



The Catholic Lighthouse

The cradle of Texas Immigration



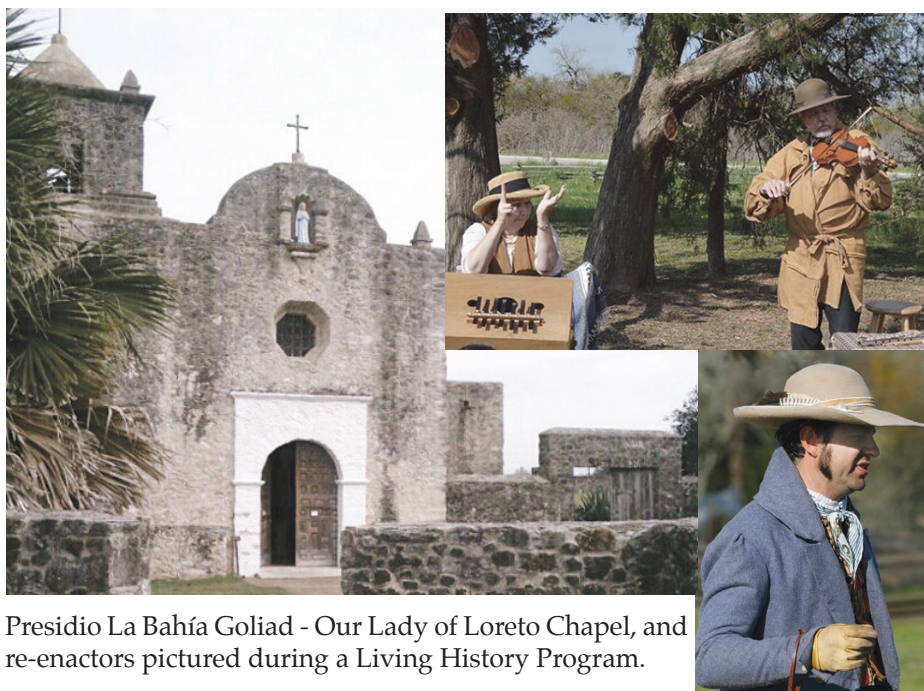
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APRIL 2016



Presidio La Bahía Goliad - Our Lady of Loreto Chapel, and re-enactors pictured during a Living History Program.

Presidio La Bahía Rich in History

Presidio La Bahía welcomed 16,000 guests in 2015! The Presidio is located one mile south of Goliad, Texas on U.S. Highway 183 (77A). Presidio La Bahía was established at this location in 1749, with Mission Espíritu Santo. It has been owned by

the Catholic Church since 1853, and is currently operated by the Diocese of Victoria in Texas. In 1844, Presidio La Bahía was given to the town of Goliad as part of a four league grant of land. The Catholic Church

through the leadership of Bishop Odin, requested the return of the chapel, but the town refused. In 1853, the Catholic Church purchased the chapel from the town of Goliad for the sum of \$1,000 in gold which was a lot of money at the time. The agreement was to sell just the chapel but when the legal documents were prepared by the City of Goliad the legal description included the fort; therefore, the church became owners of the fort and the chapel. The Diocese of Victoria is the only diocese in North



America to own a fort.

Presidio La Bahía, designated a National Historic Landmark in 1967, is considered the world's finest example of a Spanish frontier fort. This is the most fought over fort in Texas history, having seen participation in six National Revolutions/Wars for Independence.

During the mid-1960s, The Kathryn Stoner O'Connor Foundation funded a restoration project under the direction of Architect Raiford Stripling and Archeologist Roland Beard. The fort was rebuilt to its 1836 appearance, based on documents and archeological evidence dating from the Texas Revolution.

Presidio La Bahía is a fort, not a mission. One present significance of the Presidio is that it and the two missions constitute the only surviving example of a Spanish Colonial mission/presidio complex in Texas and one of very few in North Amer-

See Presidio La Bahía, pg. 10

The Easter Season Has Begun!



Most people think of Easter as a single day. Catholics celebrate Easter for a whole season. The Easter season stretches all the way to the Feast of Pentecost. One way the church pursues this goal of seeing God present in the world is through the reading of the Acts of the Apostles. Masses all throughout the Easter season will be from the Acts of the Apostles instead of the usual practice of reading from the Old Testament. This year Pentecost is Sunday May 15, 2016.



NEW Online Streaming!!

Watch live the 9:00 a.m. Sunday Mass from The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. Special Masses, including Chrism Mass, ordinations, etc. available for viewing live or archived at olvcathedral.org.

