Best Lent Ever email program will take you on a 40-day spiritual journey to encounter Jesus—and yourself—in a deeply personal way, and begin (or nourish) a habit of daily prayer. <http://dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever>



Disciples on the Journey is a Lenten lectionary based resource in Spanish and English for faith sharing in small groups. A guide for the leader and participants as well as tips and suggestions for small group sharing are included in the book. Call your church rectory for more information or visit [www.disciplesonthejourney.org](http://www.disciplesonthejourney.org).

Bishop Brendan's Schedule

- February
- 7 9:30 a.m., Confirmation Mass, Sacred Heart Church, Flatonia  
5:00 p.m., Celebrating Consecrated Life, Evening Praise and Adoration, Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria
- 9 6:30 p.m., Catholic School Awards Banquet, Hilton Garden Inn, Victoria
- 10 4:30 p.m., Ash Wednesday Mass, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Bay City  
7:00 p.m., Ash Wednesday Mass, St. Robert Bellarmine Church, El Campo
- 11 2:00 p.m., Ordination of Auxiliary Bishop Greg Kelly, Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe, Dallas
- 13 7:00 p.m., Denim & Diamonds Gla, Holy Family Activity Center, Victoria
- 14 9:00 a.m., World Marriage Day Mass, The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria  
3:00 p.m., Rite of Election, The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
- 16-18 Papal Visit to Mexico
- 17 6:00 p.m., CCD Night, Queen of the Holy Rosary Church, Hostyn
- 20 5:30 p.m., Mass, St. Mary Church, College Station
- 21 9:30 a.m., Mass for Institution of Lectors, St. Mary Seminary, Houston
- 21-23 Josephinum Seminary Visit, Columbus, Ohio
- 24 5:15 p.m., CCD Night, St. Anthony Church, Palacios
- 27 8:30 a.m., Mass, Cultural Awareness Workshop for Incarnate Word Sisters, Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria
- 28 5:00 p.m., Mass, Youth Spectacular, El Campo
- March
- 1 9:00 a.m., Lenten Day of Prayer for Chancery Staff, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria
- 2 10:00 a.m., Presbyteral Council Meeting, 2nd Floor, Chancery, Victoria  
6:00 p.m., CCD Night, St. Mary Church, Victoria
- 4-5 Deacons' Retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center
- 5 4:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. John Church, New Taiton
- 6 10:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, Sts. Peter & Paul Church, Plum  
6:00 p.m., Girl Scout Sunday, Our Lady of Victory School Cafeteria, Victoria
- 7 Pro-Life Activities Meeting, Washington, D.C.

Thank you notes

Dear Bishop Cahill,

We are very grateful for your transfer wire for a total amount of \$45,972.76 for the 2015 Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land.

Your generosity will directly help the Christians in the Holy Land itself and in adjoining countries like Syria (where the Franciscans serve). Without your financial help the friars would not be able to care for the needy and all the shrines.

Respectfully and Gratefully,  
Fr. Larry Dunham, OFM  
Commissary of the Holy Land

Dear Supporters,

Missionary Catechist of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary (MCSH) would like to extend our sincere gratitude for all your support and generosity during our recent fundraiser dinner. May our Lord bless each of you.

Janet Martinez  
MCSH, Lay Associate





## Seminary Burses

Seminary burses are a permanent fund used for the education of future priests for the Diocese of Victoria. The goal of each burse is \$15,000. The interest from this amount is applied yearly to the education of seminarians. The burses are in memory of or in honor of an individual priest or lay persons, living or deceased. Contributions with the appropriate burse designation may be sent to Diocese Of Victoria, **Seminary Burses**, P. O. Box 4070,Victoria, TX 77903.

January 26, 2016

	TOTALS
<b>General Seminary Burse</b>	
Previously reported	\$ 106,004.00
In memory of Lois Jirkovsky by Karen Pustka	25.00
In memory of Beatrice Trevino by Mrs. A.R. Wearden and James Wearden	100.00
In memory of Mary Ann Janecka by Mrs. A.R. Wearden and James Wearden	<u>100.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	\$106,229.00

<b>Henry A. Schoenfeld (NEW)</b>	
Donation in memory of my husband, Henry Schoenfeld by Bernice Schoenfeld	1,500.00
A Christmas blessing for my daughter, Mary Pitcher, by Bernice Schoenfeld	500.00
A Christmas blessing for my son, James Schoenfeld, by Bernice Schoenfeld	500.00
A Christmas blessing for my daughter, Theresa Vincent by Bernice Schoenfeld	500.00
A Christmas blessing for my daughter, Catherine Schreiber, by Bernice Schoenfeld	500.00
A Christmas blessing for my daughter, Deborah Franklin, by Bernice Schoenfeld	<u>500.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	\$4,000.00

<b>Knights of Columbus Victoria Council #1329 Burse #4</b>	
Balance from burse #3	\$257.50
In memory of Paul Bittlebrun by K of C Victoria Council #1329	100.00
In memory of Louis Polasek, Jr. by K of C Victoria Council #1329	100.00
Estela Matus	<u>10.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	\$467.50

<b>St. John the Baptist Church, St. John In Memory of Rev. Brian Crookes Burse #2</b>	
Previously reported	\$5,801.00
In memory of James Allen Hoepfl by Forrest Dittrich	<u>20.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	\$5,821.00



**Heavenly Helpers**  
**Christian Store**  
(979) 543-2850

*1603 N Mechanic M-F 9:30 - 5:30*  
*El Campo, TX 77437 Sat. 9:30 - 3:00*

*M-F 9:30 - 5:30 Sat. 9:30 - 3:00*

**Bibles, Books, Rosaries, Medals**  
**Statues, Baptism & Wedding Items**  
**Inspirational Gifts**

<b>Rev. Wayne Flagg and Rev. Philip Brune</b>	
Previously reported	\$4,605.00
In honor of Rev. Philip Brune's birthday celebration by Foster and Lucille Martin	25.00
Christmas blessings for Rev. Wayne Flagg and Rev. Philip Brune by Doris Kubicek	1,000.00
In memory of Clarence and Viola Warschak and Richard and Annie Schmidt by Kenneth and Patsy Warschak	1,000.00
In honor of Rev. Wayne Flagg by Michael and Julie Koch	500.00
In honor of Rev. Philip Brune's birthday celebration by Lambert and Carol Brune	25.00
In memory of Doris Gross by William and Carolyn Schuette	<u>25.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	\$7,180.00

<b>Jacob Mendoza</b>	
Previously reported	\$640.00
In memory of Beatrice Ruiz Falcon by John Tinoco	<u>100.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	\$740.00

<b>Rev. Msgr. Robert Schmidt Burse #2</b>	
Previously reported	\$175.00
In memory of James Vecera by Robert and Alice Hollas	25.00
In memory of Eugene Veselka by Robert and Alice Hollas	<u>25.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	\$225.00

<b>Rev. Dan Morales Burse in Honor of his Work for Vocations</b>	
Previously reported	\$3,531.00
In honor of Rev. Dan Morales for all the continued work with seminarians in our Victoria Diocese by Al and Martha Shimek	100.00
In honor of Rev. Dan Morales by Paz and Andrea Morales	<u>25.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	\$3,656.00

<b>Catholic Daughters of America Court St. Ann #369, Victoria Burse #2</b>	
Previously reported	\$11,008.99
In memory of Celia Rocha CDA by Court St. Ann #369	25.00
In memory of Marjorie Huehlefeld by: Henry and Carolyn Janak	20.00
Estela Matus	10.00
In memory of Louis Polasek Jr. by Henry and Carolyn Janak	20.00
CDA Court St. Ann #369	25.00
In memory of Bea Trevino by CDA Court St. Ann #369	25.00
Estela Matus	10.00
In memory of Lillian Obsta by CDA Court St. Ann #369	<u>25.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	\$11,168.99

## Principal Position Available in Yoakum

St. Joseph Elementary Catholic School, an elementary parish school founded in 1891, with enrollment of 130 students in the Diocese of Victoria, seeks an exceptional academic, spiritual and visionary principal who will advance the mission and goals of a parochial school with a history in the heart of Yoakum. The candidate must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church. Other qualities desired: must possess well-developed and refined interpersonal skills, a collaborative leadership style, competency in professional staff development, and an eagerness to engage a committed faculty with a diverse student body. Have a minimum of 3 years teaching and/or administrative experience, preferably in a Catholic school. To learn more about St. Joseph Catholic School, see our website at [www.stjccatholicsschool.com](http://www.stjccatholicsschool.com).

Contact John E. Quarry, Superintendent of Schools, 1505 E. Mesquite Lane, Victoria, TX 77901; (361) 573-0828 and/or download an application on the diocesan website at [www.victoriadiocese.org/employment-opportunities](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/employment-opportunities)

Applications must be completed by **March 1, 2016**, or until the position is filled with the appropriate candidate.



**Lent begins  
February 10  
with Ash Wednesday.**

**Chancery Closed  
March 1  
8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**For a staff  
Lenten Retreat.**



<b>Rev. Timothy Kosler</b>	
Previously reported	\$200.00
In loving memory of Eugene Veselka by:	
Henrietta Veselka	355.00
Leo and JoAnn Jares	15.00
Alphonse and Donna Hermis	25.00
Marvin and Ann Zemlicka	20.00
Joe and Diana Ulbig	20.00
Robert and Gladys Raabe	20.00
W.F. and Mildred Bohlmann, Jr.	100.00
Albert and Rita Kozel & Family	15.00
Thomas and Vervelle McGraw	25.00
Gertrude and Geraldine Kretek	40.00
Ositha Cykala	25.00
Clinton and Teri Guentert	20.00
Lillie Dittrich	10.00
Michael and Rita Watson	20.00
Harvey Schindler	30.00
Harvey and Sandra Michna	20.00
Thomas and Elsie Grahmann	20.00
Gary and Julia Mikes	10.00
Betty Janish	10.00
Doris Opela	20.00
Dorothy Pavlas	20.00
Frank and Nicole Wick & Family	10.00
Billy and Annette Biersdorfer & Ryan	20.00
Gene and Carol Berger	20.00
Milton and Helen Shimek	10.00
Patrick and Patsy Janda	25.00

Frankie Joe and Nettie Cernosek	10.00
Jeanette Friedrich	25.00
Tracy Friedrich	15.00
Arline and Al Marshall	10.00
Lillian Klesel	25.00
Kathy Volek	5.00
Tilo and Danielle Toro	<u>5.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	\$1,215.00

<b>Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Burse #7</b>	
Previously reported	\$9,690.00
In memory of John Jr. and Tillie Peters by Deacon Joey and Mary Targac	<u>50.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	\$9,740.00

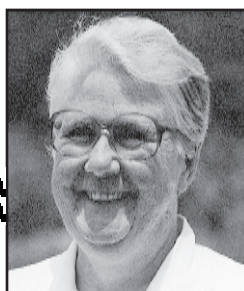
<b>Rev. Msgr. John C. Bily Burse #2</b>	
Previously reported	\$6,029.00
In memory of Sister Rita Rose Bily, CDP by:	
Bernice Leihardt	15.00
CDA Court St. Michael #559	50.00
In memory of Eugene Veselka by Albert and Dorothy Olsovsky	25.00
In memory of Mary Ann Janecka by Lisa Sagstetter	25.00
Mack and Debbie Janak	25.00
In memory of Alvin T. Vinklarek by:	
Daniel C. and Bernice Ulbricht	25.00
David, Charleen Kocian and Family	<u>50.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	\$6,224.00





## SISTERLY THOUGHTS

by Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



### Time to Celebrate

Most of us love to have reasons to celebrate. Many of us who are in any way associated with the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters in Victoria may not realize that we have a special reason to celebrate. On December 21, 1866, the Sisters first arrived in Victoria. To see how this dream of an early Texas Bishop became a reality, we need to back-track to a few years earlier.