Bishop Brendan Cahill celebrated the Chrism Mass on Tuesday, March 22, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. It was beautiful to see the gathering of the entire diocese, bishops, priests, deacons, Catholic School students and lay faithful present at the Cathedral. Bishop Cahill blessed the holy oils and the priests renewed their promises to serve God and his people.



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

Estimated Catholic population: 107,000.

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

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Bishop Brendan - “The ‘Lynx-Eyes’ of Faith”

Dear Sisters and Brothers,
To encourage our diocesan prayer
during this Jubilee Year of Mercy
we have produced and distributed a
number of prayer cards with a spe-
cial prayer for Fr. Charles Kram, Jr.
I’ve been praying this prayer now
every day as a part
of my morning offering, and during Lent
an image from the prayer stood out – “in
union with the silent suffering of Jesus
on the cross and Mary at the foot of the
cross.” This became a prayer for me that
each one of us in the Diocese of Victoria
could experience the Holy Week from the
perspective of Jesus and Mary walking the
path of Calvary. I imagine in my prayer
looking at the suffering that Jesus endured
for our salvation, and I thank Him for the
tremendous gift of His Love. There is a
next step in our prayer that may be just
as important – accepting in our hearts the
desire to love the world with the same
Love that He showed us. What does this
type of Love look like?



Here is an image from the Handbook
of the Legion of Mary, Chapter 8, # 3 –
“And also with Mary on Calvary were the
representatives of a Legion, the Centurion
and his men, who took a mournful part in
the offering of the Victim, though indeed
they did not know they were crucifying the
Lord of Glory (1 Cor. 2:8). And wonder
of wonders, grace burst upon them! ‘Con-
template and see,’ says St. Bernard, ‘how
piercing is the glance of faith. Consider
attentively what lynx-eyes it possesses.
On Calvary it enabled the Centurion to
see life in death, and to recognize in a dy-
ing breath the sovereign Spirit.’ Looking
upon their dead and disfigured victim, the
legionaries proclaimed him to be the very
Son of God (Matt. 27:54).”

The suffering of Jesus wasn’t com-
pletely silent, and the communication
was more in his actions than in his brief,
powerful words. He looked on the crowds
with pure Love – in a way I think with the

“lynx-eyes” looking back at the Centurion
inviting him to the Truth and Salvation.
The suffering that we endure on our jour-
ney doesn’t need to be silent – we can offer
it in union with Jesus for the Salvation
of the World. This is the source of true
Freedom and true Power in the way that
St. Paul would live and write about these
words – “it is the power of God leading
everyone who believes in it to salvation”
(Rom. 1:16-17).

As we have now entered into the Easter
season and our prayer is turning to pray
for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit
on the Pentecost, may our eyes look out on
the world with the same Love that Jesus
offered on the road to Calvary. May God
bless you and your families, thank you for
your beautiful witness to God’s Love and
Mercy every day!

+Brendan

Bishop Brendan’s Schedule

April

- | | |
|----|--|
| 7 | 6:00 p.m., Mother Seton Awards, KC Hall, Shiner |
| 8 | 7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Bay City |
| 10 | 2:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria |
| 11 | 10:00 a.m., Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops’ Meeting, Austin |
| 12 | 12:15 p.m., Mass, Victoria College Student Center, Victoria |
| 13 | 7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Michael Church, Weimar |
| 15 | 7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Robert Bellarmine Church, El Campo |
| 16 | 5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Philip Church, El Campo |
| 17 | 6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Cross Church, Bay City |
| 19 | 10:27 a.m., School Mass, St. Joseph High School, Victoria |
| 20 | 4:00 p.m., Building Board Meeting, Chancery
7:00 p.m., CCD Night, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Ganado |
| 22 | 10:00 a.m., Bishop Fellhauer’s Invitational Golf Tournament, Colony Creek Country Club |
| 23 | 7:00 p.m., Mass followed by covered dish dinner, St. Joseph Church, Port O’Connor |
| 24 | 9:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Church, Inez |
| 29 | 10:00 a.m., Texas State Council Knights of Columbus Clergy Workshop and Luncheon, Omni Bayside Hotel, Corpus Christi
7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Anthony Church, Palacios |
| 30 | 5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Mary Church, Victoria
6:00 p.m., St. Joseph High School Jubilee, Myra & Clayton Johnson Family Gymnasium, Victoria |

May

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 1 | 4:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Sorrows, Victoria |
| 2-4 | Episcopal Ordination and Installation of Msgr. Jim Checchio, New Jersey |
| 4 | 6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Wharton |
| 5 | 10:00 a.m., Pension Board Meeting, Chancery
7:00 p.m., 8th Grade Bishop’s Award, The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria |
| 7 | 5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Church, Yoakum |
| 8 | 10:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Rose of Lima Church, Schulenburg |
| 9 | 5:00 p.m., Liturgical Commission Meeting, Chancery |