In 1865, Bishop Claude Marie Dubuis, the second Bishop of Galveston, whose diocese included the entire state of Texas, approached the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament in Brownsville, Texas, and asked that they send some Sisters to Victoria to open a school.

Now, the foundation in Brownsville, which had begun by four faith-filled Sisters from France in 1853, had endured many challenges and hardships- including extreme poverty, the ravages of the Civil War, yellow fever epidemics, and hurricanes. They could not see themselves



sparing any Sisters for a new venture. After much prayer, they decided that if they could get some Sisters from Europe, they might be able to meet Bishop Dubuis' request. So Mother St. Clare Valentine, the Superior went alone to Europe to seek volunteers for the mission in Texas. She was fortunate and gathered eight from France and four who spoke English from Ireland. The eager group was given free passage on a warship and set sail toward their mission. I understand that the soldiers were very respectful to the Sisters even though it is reported that they were rather noisy at times. Unfortunately, the voyage came to an unhappy end for the Sisters when the ship arrived at Vera Cruz. Their misfortune was two-fold: they missed the monthly ship from Vera Cruz to Texas, and

except for Mother St. Claire, they all contracted yellow fever. As a result, four of the volunteers died before the party ever got to Texas. It was with a heavy heart that Mother St. Clare arrived in Brownsville with the survivors of the journey who immediately began the task of learning English to prepare themselves for bringing the Incarnate Word to the people of south Texas.

Providentially, the additional personnel would make the founding of a monastery and a school in Victoria a possibility. The Sisters held a community meeting and decided to respond affirmatively to Bishop Dubois' request. Five Sisters from Brownsville, including Mother St. Claire, Sister Paul Goux, Sister Mary Louise Murray,

Sister Mary of the Cross Murray, and Sister Justine Fonvielle were chosen for the foundation in Victoria. They were joined by a novice, Sister Regis Chavassieux, who came directly from France; actually she arrived in Victoria ten days

before the group from Brownsville arrived on December 21, 1866. While she was waiting, Sister Regis had been hosted by the

mayor, Mr. Juan Linn.

The Sisters were warmly welcomed by the people and their pastor, Father Augustine Gardet. Father Gardet offered the Sisters his four-room house which had previously been the post office. The Sisters didn't waste any time: Mother St. Claire immediately hired a carpenter to build a room thirty-five feet by sixteen feet with a gallery six feet wide for the grand total of \$160.00. The Sisters were ready; the school opened on January 7, 1867.

*Note: Next month we will continue to follow the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters and their early mission days in Victoria.*

### Visiting Pilgrimage Sites

*Continued from pg. 1*

from Pope Francis' Misericordiae Vultus (full version on website). "It is important that this moment be linked, first and foremost, to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to the celebration of the Holy Eucharist with a reflection on mercy. It will be necessary to accompany these celebrations with the profession of faith and with prayer for me and for the intentions that I bear in my heart for the good of the Church and of the entire world.

My thought first of all goes to all the faithful. To experience and obtain the Indulgence, the faithful are called to make a brief pilgrimage to the Holy Door, open in every Cathedral or in the churches designated by the Diocesan Bishop. "Additionally, I am thinking of those for whom, for various reasons, it will be impossible to enter the Holy Door, particularly the sick and people who are elderly and alone, often confined to the home. For them it will be of great help to live their sickness and suffering as an experience of closeness to the Lord who in the mystery of his Passion, death and Resurrection indicates the royal road which gives meaning to pain and lone-

liness. Living with faith and joyful hope this moment of trial, receiving communion or attending Holy Mass and community prayer, even through the various means of communication, will be for them the means of obtaining the Jubilee Indulgence. My thoughts also turn to those incarcerated, whose freedom is limited. The Jubilee Year has always constituted an opportunity for great amnesty, which is intended to include the many people who, despite deserving punishment, have become conscious of the injustice they worked and sincerely wish to re-enter society and make their honest contribution to it. May they all be touched in a tangible way by the mercy of the Father who wants to be close to those who have the greatest need of his forgiveness. They may obtain the Indulgence in the chapels of the prisons. May the gesture of directing their thought and prayer to the Father each time they cross the threshold of their cell signify for them their passage through the Holy Door, because the mercy of God is able to transform hearts, and is also able to transform bars into an experience of freedom.

**The Pilgrimage sites chosen by Bishop Brendan Cahill are Holy Cross - Bay City; Holy Cross - East Bernard; Raphael's Refuge - Flatonia; and Holy Cross - Yorktown.**

**A Pilgrimage must be made to the Cathedral of the Diocese (The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory) and 2 of the other four Pilgrim sites.**

**VISIT VICTORIADIOCESE.ORG for more information.**

### The Ninth Annual Celebration of the Feast Day of the Holy Innocents

FLATONIA—The day's events began with a rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and a number of Christmas songs. Bishop Brendan Cahill celebrated Mass, with Msgr. Joseph Hybner concelebrating. Refreshments and fellowship followed, hosted by Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Rose 1597 of Schulenburg.

During his inspiring homily, Bishop Cahill spoke about suffering and mercy. He also spoke about Pope Francis' call to remember the corporal and spiritual works of mercy during this Jubilee Year of Mercy. He noted that during the year, which runs from December 8, 2015, to November 20, 2016, five places have been designated as pilgrimage sites for the Victoria Diocese. Raphael's Refuge is one of those sites.

Following Mass, Bishop Cahill blessed the "Pool of Mercy," a small, cross-shaped pool in the floor of the chapel. It is symbolic of a Mikvah, a Jewish ritual cleansing pool. The pool was designed for those who have been through a healing process following involvement with abortion, yet still desire a tangible sense of cleansing.

Raphael's Refuge is dedicated to building and maintaining a memorial to babies, preborn through infancy. It also offers peer counseling on related issues. The Refuge is located at 2715 W. Hwy 90 (just over two miles west of Flatonia). It is open to the public during the day, seven days a week. For information, call Midge Elam at (361) 258-1514, or visit the website at [www.raphaelsrefuge.org](http://www.raphaelsrefuge.org).







## 2016 Youth Spectacular

Living Drama Free with Integrity  
It's easy to be wanted, wouldn't you rather be valued?

**Sunday February 28, 2016**

**KC Hall, El Campo TX**

**11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.**

**Early Registration Deadline: Wednesday February 17, 2016**

**All Junior High and High School Students Welcome**

**Only Accepting Group Registrations**



Sarah Swafford is the founder of Emotional Virtue Ministries. She speaks to people of all ages on a variety of topics such as: Emotional Virtue, Dating and Relationships, Modesty of Intentions, and Interior Confidence. She is a graduate of Benedictine College and has been involved in ministry for over ten years. For three of those years, Sarah worked as a Residence Hall Director at Benedictine College, taking care of a dorm with 142 freshmen women. That amazing experience gave her a front row seat into the hearts of women and men transitioning

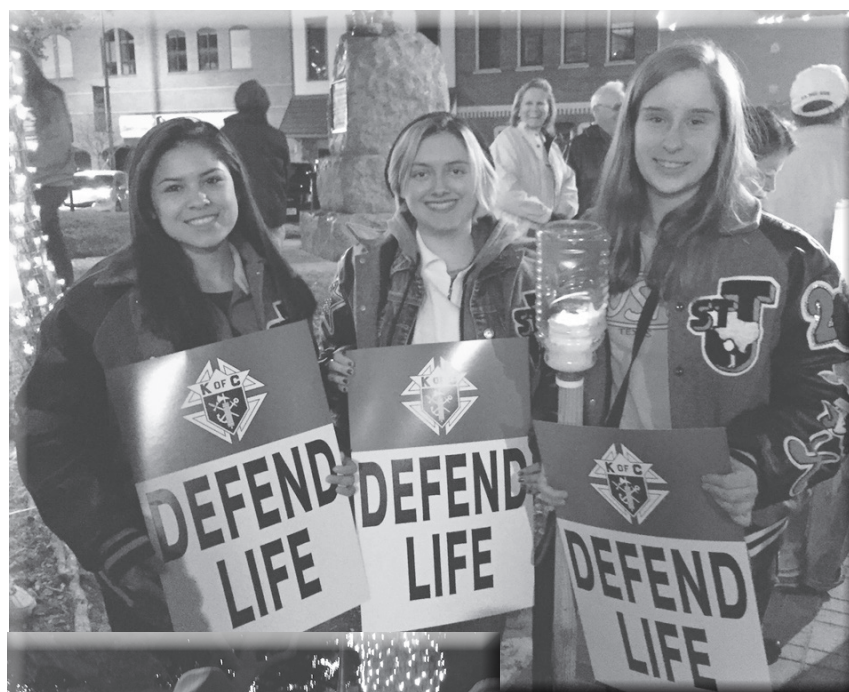
from high school to college, giving her a deeper look into some of the struggles facing teens and young adults today.

Sarah shares her message at school assemblies, retreats, rallies, and conferences across the country and is the author of Emotional Virtue: A Guide to Drama-Free Relationships. She has appeared on EWTN's Life on the Rock, EWTN Live, is co-host of the show, "At the Heart of Relationships," and has been featured in the National Catholic Register. She is a contributor to Chosen, Ascension Press' confirmation program and YDisciple's True Beauty; she has also contributed videos for Women Made New. Sarah is a proud team member of Chastity Project and speaks at Steubenville Youth Conferences around the United States and in Canada.

**For more information, contact your parish youth coordinator. Wendy Eggert, or Ryan Leos with the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry may also be contacted at: [weggert@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:weggert@victoriadiocese.org), [rleos@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:rleos@victoriadiocese.org) or (361) 573-0828**



**KJT #40 SUPPORTS SEMINARIAN**—The KJT St. Wenceslaus Society #40 of East Bernard hosted a pastry raffle for local seminarian Stephen Vacek. He was presented a check for \$2,000 of which the KJT home office matched \$250 in funds. At the presentation were, left-right, David Wagner, state vice president; seminarian Stephen, Edwin Marik, society president; Mark Dujka, society secretary; and Sandy Logan, society vice president.



**CANDLELIGHT MARCH HELD**—A candlelight march was held January 28 where supporters gathered at De Leon Plaza and marched to Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Victoria. Father Jasper Liggio was the speaker. Picture above are young adults from Victoria, left-right, Bianca Mahan, Natalie Brown and Malary Michalka. (left) Sister Louise Marie Jones and Sister Amata Hollas pictured with Bishop Brendan Cahill.

**ALTAR SERVERS TRAINING**—Altar server's training at Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish in Wharton with Father Antonio Perez.



**GRATITUDE SHOWN**—For all the services rendered by the Jackson County Law Enforcement personnel, the St. Agnes KJZT #111 recently showed their gratitude by serving a luncheon to all the personnel. Pictured above left-right, Doris Andel, KJZT president; Diane Merritt, Sheriff's Department, Georgia Orsak, KJZT; Dave Thedford, officer; B. J. Novak, officer and Andy Louderback, Sheriff.





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

## Calendar of Events

### 2016

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



## Local Youth

*Continued from pg. 1*

of the Supreme Court building. Everyone was caught up in the emotions of marching for the unborn. While the group was snow bound in the hotel, they experienced many blessings that included new friendships with others who were also snow bound, the opportunity to attend an impromptu concert by the Christian band, PJ Anderson, shoveling snow from the sidewalks of a church across the street from the hotel and helping a driver stranded in the snow. One student shared, “My trip to D.C. opened my eyes to a whole new perspective of Christianity, I realized it’s not a matter of religion, but a matter of how you put your faith in God and live that out.” Another said, “It was amazing to see that so many

young people passionately care about and respect the gift of life. Seeing them enthusiastically marching in a blizzard to protect life gave me a huge sense of hope that we are the generation to end this destruction.”

Once the march ended, 2 feet of snow fell upon the DC area. Thus began the blizzard of 2016. Many blessings were experienced by both Youth Ministry groups, even in the midst of the blizzard. A youth from the diocese shared, “It was such an amazing experience to come together with the youth of our diocese. It’s awesome to see young people with such courage to stand up for the unborn.” The true storm wasn’t the snowfall and gust of wind but the union of hearts and minds of thousands to stand and fight for life.



Youth Leadership Team members attend a retreat in January at Cooper Farms. The group above are working on team building, to learn communication skills.

## What is Youth Leadership Training?

As Pope John Paul II said, “Youth must not simply be considered as an object of pastoral concern for the Church: in fact, young people are and ought to be encouraged to be active on behalf of the Church as leading characters in evangelization and participants in the renewal of society.”

The Youth Leadership Training (YLT) Program in the Diocese of Victoria is designed to instill and enhance leadership skills and provide high school and college age students the opportunity to minister to the young people of the diocese.

From the beginning of September through December the Youth and Young Adult office holds monthly meetings. There are a series of trainings that include topics such as leadership skills, communication skills and how to work with others in a small group. At each meeting a service project to benefit the community is incorporated. Some projects that have been done include cleaning cemetery grounds and putting new flowers on the graves and visiting residents at the nurs-

ing homes.

The goal is for each participant of the training to deepen their faith life, become confident in the gifts and talents that God has given them and be able to express that faith in such a way for them to be role models for all young people. Once training is complete the youth leaders have the knowledge, skills and confidence to be facilitators at retreats and take on parish leadership roles.

January to June is the busiest time of the year. Each of the participants have an opportunity to put into action the skills they were taught. They can staff confirmation retreats, help with Youth Spectacular and eventually become part of the team that chooses the theme and sessions for Camp David, the most sought after retreat in the diocese! Camp David has 2 separate sessions. One is for Junior High students and the other for Elementary (1st -5th grades) students. Both are held at the Spiritual Renewal Center each Summer.

Ryan Leos, youth minister and Associate Director of the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Office shares his thoughts about the YLT training program, “I get to see Christ working through the teens and I get joy out of seeing them interact and communicate with their peers. They create a personal relationship outside of texting and social media.”

Christian leadership is about making the most of our talents and gifts and putting them at the service of others.

High school and college age students who are leaders in their parishes are encouraged to apply to become a part of this exciting program. The application is available on the [www.victoriadiocese.org](http://www.victoriadiocese.org) website under the youth and young adult ministry tab.

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## 9th Annual Catholic Knowledge Bowl

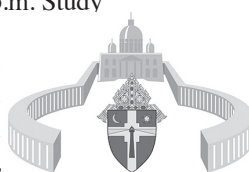
The Office of Catechetical Ministry is preparing for the Ninth Annual Catholic Knowledge Bowl, which will take place Sunday, February 21, at the Our Lady of Victory Gym from 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. Study questions along with the answers can be found at [www.victoriadiocese.org](http://www.victoriadiocese.org)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

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

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

Registration is \$25 per team of four persons. Register online at [www.victoriadiocese.org](http://www.victoriadiocese.org) or call (361) 573-0828 for more information. Early registration is encouraged.

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







Participants at the “Holy Hunt” enjoyed the hunt and fellowship. Pictured above, left to right, seminarians James Dvorak, Steven Vacek; guide Chris Silva, Msgr. Lonnie Urban, Robert Urban and Father Philip Brune.

## “Holy Hunt” Sponsored by KC’s for Clergy

By Father Philip Brune

EAST BERNARD—The 35th Annual “Holy Hunt,” so called for the nature of the socks worn by the priests, was recently sponsored by the Knights of Columbus of East Bernard. It was held January 3-5 at the farm of Tommy Smaistrala north of East Bernard. With the help of the knights in Sealy, Nada, Wharton, and Eagle Lake, a three day event was held for priests to enjoy fraternity, God’s creation on the plains, and the bagging of some organic, free range birds for the cook pot.

Sunday night everyone was warmed up by a stew supper provided by the KC’s of East Bernard and we were blessed to have Bishop Brendan Cahill grace us with his presence. The following morning the priests and seminarians had a successful hunt for sandhill cranes. Upon their return, a Mass was offered on the prairie and the Nada KC’s provided a hearty brunch of omelets, bacon, and biscuits. Monday evening they

enjoyed the delicious cooking of the Eagle Lake KC’s - jambalaya. The following Tuesday morning duck hunt was also a great success with the harvest of an assortment of ducks.

Many different people and organizations came together to make this time of fellowship possible and they pray that God



Pictured above, left to right, is Msgr. Lonnie Urban, Msgr. Leo Wleczyk, Msgr. Francis, Bishop Brendan Cahill and Father Joe Vrana.

will continue to bless them and grant success to the work of their hands! Any priests, bishops or cardinals who would be interested in attending next year’s Holy Hunt, which will be held from January 8-10, can contact me at philip.l.brune@gmail.com.



Bishop Brendan Cahill along with concelebrants Father David Berger and Father Jacob Koether, celebrated Mass at the “Kolbe Prison Retreat”, in Cuero.

## Prison Ministry Renames Retreat “Kolbe Prison Retreat”

CUERO—The former A.C.T.S. prison ministry Core in Cuero has announced a name change for its’ prison retreats. The new name is “Kolbe Prison Retreat”, named after St. Maximilian Kolbe. St. Maximilian Kolbe was a Nazi prisoner at the Auschwitz death camp who voluntarily took the place of a stranger who was one of ten selected for starvation by the prison. He was eventually killed by lethal injection after the other nine had starved. St. Maximilian is revered by several religious faiths and spent his life in service to the Church. His life is an inspiration to many, and he is the patron saint of drug addicts, prisoners, and several other groups. His childhood vision and dedication to Mary are interesting in themselves.

The name change results from a mutual agreement between A.C.T.S. Missions in San Antonio and the prison Core leadership in Fredericksburg. The change allows Kolbe Prison Ministry to be tailored specifically for Texas prisons while “free world” retreats are guided by A.C.T.S. Missions.

There is only one state prison unit in the Victoria Diocese, the Stevenson Unit in Cuero, where eleven retreats have been held. The Core team is composed primarily of former prison retreat directors and meets under the auspices of St. Michael’s Parish in Cuero. There are normally two retreats annually at the unit, with every third retreat scheduled in Spanish. The first retreat under the Kolbe name was con-

ducted in Spanish beginning November 5, 2015. The pastor of St. Michael’s, Father David Berger, guides the activities and instruction at the unit. His parish graciously provides most of the necessary materials. He is assisted by Father Gabriel Espinosa and Father Jacob Koether, who receive confessions and say Mass in his absence.

Catholic Religious Education classes at Stevenson are held at least two evenings each week, usually Tuesday and Thursday, by a group of dedicated volunteers. The sacrament of Confirmation was last conferred by Bishop Brendan Cahill in September, with ten Confirmants and one Baptism. Mass and classes are limited in attendance due to inadequate facilities but an ambitious volunteer-led effort is being made to solicit funds for a larger and more proper location in the unit (see chapelfund.org). The Catholic community continues to grow and become more active at Stevenson despite the limits.

There is also a “Faith-Based Dorm”, consisting of 62 inmates of all faiths that have been receiving about two hours’ instruction each week on the Catholic viewpoint and doctrine. Due to a lack of volunteers available on weekday mornings or afternoons that Catholic familiarization process is suspended at least until February. Additional information for volunteering is available from Paul Morkovsky, (361) 594-4192, or the Stevenson Unit Chaplain, Michelle Griffin, at (361) 275-2075.

### 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](http://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.

~ Pray for Priestly and Religious Vocations ~



# CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Celebrating Catholic Schools Week 2016



**VICTORIA'S CATHOLIC SCHOOLS CELEBRATE NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK**—Catholic Schools Week was celebrated January 31-February 6, 2016. National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. This year's theme is "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service". Each school will have special events throughout the week for students and families. Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contribution to the church, community and nation. Pictured are representatives from the three Catholic Schools in Victoria. Pictured are (from left): Stephen Alexander, an 8th grader at Nazareth Academy; Amelia Sparkman, a 4th grader at Our Lady of Victory; and Abigail Kovar, a senior at St. Joseph High School.



## A Message from the Superintendent About National Catholic Schools Week 2016

Sunday, January 31, 2016 to Saturday, February 6, 2016  
John E. Quarry, Superintendent of Catholic Schools

"Catholic schools must be seen as 'meeting places for those who wish to express Christian values in education'. The Catholic school, far more than any other, must be a community whose aim is the transmission of values for living (The Catholic School, The Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education, 1977)." What a fitting reminder of the mission of Catholic schools, as National Catholic Schools Week 2016 (CSW) was welcomed across America! The Diocese of Victoria is steeped in the practice of transmitting "values for living," especially in its Catholic schools, as a nurturing, faith-filled, service-oriented, and academic environment that encourages and promotes healthy and respectful lifestyles throughout the nearly 10,000 square miles of the diocese. Superintendent John Quarry shares, "What initially struck me about the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Victoria and continues to amaze me is the dedication that these small rural communities have to instilling the Catholic faith. Now after 8 years in Victoria I see and appreciate how deep the Catholic roots are in these communities and why there continues to be such a legacy."



For more than 40 years, since 1974, this auspicious occasion of National Catholic Schools Week has provided opportunities to celebrate the wonderful, value-added contributions of Catholic schools around the nation. CSW is sponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA). The festivities for the Diocese of Victoria began Sunday, January 31, with a Mass at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, celebrated by Bishop Brendan Cahill and concluded on Saturday, February 6, 2016. More than 6,500 Catholic schools nationwide observed National Catholic Schools Week with Masses, fun-filled activities, special events, and many other goings-on for students, families, parishioners and community members to attend and enjoy. Catholic Schools Week 2016 was a perfect time to express sincere appreciation to so many including students, parents, faculties and administrators, communities, clergy and religious, and Catholic school heritage.

The 15 Catholic schools of the Diocese of Victoria in Texas have a very long and proud history that began in the mid-1800s with the diocese's oldest school, Nazareth Academy, which will be celebrating its sesquicentennial (150th) anniversary during 2016. Within the diocese, there are 11 parochial elementary schools, 1 private elementary school, and 2 parochial high schools, and 1 private high school. Nationally and locally (the Diocese of Victoria), Catholic school students' high school graduation rates continue to soar at 99%. All 15 schools are accredited by the Texas Catholic Conference Education Department; students receive a quality education in a Christian learning environment; 2 of the elementary schools are National Blue Ribbon schools; and 1 of the high schools is recognized as Victoria's only nationally-accredited, exemplary high school. Tuition rates continue to be affordable, due to the many financial aid and tuition assistance packages available at local schools.

The Catholic schools of the Diocese of Victoria will remain focused on making available to all who deserve it...a F.I.R.S.T.-Class education...for Life. © (faith~integrity~respect~scholarship~tradition). Superintendent John Quarry thanks the steadfast and supportive families, for making the investment in their children, and who continue to entrust the Diocese of Victoria Catholic Schools with their education. He also wishes to congratulate the staff members who are celebrating employment milestones in the Catholic schools. It is the unwavering, resolute dedication and commitment to excellence that will continue to enable our schools to serve as "meeting places for those who wish to express Christian values in education," while enduring as beacons of "faith, knowledge, and service" to all in the Diocese of Victoria.



### Number of Students

National	2,000,000
Texas	78,433
Diocese of Victoria	3,000

### Number of Schools

National	6,568
Texas	277
Diocese of Victoria	15

### Teacher Student Ratio 1:12

The average public school per pupil cost is \$11,770, as reported by the National Center for Education Statistics, based on the public schools cost. Catholic schools provide almost \$22 billion dollars a year savings for the nation.



Stained glass window located on 1st floor of the Chancery. It commemorates the religious sisters of the diocese. An IWBS sister is pictured above teaching.





## St. Joseph School, Yoakum ~ Est. 1891

*Principal Mrs. Susan Kelley*

St. Joseph School Mission Statement: “To teach the children of God to walk in the footsteps of Christ.” We stress the total development of the child: Spiritual, Moral, Intellectual, Social, Emotional, and Physical.

St. Joseph Catholic School integrates the Catholic faith and gospel values by encouraging our students to follow Christ’s actions, while preparing them to become respected model citizens. Decisions made for the school are first correlated with our Mission Statement. Celebrations and remembrance of various Catholic faith beliefs include students’ participation in the weekly Liturgy, Living Rosary, Living Stations, Blessing of the Animals, Jesse Tree, and Advent Wreath services along with many more religious activities. Our community involvement includes but is not limited to our tributes to the veterans, annual Christmas musical, coat drive, food drive, and weekly Masses celebrated at local nursing homes. The mission statement drives our curriculum allowing the students to achieve at the highest possible level. St. Joseph Catholic School carries 125 years of excellence in education.

## St. Philip School, El Campo ~ Est. 1949

*Principal Mrs. Gwen Edwards*

St. Philip Catholic School is known for its strong faith community and Catholic identity, and encompasses our mission statement "To Know, Love, and Serve God and Others" in all daily activities. SPS has consistently produced students who graduate in the top 10% of their graduating classes. An education from St. Philip’s Catholic School is quite a unique experience. Curriculum standards are continuously evolving to ensure that students receive a quality education, and technology is always a top priority. The family atmosphere is characterized by active participation in organizations such as the Parent Teacher Committee, the Booster Club, and families devoting countless hours to volunteering for an array of school and church related events. By God’s grace this school is not only supported by a community of givers but is also supported by dedicated parents and parishioners who are often alumni themselves. The number of third generation families is a true testament of support. St. Philip Catholic School will continue to welcome students with open arms and strive to maintain unity.



## Sacred Heart Elementary & High School, Hallettsville ~ Est. 1882

*Principal Mr. Kevin Haas*



When the bell rang on the first day of classes, students were greeted by their new principal, Kevin Haas, a 1999 SHCS graduate. Mr. Haas became the 2nd lay principal in the school’s history, following David Smolik, who served as principal for 30 years, from 1984 to 2015. Taking over as the new principal is a big job, but one that Mr. Haas feels he was called to. As he shared, “Sacred Heart has always been a special place for me as it provided me with the foundation for my faith life and the necessary tools to help me succeed in my secondary education. I know God has led me to the right place and will guide us all in continuing Sacred Heart’s Legacy of Excellence.” Mr. Haas is impressed with the support of the parents, alumni, community and parish. This past year, several new projects came about, one of them the formation of a Teens for Life chapter in the high school was one of those. They provide information about life issues through retreats, presentations and guest speakers. The senior class took charge of the project and planned an all-day retreat for the high school students to launch the formation of the club. This year, Teens for Life at SHCS has 25

members. We are excited about what the future holds for Sacred Heart Catholic School! Visit our website at: [www.shschool.org](http://www.shschool.org) and like us on Facebook: Sacred Heart Catholic School.

## St. Michael School, Cuero ~ Est. 1877

*Principal Mrs. Jennifer Saenz*

Originally, the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word of San Antonio staffed St. Michael School; followed by various orders of Sisters including, Sisters of Mercy from New Orleans, Sisters of Divine Providence of San Antonio, and Sisters of Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament of Victoria. In the early years enrollment was as high as 110 students. In 1927, St. Michael School graduated its last high school student, and in 1929, the high school was closed. In 1953, the first lay teacher was hired. In 1996, the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament ceased leading and teaching at St. Michael. Since then, the school’s faculty and staff have been lay persons. In August 2015, St. Michael Catholic School opened a new Gym, Cafeteria, and Early Childhood building. St. Michael school remains eternally grateful for the generous benefactors of the school. The school has set high expectations for instruction, faith development, and leadership. The children of St. Michael Catholic School are our future leaders.



## Nazareth Academy School, Victoria ~ Est. 1867

*Principal Sister Evelyn Korenek, IWBS*



Nazareth Academy Catholic School celebrated 149 years on January 7, 2016. Owned and operated by the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, the school strives to integrate religion, tradition and technology into the program for Grades PK3-8. The school will be purchasing and installing two more SMART Boards and projectors in 2016 for the PK4 classrooms. Every classroom will then have SMART Boards for learning.

One of the components of the school mission statement is service to others. Cheerleaders volunteered time at the Pet Adoption Center and the Food Bank. At Thanksgiving the students collected 675 pounds of food for the Food Bank. Toys for Tots and toiletries for VISD KidzConnection (homeless and students in transition) were collected at Christmas. The 8th grade students went to the Senior Citizen Centers to play bingo with those present and to serve the Thanksgiving noon meal. They also went Christmas caroling for the Sisters at Incarnate Word Convent.





## Our Lady of Victory School, Victoria ~ Est. 1957

*Principal Sister Laura Toman, IWBS*



Our Lady of Victory Catholic School is the parish school of The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. Recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School 2008, Our Lady of Victory Catholic School continues to thrive academically and cultivate the faith life of each child who enters its doors. Students are routinely recognized for their academic, athletic, art, music and community achievements. Students participate in over 70 community projects each year. Our Mission aims to build character, achieve academic excellence, and honor Christ through our Catholic faith. Our Lady of Victory Catholic School current enrollment is 487 students Pre-K3 through 8.

Each year OLV 5th graders celebrate Patriot's Day, a highlight of the Why America is Free curriculum. Patriots Day is an opportunity for students to "live a day in the life" of patriot children during the American Revolution.

For the entire school day students, teachers and parent volunteers wear colonial costumes. Parents take on the leadership roles of Headmaster, Military Leader, Ladies of Genteel Refinement, as well as, overseeing games and teaching crafts. Patriots Day concludes with an evening reception at St. Joseph High School assisted by the high school's drama students. The experience of Patriots Day helps students grasp a better understanding of the sacrifices made so that we can be free.



## St. Rose of Lima School, Schultenburg ~ Est. 1889

*Principal Mrs. Rosanne Gallia*

"We are God's presence to the world; developing Excellence through Jesus." The mission statement reflects a deeply rooted faith in Jesus Christ. The school year always begins with an annual prayer service in honor of St. Rose of Lima with a reminder that Christ is the only way to reach heaven. Students receive a solid academic foundation from teachers with a combined 376 year's experience. Advanced Technology, a variety of extra-curricular activities and a focus on service are combined with our



high academic standards to provide the ideal environment for educating the whole child; mind, body and soul. St. Rose received exemplary marks in both Catholic Identity and for its guidance program during its most recent accreditation visit. The football and volleyball teams are the current DVAL championships and our fine arts program just performed their annual Christmas concert. St. Rose is continually striving for excellence in all we do. Come for a visit and experience Excellence through Jesus or visit our website [www.strosecardinals.com](http://www.strosecardinals.com) and follow us on Facebook. Contact: Rosanne Gallia, Principal at (979)743-3080 or [r.gallia@strosecardinals.org](mailto:r.gallia@strosecardinals.org).



## Our Lady of the Gulf School, Port Lavaca ~ Est. 1996

*Principal Mrs. Theresa Dent*

Our Lady of the Gulf is celebrating its 20th year of Growth in the Light of Christ! The official history of the birth of Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School goes as follows: Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School was established and opened on August 14, 1996, under the direction of Father Dan Morales, pastor of Our Lady of the Gulf Church. The school began with 43 students in Grades K-6th. Classes were held in what had originally been the School of Religious Education.

This simple description, however, does not begin to tell of all the challenges and joys associated with starting up a new Catholic School in a time when so many existing Catholic Schools were facing the challenge of just trying to keep their doors open. One of the first challenges was the cost and manpower required to start up a school, but Father Dan Morales would not be discouraged. He recruited the School Sisters of St. Francis and his friend, Robert Knippenberg (who would later become Father Bob), to help him. He also enlisted many active parishioners to dedicate their time, talents, and treasures to the cause. There were so many that stepped forward, like Marilyn Hochstein, who oversaw the cafeteria (among other big jobs), and Louise Bauer, who with her husband, was a primary financial sponsor for the school and remains so today through the OLG Bauer Endowment. If you had asked any of these people why they were so involved in the school, the most probable answer would have been, "I just can't say no to Father Dan."

Another huge challenge to overcome was the transformation of a 30+ year old CCD building into a facility that could support continual use, including daily meals and modern technology. From a new phone system and internet installation to a new gym and performing arts center, OLG has come a long way. To see a list of all the major changes to the campus, go to [www.olgmariners.org/our-school-history](http://www.olgmariners.org/our-school-history).



## St. Anthony School, Columbus ~ Est. 1955

*Principal Mr. John O'Leary*

Catholic Schools Week focuses on the reason we attend Catholic School. St. Anthony School began the festivities months ahead of time by dividing the school (4k-8th grade) into teams. They announced the teams before Thanksgiving and have been working together on a team banner since that time. This year, teams picked a saint and color from a hat! Each team researched their saint and shared what they found with the school during CSW. The actual CSW was spent focusing on the theme for this year, "Building on Our Legacy of Community, Faith, Knowledge and Service." Our "Faith" is displayed throughout the week but especially in our Opening Mass on Sunday. The whole school entered church wearing their team colors while carrying their banners displaying symbols of their given saint. There is also time set

aside for a school wide rosary. Our "Knowledge" is a constant focus all year but we highlight it this week with a spelling bee. The "Community and Service" is the biggest focus for our week. As teams, we start our week cleaning our school and the neighborhood. We also gather items and write letters to soldiers serving overseas. The school has many wonderful traditions including our dress up themes. The crowd favorite has to be "I'd Rather Be" day. The students dress up (or down) in clothes that represent what they would rather be doing instead of going to school. The 11th annual Field Day was held in the gym where all 16 teams compete. At the end of the day, the 8th grade took on the staff for the annual volleyball game. The week concluded with Mass, a team lunch in the teachers rooms and a school wide movie in the cafeteria. Afterwards, the teams' awards were presented. From 8th grade to 4k, the students become a tight knit family after the week of helping one another and sharing in Christ's love.





## Holy Cross School, Bay City ~ Est. 1940

*Principal Mrs. Inez Kucera*

For 75 glorious years, Holy Cross Catholic School has been living out their mission, “making a difference in the world by loving God, others, and ourselves through learning as we build our Christian Family.” Our children are respectful, responsible, and safe as they regularly ask themselves “What Would Jesus Do?”

Holy Cross Eagles pursue high academic standards while being rooted in a strong Catholic faith. For two years in a row, Holy Cross Catholic School has been voted “Best Education Establishment” by the residents/readers of Matagorda County.

## St. Ludmila Academy & St. Paul High School, Shiner ~ Est. 1897 / 1963

*Principal Mrs. Neely Yackel*

### Shiner Catholic School PK3 - 12th

Shiner Catholic School has had a blessed year! The year started out with our 318 students welcoming Bishop Cahill to SCS campus. The St. Paul Cardinals had a record year. Both the Girls and Boys Cross Country Teams brought home TAPPS 2A: 2015 State Titles. The Mighty St. Paul football team ended the year on top with the TAPPS Division III: 2015 State Championship. The Lady Cards volleyball team advanced to regional playoffs. SCS is excited to integrate more technology into the classrooms. A classroom set of iPads for the junior high and high school have been implemented. Our seniors are busy with applications to colleges and scholarships. SCS strives to help young people achieve their potential not only intellectually but also spiritually, and physical well-being. Preparing the Children of God for the Kingdom of God since 1897.



## St. Michael School, Weimar ~ Est. 1890

*Principal Mrs. Carolanne McAfee*

St. Michael Catholic School changed it up this year when it came to what has traditionally been known as Red Ribbon Week or Bullying Awareness. During the last month of October faculty, staff, and students focused on the school's positive mission introducing Celebrating Our Mission as a new tradition for the school. Students accentuated the principles of the mission: being friendly, respectful, responsible, and Christ-like, during each theme day of the week. On Monday students wore red, white, or blue to show their patriotism for our great country. They also completed a service project A Million Thanks writing thank-you notes to current military personnel. On Tuesday students celebrated friendship by dressing up as twins or triplets. Some students also celebrated their favorite superhero as being a friendly person to others. Wednesday was reserved for taking responsibility for my future education, so students wore their favorite high school or college t-shirts, and 8th grade students took a tour of Sacred Heart High School in Hallettsville. SMCS turned pink on Thursday to show support for those who are sick and to offer prayers for healing. Each religion class held a candle lighting ceremony at St. Michael Church. On Friday faculty, staff, and students gathered to celebrate the Mass with the 2nd graders portraying some of the holy saints. To end the week, the student council and grades 6-8 with assistance from the Home & School Association treated PK thru grades 5 to a Halloween carnival. Students enjoyed a haunted house, bobbing for apples, pumpkin decorating, carnival games, and seeing teachers get pie in their faces! To learn more about St. Michael Catholic School contact us at [stmichaelswords.org](http://stmichaelswords.org).



## St. Joseph High School, Victoria ~ Est. 1868

*Principal Mr. Bill McArdle*



St. Joseph High School provides a high standard of Catholic education to families in Victoria and the surrounding area. The students at St. Joseph enjoy a unique high school experience combining academics, spiritual, athletic and social activities. The school has a long history of providing a quality, comprehensive education that builds leaders with poise and confidence, and prepares students for college.

The 2015 graduating class at St. Joseph High School excelled in many areas. One hundred percent of the class of 72 graduates were accepted to a college or university, and were offered more than \$6.75 million in scholarships. Between Advanced Placement and Dual Credit courses, students in 2014-2015 earned up to 429 college credit hours. Based on a 5-year average, 82.9 percent of students in Advanced Placement classes were eligible to receive college credit, compared to 50.5 percent statewide and 60.9 percent globally.

Students also learn about service to others while at St. Joseph High School. While there is a service requirement as part of the STJ curriculum, many students go above and beyond what is required. The Class of 2015 logged more than 6,900 hours of service during their four years at STJ.

STJ students are as driven to learn on the playing fields and stages, as they are in the classrooms. Flyers excel in sports ranging from football to swimming and powerlifting to soccer, as well as the arts and debate. However, before any extra-curricular competition begins, studies must be complete. STJ coaches are on board with this proven theory. Students are encouraged to attend daily tutorials before participating in athletics.

St. Joseph's students come from diverse backgrounds, each bringing a different view to the rigorous academic curriculum, while remaining true to the religious values, which have been the school's hallmark throughout its 148-year history.

STJ is also in the final stages of the imagine MORE Capital Campaign. The finishing touches of the Tom O'Connor, Jr. Athletic Center are being made. Very soon the current STJ Gym will be completely renovated to become the David Pozzi Fine Arts Center. In addition, the Keating Field House will be a new 10,660 square foot athletic field house located behind the cafeteria.





Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville, Texas (right), and Bishop Oscar Cantú of Las Cruces, New Mexico (left) representatives to Papal visit.

## USCCB President Appoints Representatives Of U.S. Bishops To Papal Visit To Mexico

WASHINGTON—Two bishops who head U.S. dioceses bordering Mexico will officially represent the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) during the February 12-17 visit of Pope Francis to Mexico. Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville, Texas, and Bishop Oscar Cantú of Las Cruces, New Mexico, received the appointment from Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, USCCB president.

“I am most grateful to Bishop Flores and Bishop Cantú for their generous willingness to serve in this important role,” Archbishop Kurtz said of the appointments, which were made at the invitation of Cardinal José Francisco Robles Ortega, president of the Mexican bishops, and Bishop Eugenio Andrés Lira Rugarcía, general secretary of that conference. Archbishop Kurtz announced the appointments in a letter to all U.S. bishops, January 26.

Bishop Flores, 54, was appointed to

head the Brownsville diocese in 2009. The diocese has 1,119,583 Catholics, who make up 85 percent of its total population. Bishop Cantú, 49, had headed the Las Cruces diocese since 2013. The diocese has 234,550 Catholics, who make up 42 of its total population.

## KC Councils and Catholic Daughters Help Incarnate Word Sisters with Lenten Resource

The Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament are sending Disciples on the Journey unsold books from 2010 and 2013 Cycle C to prisons across the United States free of charge. Many Catholic Daughter Courts and Knights of Columbus Councils have responded to an appeal from the sisters to help with the cost of postage to send these books free to the prisons.

Priests, deacons, and chaplains from numerous prisons have contacted the convent requesting books in English and Spanish to use with the inmates during Lent. In their request, they express their appreciation of this offer and share touching stories of how much such resources are needed in their work as prison chaplains. The KCs and Catholic Daughters from the Victoria Diocese have become partners with the sisters in this wonderful evangelizing ministry to our many incarcerated brothers and sisters throughout the United States. How apropos is this for the “Year of Mercy!”

## Sunday Readings from Feb. 7 - Mar. 6

February 7 - Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 6:1-2A, 3-8  
Psalms 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
Luke 5:1-11

February 10 - Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:12-18  
Psalms 51:3-4, 5-6AB, 12-13, 14 and 17  
2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

February 14 - First Sunday of Lent

Deuteronomy 26:4-10  
Psalms 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15  
Romans 10:8-13  
Luke 4:1-13

February 21 - Second Sunday of Lent

GENESIS 15:5-12, 17-18  
Psalms 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14  
Philippians 3:17 — 4:1  
Luke 9:28B-36

February 28 - Third Sunday of Lent

Exodus 3:1-8A, 13-15  
Psalms 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11  
1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12  
Luke 13:1-9

March 6 - Fourth Sunday of Lent

Joshua 5:9A, 10-12  
Psalms 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7  
2 Corinthians 5:17-21  
Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

For daily and Sunday readings, as well as a daily reflection video, visit  
[www.usccb.org/bible/readings](http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings).

Brought to you by: Catholic Communications Campaign



### Father Charles Kram Prayer

Heavenly Father,

I praise you, I adore you, I glorify you and  
I thank you for all the gifts you have given to me.  
Your priest, Father Charles Kram, left me a wonderful  
example of pastoral charity and patient suffering.  
He is for me a perfect model of your Divine Mercy.

May I accept your divine will in the adversities  
I now encounter, offering them up in union with  
the silent suffering of Jesus on the cross and  
Mary at the foot of the cross.

If it be your will and by your Divine Mercy,  
grant the petition I present to you this  
day \_\_\_\_\_ and may Father Kram  
be raised to the altar as a saint in Heaven.

I pray for this in the name of Jesus Christ,  
Our Lord and Savior in union with the Holy Spirit, one God,  
forever and ever. Amen.

(With permission of the Most Rev. Brendan J. Cahill, Bishop of the Diocese of Victoria in Texas)

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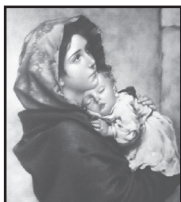
## HOLY LAND- A PILGRIMAGE OF PRAYER AND ENCOUNTER WITH BISHOP BRENDAN CAHILL

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VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Children may say the darnedest things, but when it comes to questions about faith they can make even the most learned parents and priests pause.

“These are tough,” Pope Francis said when presented with questions from 30 children from around the world.

Jesuit Father Antonio Spadaro, who went through the questions with the pope, said half the time he personally was stumped when thinking about how he would have responded. But the pope wasn't.

The questions, illustrated with the drawings of the children aged 6-13, and the pope's answers will be published March 1 as the book “Dear Pope Francis.”

“What did God do before the world was made?” one child asked. “Do bad people have a guardian angel, too?” asked another.

In the book, coordinated and published by the U.S.-based Loyola Press, Pope Francis responds to those and 28 other queries; some of the questions are theological, others are practical and a few are about the pope personally, including what he wanted to be when he grew up.

To the question about what God was doing before creation, the heart of the pope's answer is, “Think of it this way: Before creating anything, God loved. That's what God was doing: God was loving.”

Questions about Jesus, war and peace and about heaven also are included, though Father Spadaro was keeping those exact questions and answers under wraps during a late January interview.

Some of the personal questions made Pope Francis laugh and the pope's answers

to those questions made Father Spadaro laugh, the Jesuit said. The pope admits in the book that when he was small he wanted to be a butcher because the butcher his grandmother bought meat from had an apron with a big pocket that seemed to be full of money.

The children's questions are “simple, but not silly,” said Father Spadaro, who discussed them with Pope Francis and recorded his answers.

Father Spadaro heads *La Civiltà Cattolica*, a Jesuit journal filled with articles on philosophy, theology, literary criticism and political theory. He has never worked with young children and said he was in awe of how the pope handled the questions — taking them seriously and responding to them honestly and clearly.

Some of the pope's answers, he said, are “inspired.”

“This is important,” Father Spadaro said. “It says a lot about the magisterium of Pope Francis; he knows his ministry can reach children.”

At the request of Loyola Press, Father Spadaro asked Pope Francis last May if he would be willing to do the book. The Jesuit publishing house had asked Father Spadaro to approach the pope since he had conducted the first big interview with Pope Francis in 2013.

“The pope said yes immediately and with enthusiasm,” Father Spadaro said.

Loyola Press then reached out to dozens of Jesuits and collaborators around the globe, asking them to solicit questions and drawings from children. Sometimes Loyola had to ship off crayons, markers and paper because the children had none.

In the end, 259 children in 26 countries submitted questions. The big batch of letters are in 14 languages and come from children in wealthy cities, poor rural areas and even refugee centers.

Choosing which letters the pope would answer in the book was done with input from the children, parents, grandparents, teachers and Jesuits, Father Spadaro said. But he went into

the reserve pile and pulled out a few more as well.

In August, Father Spadaro read the letters out loud to the pope in Italian, but the pope also scrutinized the drawings, the Jesuit said. He commented on the scenes and colors and often had a good laugh over the way the kids drew the pope.

For the answers, “I was not just taking dictation,” Father Spadaro said. The pope enjoys a conversation; for the book, that meant the pope would sometimes discuss the questions and potential answers with the Jesuit scribe and, often, would return to

## Dear Pope Francis

The Pope Answers Letters from Children Around the World



By Pope Francis



Carolina Panthers middle linebacker Luke Kuechly. (CNS photo/Bob Donnan-USA TODAY Sports via Reuters)

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (CNS) — Middle linebacker Luke Kuechly of the Carolina Panthers, the team going up against the Denver Broncos in the Feb. 7 Super Bowl, credits his parents and his Catholic faith for making a positive impact on his NFL career and his outlook on life.

“I went to a Catholic grade school, Jesuit high school and a Jesuit college, and I think you just learn certain things growing

up in that environment. Really, the biggest thing I learned from it is respect and to treat people correctly,” he said after a Jan. 28 practice.

“Your background has something to do with it, but my parents I think were the biggest impact on that, as far as to be a good person. You know, it's not that hard, as long as you're nice to people, everything works out,” he told the *Catholic News Herald*, newspaper of the Diocese of Charlotte. “Treat people how you want to be treated. It's pretty straightforward stuff, and I think it makes things easier.”

Kuechly, a product of St. Xavier High School, a Catholic boys school, near his hometown of Evendale, Ohio, and a graduate of Boston College, is known as a fierce competitor who does not give up, a natural and humble leader, the person everyone calls “the nicest guy on the team.”

When he was in the fourth grade, Kuechly first played organized football with

Cincinnati's Catholic Youth Organization. In high school, he was a two-time All Greater Catholic League selection. Kuechly, a three-time All America linebacker for Boston College, was the ninth overall pick in the 2012 NFL draft.

He was named the NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year in the 2012 season, and followed that up by being named the NFL Defensive Player of the Year by The Associated Press in 2013, joining Lawrence Taylor as the only players in NFL history to win the NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year and NFL Defensive Player of the Year in successive years. Kuechly said he doesn't really have a special patron saint or a special prayer he always says before a game. “We say a couple prayers in the locker room before games, though,” he said. The team is often seen praying at each game, and players are known as much for their charitable works off the field, especially for children in need. Charitable works also were getting

add something to an answer after they had already moved on to other letters.

“He's a volcano,” Father Spadaro said.

The pope would look off into space as if picturing the children and responding to them in person, usually in Spanish, but sometimes in Italian, the Jesuit said.

The questions stayed with the pope, who later referred to some of them in speeches and homilies, he said. The most noticeable example was the question from 8-year-old Ryan in Canada about what God was doing before creation.

In the pope's unscripted talk at the Festival of Families in Philadelphia in September, Pope Francis told the crowd, “A young person once asked me — you know how young people ask hard questions! — ‘Father, what did God do before he created the world?’”

“Believe me, I had a hard time answering that one,” the pope admitted in Philadelphia. “I told him what I am going to tell you now. Before he created the world, God loved, because God is love.”

Although it might not be “theologically precise,” the pope said that night, God's love was so great that “he had to go out from himself, in order to have someone to love outside of himself. So God created the world. ... But the most beautiful thing God made — so the Bible tells us — was the family.”

Pope Francis will have a chance to meet nine or 10 of the children in late February when he has promised a private audience for some of the people who took part in the project.

## Carolina Panthers Linebacker Says Faith Impacts His Outlook On Life

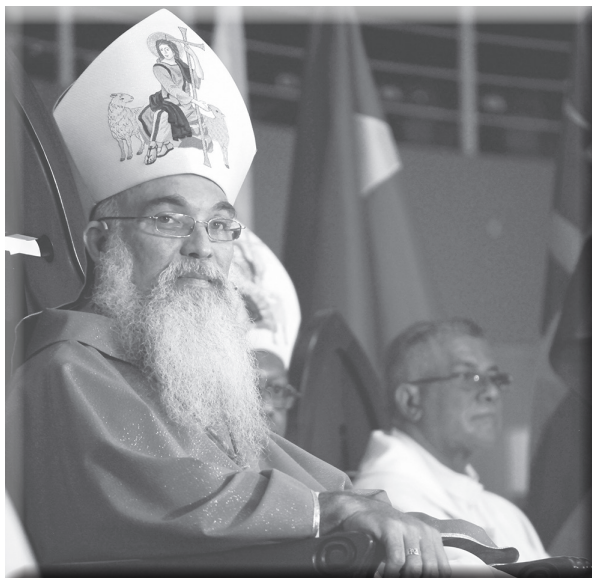
attention from supporters of both teams headed to the Super Bowl.

Gerry Carter, CEO and executive director of Catholic Charities of Charlotte, and Larry Smith, CEO and president of Catholic Charities of Denver, agreed to raise \$50,000 by the end of the game in a fundraiser called Charity Bowl 50. “It's a worthy cause that will have a major impact on the lives of the poor and needy in each of our communities,” Carter said. “All of our team's fans and Catholic Charities in the Carolinas look forward to this challenge, and the inevitable victory that will be ours.”

Smith responded that Denver is not afraid of a challenge.

“Through Charity Bowl 50, Denver football fans have a real opportunity to show they have the best team spirit and a passion for serving others,” Smith said. “This challenge is a true win for both Denver and Charlotte, but there's no doubt we will seize the victory.”





Bishop Ruben A. Gonzalez Medina sits during a Communion service at Pachin Vicens Coliseum in Ponce, Puerto Rico, as part of his Jan. 31 installation as head of the Ponce Diocese. The installation ceremony took place at the city's Our Lady of Guadalupe Cathedral. (CNS photo/Wallace J. de la Vega)

## Festivity, Solemnity Mark Installation of Bishop in Ponce, Puerto Rico

PONCE, Puerto Rico (CNS) — During a five-hour celebration that was mix of solemnity and festivity, Bishop Ruben Antonio Gonzalez Medina was installed Jan. 31 as the eighth bishop of the Diocese of Ponce. He was installed in a ceremony at Our Lady of Guadalupe Cathedral; a Communion service was celebrated at the city's Pachin Vicens Coliseum. Before starting the entrance procession at the cathedral with Archbishop Roberto Gonzalez Nieves of San Juan, "Father Bishop Ruben," as he prefers to be called, joyfully sang with young musicians from the local Neocatechumenal Way Catholic community. Inside, he was greeted by his five fellow Puerto Rican bishops, more than 200 fellow priests from throughout the island, visiting priests from the Dominican Republic, government dignitaries, and an overflow crowd of the faithful. "We are grateful to the Holy Father for this democratic gesture of the apostles' successor toward the Ponce Diocese in the person of Bishop Ruben," said Archbishop Gonzalez in opening the ceremony. He also thanked and commended now-retired Bishop Felix Lazaro Martinez for his 12-year tenure as bishop of Ponce.



*POPE MEXICO GUADALUPE — New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, left, celebrates Mass in 2013 alongside other prelates at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. In a video message one week before his apostolic visit, Pope Francis asked the people of Mexico for some time alone during his visit to pray before the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. (CNS photo/David Maung)*

## Christianity 'Running on Fumes,' U.S. Bishop Tells Eucharistic Congress

CEBU, Philippines (CNS) — Los Angeles Auxiliary Bishop Robert Barron said popular culture's message of individuals being "infinitely right" is "repugnant to (Catholics') eucharistic faith." But he also said Christianity is "running on fumes" as it tries to counter the trend of people leaving the church or staying away from the Eucharist. "To stretch out like someone dying of hunger is the right attitude toward the Eucharist," Bishop Barron said at the 51st International Eucharistic Congress. "What's sad today is so many in the Catholic world have become blasé about the Eucharist." The bishop said only 30 percent of Catholics in the United States actually receive Communion, calling this a "disaster." At a news briefing after his presentation at the congress, he said that, unlike the German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche's ideology of self-invention, Catholic faithful "did not invent (their) own story, we belong to a story" and that is "God's drama." Bishop Barron — author of numerous books and a longtime faculty member, then president of Mundelein Seminary, major seminary of the Archdiocese of Chicago — said the call of the church today is to retain Catholics and attract new ones.

## Pope: Live Your Faith During Lent, Perform Works Of Mercy

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Lent is a time of conversion and a time to deepen one's faith, demonstrating and sharing it through the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, Pope Francis said.

"Faith finds expression in concrete everyday actions meant to help our neighbors in body and spirit," the pope said in his message for Lent, which begins Feb. 10 for Latin-rite Catholics.

Feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, welcoming strangers, offering instruction, giving comfort — "on such things will we be judged," the pope wrote in the message, which was released at the Vatican Jan. 26.

Particularly during the Year of Mercy, he said, Catholics are called to recognize their own need for God's mercy, the greatness of God's love seen in the death and resurrection of Christ and the obligation to assist others by communicating God's love and mercy through words and deeds.

"The root of all sin" is thinking that one is god, something often expressed in a total preoccupation for accumulating money and power, the pope wrote. And just as individuals can be tempted to think they have no need of God, social and political systems can run the same risk, ignoring both God and the real needs of human beings.

"Love alone is the answer to that yearning for infinite happiness," Pope Francis wrote. It is the only response to the longings "that we think we can satisfy with the idols of knowledge, power and riches."

"The danger always remains that by a constant refusal to open the doors of their hearts to Christ who knocks on them in the poor," he said, "the proud, rich and powerful will end up condemning themselves and plunging into the eternal abyss of solitude which is hell."

But through acts of mercy and charity, "by touching the flesh of the crucified Jesus in the suffering," he wrote, "sinners can receive the gift of realizing that they too are poor and in need."

"In the corporal works of mercy we

touch the flesh of Christ in our brothers and sisters who need to be fed, clothed, sheltered, visited," he wrote. "In the spiritual works of mercy — counsel, instruction, forgiveness, admonishment and prayer — we touch more directly our own sinfulness."

In the Christian life, Pope Francis said, "the corporal and spiritual works of mercy must never be separated."

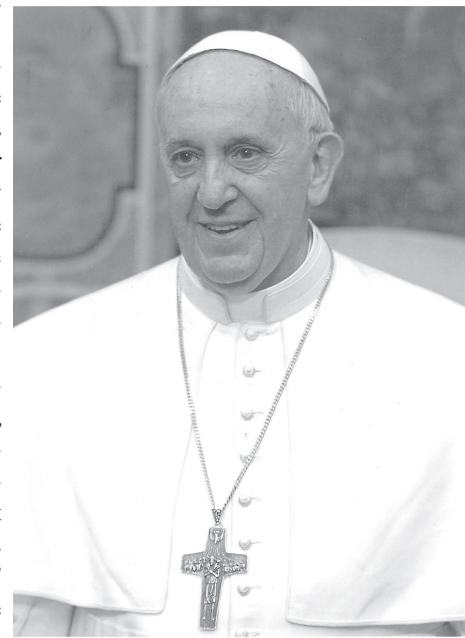
Cardinal Francesco Montenegro, president of Caritas Italy and head of the archdiocese that includes the Italian island of Lampedusa, told reporters at a Vatican news conference that the pope's message, like

the Bible, "does not stop simply at reaffirming that God is merciful, but clearly indicates that his children must be merciful, too, by living a greater love, especially by taking care of the little ones, the poor and defenseless."

The cardinal said that from his own experience as archbishop of Agrigento, he has seen how people's faith and joy have grown and become contagious when they not only go to Mass, but also volunteer to assist the thousands of migrants who land on Lampedusa's shore seeking safety and a better life for their families.

Msgr. Giampietro Dal Toso, secretary of the Pontifical Council Cor Unum, the office that promotes and coordinates Catholic charity, told reporters that Pope Francis wants to help Catholics rediscover the traditional corporal and spiritual works of mercy, which seemed to have been left on the shelf with dusty old books. Maybe, he said, "it was no longer fashionable" to preach about the daily actions of believers or maybe "our ecclesial practice has become quite institutionalized and politicized."

"The works of mercy are a very simple, concrete, direct, alive, daily, easy, accessible-to-all way of living the Jubilee of Mercy," he said. "The works of mercy describe what we as Christians can actually do every day, and that is why I find them so fascinating."







## Obispo Brendan Cahill- “Más Valerosos Que Cauteloso”

Queridos hermanos y hermanas,

Un obituario escrito en 1994 incluyó lo siguiente: “Fue en Birmingham cuando antagonismos raciales y las protestas empezaron a hervir en 1963. Él y un grupo de colegas Americanos blancos llamaron a Dr. King y los “forasteros” que cesaran y dejaran a los tribunales trabajar hacia la integración.

Dr. King, en la cárcel entonces, respondió con una carta larga a ‘mis queridos clérigos’ para explicar que los negros ya no podían esperar.” Dr. King dijo, “Creía que los ministros, sacerdotes y rabinos del Sur se contarían entre nuestros más firmes aliados. Pero, en lugar de ello, algunos se han revelado como enemigos frontales, negándose a comprender el movimiento de la libertad y juzgando equivocadamente a sus líderes. Y muchos otros han sido más cautos que valientes, y han preferido mantenerse en silencio detrás de la narcótica seguridad de las vidrieras.” Su ‘carta desde la cárcel de Birmingham’ probablemente se ha reimpreso más que cualquier otra cosa que haya escrito....El verdadero mensaje en la carta no tenía significado hasta más tarde,’ Obispo Durick dijo en 1969. El mensaje llegó a tener significación para el Obispo Joseph Durick, uno de los clérigos que Dr. King dirigió directamente en esa carta famosa. El iba ser el obispo de Nashville, Tennessee. Después del asesinato del Dr. King en Memphis, obispo Durick arregló una Misa Conmemorativa en Memphis y participó en otros servicios fúnebres con hombres y mujeres de diferentes denominaciones, credos y colores.

Como estamos celebrando el Mes de la Historia Afro-Americana, pienso que esto puede ser un buen momento para volver a comprometernos con nuestras alianzas ministeriales para promover la dignidad de cada persona humana. Una de las fuerzas del Movimiento por los derechos civiles fue que muchos sacerdotes anglos, los rabinos y los ministros se hicieron más “valerosos que cauteloso” y acompañaron

a sus hermanos y hermanas Afro-Americanos en las protestas pacíficas de condiciones injustas.

Si para la justicia racial, el derecho a la vida de un niño no nacido, o de defender la sacralidad y el valor de la familia, hay muchas áreas donde podemos unirnos brazos con hombres y mujeres de la buena voluntad.

También en el Mes de la Historia Afro-Americana creo que es bueno recordar la gran contribución de muchos Afro-Americanos a la Iglesia Católica. La gente parece sorprendida a veces cuando menciono que hay más de 3,000,000 Católicos Afro-Americanos en los Estados Unidos- más que muchas otras denominaciones. Especialmente después de la emancipación de los esclavos muchos Afro-Americanos buscaron unirse a la iglesia Católica. En 1889, Daniel Rudd convocó el primer Congreso Nacional del Afro-Americano Católico, celebrado en la iglesia católica de San Agustín en Washington, D.C. La historia de los católicos Afro-Americanos en Texas incluye la participación en algunos de estos Congresos en los años 1800- un hombre llamado William Easton viajó desde Galveston a representar a la diócesis de Galveston. Para más información sobre esta Historia Afro-Americana Católica, puede ir al sitio web o página de Facebook del Congreso Nacional del Afro-Americano Católico. Esta edición del faro destacará algunas de nuestras actividades de Derecho a la Vida como una diócesis. Que podamos ser valiente en la defensa de los derechos de las personas más vulnerables de nuestra sociedad. ¡Dios les bendiga a ustedes y a sus familias, gracias por su hermoso, fuerte testimonio de la fe Católica!

*Sigamos rezando uno al otro,*

*+Brendan*



## Jóvenes y Patrocinadores Locales Hacen una Peregrinación a Washington D.C.



WASHINGTON, DC—La juventud y los adultos jóvenes de Palacios, de Cuero y de Shiner (San Antonio, San Miguel, Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, Santos Cirilo y Metodio) unieron en una peregrinación de Derecho a la Vida viajaron a Washington D.C. en enero.

Había 2 grupos que fueron representando la Diócesis de Victoria. Los grupos se unieron con miles para la Misa de vigilia en la Basílica Nacional de la Inmaculada Concepción. Cardenal Timothy Dolan, presidió la Misa y les desafió a la gente ser más bienvenido con otros.

Para el grupo de Palacios y Cuero fue su primera vez en Washington. Ellos comenzaron la peregrinación en el Cementerio de Arlington donde pusieron una corona de parte de la Diócesis de Victoria, en la tumba del soldado desconocido. La peregrinación entonces continuó en el Museo de Holocausto. El viernes fueron a la Alameda Nacional, donde una reunión para el Derecho a la Vida comenzó antes del 42do marzo anual para el Derecho a la Vida. Uno de los jóvenes compartió “Poder compartir la realidad de la marcha por el Derecho a la Vida juntos, nos ayudó a apreciar nuestra

propia vida, y y ser agradecidos.”

El otro grupo de Shiner ha viajado a Washington, D.C. a participar en la Marcha Nacional del Derecho a la Vida por 4 años. Visitaron los Monumentos conmemorativos de Vietnam y WWII y rezaron una década del rosario en cada uno para hombres y mujeres que murieron y sus familias. Hubo muchas bendiciones que incluyeron nuevas amistades, un concierto de la banda cristiana, Anderson PJ, paleando nieve de las aceras de una iglesia y ayudando a un conductor varado en la nieve. Un estudiante compartió, “Mi viaje a D.C. abrió mis ojos a una nueva perspectiva del Cristianismo, me di cuenta que no se trata de religión, sino de cómo pone su fe en Dios y vivirlo.” Otro estudiante dijo, “Fue una experiencia increíble reunirnos con los jóvenes de nuestra diócesis. Es increíble ver a los jóvenes no tener miedo defender a los no nacidos”.

Cuando terminó la marcha, 2 pies de nieve cayeron en el área de DC. Así comenzó la tormenta de nieve de 2016. La verdadera tormenta no fue la nieve o viento, pero la unión de los corazones y las mentes de miles luchando por el Derecho a la Vida.

### LA CUARESMA



Todas las personas de 14 años de edad en adelante están obligadas por la ley de abstinencia. Todos los adultos hasta los 60 años de edad están obligadas por la ley del ayuno.

- El Miércoles de Ceniza y el Viernes Santo son días de abstinencia de carne y también días de ayuno; esto es, limitado a una sola comida completa.
- Los otros viernes de Cuaresma permanecen días de abstinencia de carne.
- Los viernes del año, fuera del tiempo de Cuaresma, permanecen como días de penitencia, pero cada persona puede substituir la abstinencia de carne tradicional por alguna otra práctica de arrepentimiento voluntario o penitencia personal.

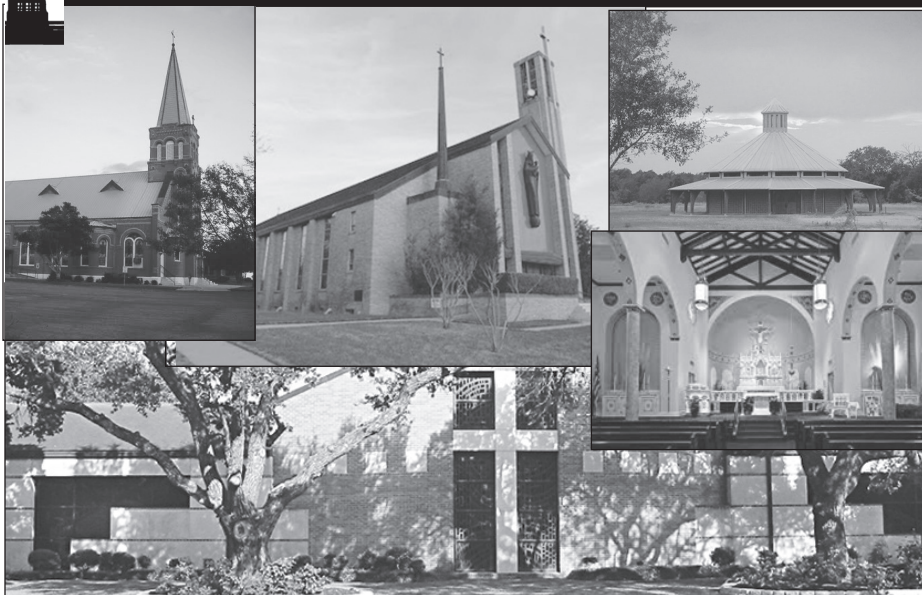
### Oración Para La Cuaresma

Señor misericordioso, sea mi guía siempre.

Atráigame más cerca a Usted. Ayúdeme a sufrir como debería.

Usted es el gran consolador. Esté conmigo, Señor, cuando rezo y ayuno. Enséñame a orar y ayunar para que pueda unirme a Usted y todos los Santos. Enséñame a ofrecer mi sufrimiento para ayudar a los más necesitados. Guíame para ser siempre consciente de Usted y el mayor propósito que Tiene en mente para mí. Amén.





## Visitando lugares de peregrinación para el año de la misericordia y cómo obtener indulgencia si no puede viajar

Por Papa Francisco

*El siguiente pasaje es de Misericordiae Vultus:*

Mi pensamiento se dirige, en primer lugar, a todos los fieles que en cada diócesis, o como peregrinos en Roma, vivirán la gracia del Jubileo. Deseo que la indulgencia jubilar llegue a cada uno como genuina experiencia de la misericordia de Dios, la cual va al encuentro de todos con el rostro del Padre que acoge y perdona, olvidando completamente el pecado cometido. Para vivir y obtener la indulgencia los fieles están llamados a realizar una breve peregrinación hacia la Puerta Santa, abierta en cada catedral o en las iglesias establecidas por el obispo diocesano y en las cuatro basílicas papales en Roma, como signo del deseo profundo de auténtica conversión. Es importante que este momento esté unido, ante todo, al Sacramento de la Reconciliación y a la celebración de la santa Eucaristía con un reflexión sobre la misericordia. Será necesario acompañar estas celebraciones con la profesión de fe y con la oración por mí y por las intenciones que llevo en el corazón para el bien de la Iglesia y de todo el mundo.

Pienso, además, en quienes por diversos motivos se verán imposibilitados de llegar a la Puerta Santa, en primer lugar los enfermos y las personas ancianas y solas, a menudo en condiciones de no poder salir de casa. Para ellos será de gran ayuda vivir la enfermedad y el sufrimiento como experiencia de cercanía al Señor que en el misterio de su pasión, muerte y resurrección indica la vía maestra para dar sentido al dolor y a la soledad.

Mi pensamiento se dirige también a los encarcelados, que experimentan la limitación de su libertad. El Jubileo siempre ha sido la ocasión de una gran amnistía, destinada a hacer partícipes a muchas personas que, incluso mereciendo una pena, sin embargo han tomado conciencia de la injusticia cometida y desean sinceramente integrarse de nuevo en la sociedad dando su contribución honesta. En las capillas de las cárceles podrán ganar la indulgencia, y cada vez que atraviesen la puerta de su celda, dirigiendo su pensamiento y la oración al Padre, pueda este gesto ser para ellos el paso de la Puerta Santa, porque la misericordia de Dios, capaz de convertir los corazones, es también capaz de convertir las rejas en experiencia de libertad.

Lugares de peregrinación elegidos por el Obispo Brendan son:

La Catedral de Nuestra Señora de la Victoria, Victoria, TX  
Iglesia de La Santa Cruz, Yorktown, TX  
Iglesia de La Santa Cruz, Bay City, TX  
Iglesia de La Santa Cruz, East Bernard, TX  
Refugio De Rafael, Flatonia, TX

Uno debe ser Peregrinación a la Catedral de Nuestra Señora de la Victoria y dos de los otros cuatro sitios de peregrinación.  
Para más información: [victoriadiocese.org](http://victoriadiocese.org)



## POPE FRANCIS BORDERLAND VISIT

Sun Bowl Stadium Celebration  
February 17, 2016  
12pm - 6pm



## Diócesis, ciudad de Texas anuncian detalles de evento relacionado con el papa en Sun Bowl

Por Catholic News Service

EL PASO (CNS) — El obispo Mark J. Seitz de El Paso y el alcalde de El Paso, Oscar Leeser, anunciaron planes para un evento local que se llevará a cabo el 17 de febrero en conjunto con la visita del papa Francisco a la ciudad hermana de El Paso, Ciudad Juárez, en México.

Llamada "Dos naciones, una fe", la celebración se llevará a cabo en el estadio Sun Bowl Stadium en el recinto de El Paso de la universidad de Texas.

"A pesar de las fronteras y los límites que existen nos vemos como una gran comunidad católica y estamos inmensamente agradecidos y honrados porque nuestro pastor universal, el papa Francisco, ha escogido venir a nuestra zona", dijo el obispo Seitz en un comunicado del 18 de enero. "Celebramos este gran día con nuestros hermanos y hermanas en Juárez".

Ciudad Juárez, ubicada al otro lado de la frontera desde El Paso, es la última parada en el recorrido de cinco días del papa Francisco en México. La visita a Juárez incluirá un viaje a la prisión local, una visita a los trabajadores en una fábrica, o "maquiladora", de Juárez y una reunión con líderes empresariales. Para concluir la visita él celebrará Misa al aire libre en el parque de la feria de Ciudad Juárez. Allí se espera una multitud de 220,000 personas.

A mediados de enero la Diócesis de El Paso desechó planes de tener una Misa en la frontera, la cual se habría celebrado simultáneamente con la Misa de cierre del papa.

Elizabeth O'Hara, portavoz de la Diócesis de El Paso, en aquel momento dijo que lo que cambió los planes fueron las preocupaciones de seguridad debido al tamaño de la multitud anticipada para una Misa en Estados Unidos que estaría sucediendo a la misma vez que la Misa en Juárez.

"El papa todavía es considerado un jefe de estado", dijo O'Hara a Catholic News Service el 13 de enero. El parque de

la feria de Juárez está a aproximadamente un cuarto de milla de la frontera Estados Unidos-México.

"Se hizo aparente que no sabíamos cuánta gente podríamos potencialmente acomodar en la frontera, lo cual planteaba un riesgo de seguridad para los asistentes", añadió O'Hara el 13 de enero vía correo electrónico.

La diócesis comenzó a planificar un evento sustituto en el lado estadounidense de la frontera, resultando en la celebración en el Sun Bowl de 45,000 asientos.

A la diócesis de Texas se le ha asignado 5,000 boletos para la Misa en Juárez. Los residentes de El Paso y los visitantes externos que no tengan boletos para es Misa pueden obtenerlos en el estadio Sun Bowl, que ofrecerá transmisión en vivo de la Misa en Juárez.

La diócesis dijo que la celebración de "Dos naciones, una fe" incluirá artistas nacionales y locales, así como elementos religiosos y culturales. Los nombres de los artistas serán anunciados en una fecha posterior. La diócesis enfatizó que la celebración no es una Misa y que la Comunión "no será ofrecida".

Los boletos para la celebración en el Sun Bowl costarán \$15 para el público en general.

El obispo Seitz y Leeser también anunciaron el lanzamiento de una nueva sede de Internet para el evento: [twonationsonefaith.com](http://twonationsonefaith.com). La sede tiene toda la información sobre los eventos en El Paso. El gobierno de la ciudad y la diócesis también usarán las etiquetas #2nations1faith como centro de información en las redes sociales.

Durante su viaje del 12 al 17 de febrero a México, el papa visitará algunas de las comunidades más marginadas de la nación y procurará llevarle esperanza a un país que sufre profundamente a causa del crimen, la corrupción y la inequidad, según el Vaticano. Ciudad Juárez es una de las seis ciudades que él visitará.



# EVENTS



## Meals • Picnics and more

### February

**Victoria**—Our Lady Victory Youth Ministry will be sponsoring fish and shrimp fry dinners on Fridays, Feb. 12, 26, and Mar. 11. The dinners will be served in the cafeteria starting at 4:45 p.m. for either dine-in or take-out. Dinners include catfish, shrimp, hushpuppies, green beans, coleslaw and Texas toast for \$9 p/p.

**Mentz**—Catholic Daughters Court St. Roch #2328 annual turkey and dressing dinner, Feb. 14 at St. Roch Parish Hall; serving begins at 11:00 a.m. There will also be a Fancy Dessert Auction, Silent Auction and raffle.

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

### March

**Hillje**—St. Procopius Spring Festival Mar. 6 at the parish hall. Beginning at 11:00 a.m. fried-chicken dinner with plates-to-go or dine-in at \$9 p/p. There will also be a bake sale in the hall.

**Blessing**—Knights of Columbus Council #4307, Lenten Fish Fry, auction and raffle Mar. 13 at the St. Peter's Parish Hall. Fried catfish dinner served from 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; \$10 p/p (desserts and tea/coffee included). The auction and raffle will be hld during the event. Proceeds benefit KC scholarships and charities.

**New Taiton**—St. John's Altar Society chicken dinner and spring festival Mar. 13 at Taiton Community Center. A fried-chicken, homemade dressing dinner serving beginning at 11:00 a.m. for dine-in or plates-to-go at \$9 p/p. There will also be a country store, games and auction.

### March

**Victoria**—KJZT Society #101 bake sale April 16-17 after all Masses at Holy Family. Proceeds to benefit the Food Bank.



*Grand Canyon & Red Rocks*  
May 2 - 11

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

*NCL Cruise out of Venice*  
June 10-18

*Alaska out of Seattle*  
July 30 - August 6

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## 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](http://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.couragec.net](http://www.couragec.net).

**Engaged Encounter**—April 29-May 1, June 3-5, Sept. 16-18, Nov. 4-6. Registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Fee must accompany registration form. For more information, call (361) 573-0828 ext. 2230 or visit [www.victoriadiocese.org](http://www.victoriadiocese.org).

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

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

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

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

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

**Natural Family Planning**—NFP is the only church-approved form of family planning. To learn about the sympto-ther-

mal method in the Victoria area and NFP class schedules, contact David and Annie Coffey at [victorianfpteachers@yahoo.com](mailto:victorianfpteachers@yahoo.com). In Wharton, contact Susanne Koch at (505) 710-0903 or [susannekoch614@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:jbvjov@sbcglobal.net) or (361) 580-2770; call (800) 470-2230; or visit [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org) or [www.retrouvaille.org](http://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](http://www.lostrescompaneros-sfo.org).

## Conferences • Masses • Retreats and more

**Houston**—St. Anthony's Relic Visit, Feb. 19-28 at various locations in Houston. The Franciscan Friars invite you to join them in welcoming St. Anthony of Padua, in the form of a precious relic from his Basilica in Padua, Italy. The relic will be accompanied by a friar from the Messenger of St. Anthony in Padua. For more information contact Anthonian Association at (914) 263-8841.

**El Campo**—Lenten Mission, "Come Encounter Jesus" Mar. 6-9 with Father Baise Czaja from the Passionist Community at St. Philip's Church at 7:00 p.m. each evening and a morning mission after the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Mar. 7 and 8. All are welcome. For more information, contact Patricia Hoelscher at [pat623@icloud.com](mailto:pat623@icloud.com).

**Victoria**—Spirit Wind Ministry, weekend retreat led by lecturer, columnist, and author Father Ronald Rolheiser April 8-10, at Spiritual Renewal Center. Theme: Living the Ups and Downs of our Faith: Dark Nights and Doubt, a Failure of Faith or a Failure of Imagination? The retreat cost is \$220 p/p. Space is limited and will be reserved in the order deposits are received (\$50/non-refundable). Partial grants are available should finances be a problem. This retreat is open to men, women and couples. For more information contact Susan Oakley at (361) 576-1515/(361) 649-6391 or email: [smoak53@msn.com](mailto:smoak53@msn.com).

**ACTS Retreats**—For information, visit [www.actsmissions.org](http://www.actsmissions.org).

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

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

### AMOR MEUS SPIRITUALITY CENTER EVENTS

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(361) 575-7111

email - [amormeus@yahoo.com](mailto:amormeus@yahoo.com)

[www.amormeusspiritualitycenter.org](http://www.amormeusspiritualitycenter.org)

### SOLEMN LENTEN VESPERS:

Sundays: February 14, 21, 28, March 6, 13, and 20

Time: 5:00 - 5:45 p.m.

The Liturgical Evening Prayer of the Church prayed with people of all faith traditions, Incarnate Word Convent Chapel.

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





## POPE FRANCIS BORDERLAND VISIT

Sun Bowl Stadium Celebration  
February 17, 2016  
12pm - 6pm



EL PASO, Texas (CNS) -- El Paso Bishop Mark J. Seitz and El Paso Mayor Oscar Leeser announced plans for a local event that will be held Feb. 17 in conjunction with Pope Francis' visit to El Paso's sister city of Ciudad Juarez in Mexico.

Called "Two Nations, One Faith," the celebration will take place at Sun Bowl Stadium on the campus of the University of Texas at El Paso.

"In spite of the borders and boundaries that exist, we see ourselves as one great Catholic community, and we are immensely grateful and honored that our universal pastor, Pope Francis, has chosen to come to our area," Bishop Seitz said in a Jan. 18 statement. "We celebrate this great day for our brothers and sisters in Juarez."

Ciudad Juarez, across the border from El Paso, is the last stop on Pope Francis' five-day Mexico tour. The Juarez visit will include a trip to a local prison, a visit with Juarez workers at a manufacturing operation, or "maquila," and with business leaders. To conclude the visit, he will celebrate an open-air Mass at the fairgrounds in Ciudad Juarez. A crowd of 220,000 is expected there.

In mid-January, the El Paso Diocese scrapped plans for a border Mass that would have taken place at the same time as the pope's closing Mass.

Elizabeth O'Hara, a spokeswoman for the El Paso Diocese, said at the time that security concerns over the size of the anticipated crowd for a U.S.-based Mass taking place at the same time as the Juarez Mass prompted the change in plans.

**During his Feb. 12-17 trip to Mexico, Pope Francis will visit some of that nation's most marginalized communities and seek to bring hope to a country deeply suffering from crime, corruption and inequality, according to the Vatican. Ciudad Juarez is one of six cities he will visit.**

"The pope is still considered a head of state," O'Hara told Catholic News Service Jan. 13. The Juarez fairgrounds is about a quarter-mile from the U.S.-Mexico border.

"It became apparent that we didn't know how many people we could potentially house on the border, which posed a safety risk to those in attendance," O'Hara added in a Jan. 13 email.

The diocese started planning a substitute event on the U.S. side of the border, resulting in the celebration at the 45,000-seat Sun Bowl.

The Texas diocese has been allotted 5,000 tickets for the Juarez Mass. Those El Pasoans and out-of-town visitors who do not have tickets to that Mass can get tickets to Sun Bowl Stadium, which will have real-time broadcast of the Juarez Mass.

The diocese said the "Two Nations, One Faith" celebration will include national and local entertainers as well as religious and cultural elements. Names of the entertainers are to be announced at a later date. The diocese emphasized the celebration is not a Mass and holy Communion "will not be offered."

Tickets for the Sun Bowl celebration will be \$15 for the general public.

Bishop Seitz and Leeser also announced the launch of a new web site for the event -- [www.twonationsonefaith.com](http://www.twonationsonefaith.com). The site will have all information regarding the El Paso events. The city and the diocese will also use the hashtag #2nations1faith as a hub for information on social media.



**BISHOP STARTS CONFIRMATION TOUR**— Bishop Brendan Cahill confirms his first group of young adults as bishop, at St. Anthony Parish in Columbus. In the months to come he will be at various parishes celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation.

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**NEW JCDA COURT INSTITUTED**—Court Holy Family #2665 Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas was instituted on December 13, 2015, at the Holy Family of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus Church in Victoria. Rev. Jacob Koether serves as chaplain of the new JCDA court. Pam Malik and Engracie Schuck are co-chairmen of the 29 young ladies who are charter members of the new court. Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas is an organization for young girls from the ages of 6 -18 years. The four basic goals of JCDA are to develop oneself as a Christian, learn to work for the good of others, grow spiritually, and to be creative and flexible.



**NEW OFFICERS INSTALLED**—THE Serra Club of Victoria recently installed their new offices at their regular meeting. Those installed were David and Blanca Valdez, Mark Westerman, Father Dan Morales, Robert Seale, and Theresa French.



**ORDAINED A TRANSITIONAL DEACON**—Peter Oscar Kofi was ordained a transitional deacon of the Church by Bishop Brendan Cahill on Saturday, January 23, 2016, at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Victoria.

He has been assigned to Our Lady of Sorrows until he is ordained a priest. Priests pictured left to right are Father Lawrence Mensah, Father Barnabas Kyeah, Deacon Oscar, Bishop Cahill, Father Charles E. Otsiwah, Father Albert Yankey and Professor and Mrs. Forjuoh and Dr. and Mrs. Des Bordes, Ghanaian community members from Houston. Above, Oscar kneels in front of Bishop Cahill as Deacon Jose Duplan and Deacon Chuck Glynn look on. Inset, Bishop Cahill lays hands on Oscar during diaconate ordination.



Bishop Brendan Cahill and Rev. Michael Petering celebrate Priesthood Sunday in Edna.

## Saint Agnes Church Celebrates Priesthood Sunday

EDNA — On November 22, 2015, Saint Agnes Church in Edna, celebrated Priesthood Sunday with Bishop Brendan Cahill and Rev. Michael Petering as honorees. Christ the King Sunday was also celebrated as parishioners attended the three Masses of which two were concelebrated with Bishop Cahill and Rev. Petering as celebrants. A covered dish luncheon was served at noon in the family center and Religious Education students sang songs for entertainment. The tables were decorated by parents, students, and staff, and a decorated cake was served for the occasion which also noted Bishop Cahill's birthday during the week of November 22. Some parishioners came to meet the Bishop for the first time, and 170 people enjoyed the celebration.