DSA update

2016 Diocesan Services Appeal

Diocesan Goal:	\$ 1,936,221.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$ 237,356.33
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 169,366.33
Number of Parish Families Participating:	828



Seminary Burses

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

March ??, 2016

	TOTALS
• General Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$106,229.00
The following donations were reported inadvertently under a different burse:	
In loving memory of Lois Jirkovsky by:	
William and Beverly Broaddus	25.00
Reggie, Cathy and Allison Guettner	50.00
Marie Tobola	100.00
Elaine Kubena	20.00
The Underwriting and Marketing Departments	20.00
Marlene Polka	15.00
Laura Kocurek	20.00
Larry and Sandi Rebecsek	100.00
David and Dana Beal Sestak and Family	100.00
Julius Belicek	10.00
Buck and Janice Bludau and Family	20.00
Wanda Zobransky	20.00
Raymond and Lillie Vecera	5.00
Alton and Helen Faltysek	20.00
Wayne and Annie Havel	10.00
Frank Zaruba, Sandy and Jack Zaruba, Donna and Kevin Walker and Family	40.00
Total	\$106,804.00

• Rev. Wayne Flagg and Rev. Philip Brune Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$8,205.00
In honor of James Dvorak's birthday celebration by	
Mark and Sharon Kubicek	25.00
Total	\$8,230.00

• Very Rev. Matthew Huehlefeld Seminary Burse #2	
Previously reported	\$760.00
Correction to donations reported in error	(695.00)
In loving memory of Lois Jirkovsky by	
JC and Geraldine Hermes, Jr.	25.00
In memory of Lillie Sitka by	
J. C. and Geraldine Hermes	25.00
Total	\$115.00

• Rev. Paul P. Kaspar and Parents, John & Frances Kaspar Seminary Burse	
Donation by the Kaspar Family Reunion	
	\$500.00
Total	\$500.00

• Rev. Dan Morales Seminary Burse in Honor of his Work for Vocations	
Previously reported	\$3,806.00
In honor of Rev. Dan Morales by	
Paz and Andrea Morales	25.00
In honor James Dvorak's birthday celebration by	
Victor and Gail Dvorak	100.00
Total	\$3,931.00

• Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #7	
Previously reported	\$9,835.00
In memory of Deacon Sonny and Elaine Rogers by Gilbert and Mary Urbish	
	25.00
In honor of Gene and Maureen Schott's 40th wedding anniversary by	
Michael and Janice Jares and Steven	50.00
In memory of Arthur Konecny by	
Soila Sanchez	10.00
In memory of Lillie Sitka by	
Pat Mladenka	10.00
In memory of Henry Kostelnik by	
Pat Mladenka	10.00
In memory of Lillie Sitka by	
David and Wilma Wagner	25.00
In memory of Henry Kostelnik by	
Willie Barborak	10.00
In memory of John Jr. and Tillie Peters	
	50.00
Donation in Thanksgiving	50.00
Total	\$10,075.00

• St. John the Baptist Church, St. John In Memory of Rev. Brian Crookes Seminary Burse #2	
Previously reported	\$5,841.00
In memory of Florence Kocich by	
her family members	100.00
Total	\$5,941.00

Those wishing to begin a burse or to contribute to an existing seminary burse may do so by sending their contributions with the appropriate burse designation to:

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

Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

April 9 6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Family Church, Victoria

April 10 10:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Victoria

April 17 11:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Cross Church, East Bernard

April 24 2:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church, Shiner

May 1 10:30 a.m., Confirmation Mass, Sacred Heart Church, Hallettsville



Education of Seminarians Fund "Holy Thursday Collection"

A collection was offered for the education of our future priests at the celebration on Holy Thursday. Parishioners may give to this fund on Holy Thursday or any time they choose throughout the year.

The Holy Thursday collection began in 2010. Since its inception, over the six year period, \$816,978.85 has been contributed by the good people of the diocese. The majority of the cost of educating the seminarians since 2008 has been paid from this fund. From 2008 through 2014, the Education of Seminarians Fund provided funds in excess of \$2,000,000 for the education of the seminarians. Without this fund, the goal for the annual Diocesan Services Appeal (DSA) would have been much higher.

Instead of a mail out for this collection, a video called "Education of Seminarians Fund" is available on the Diocesan Website under Offices/Vocations. It can be watched at this link: <https://vimeo.com/159123402>.

Thank you note

Dear Mr. Brown,

We have received your recent check for \$5,216.30. This amount has been posted to the 2015 Collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign and will appear in our annual report.

I am grateful for your assistance in facilitating the generous gifts of the parishioners in your diocese.

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

St. Joseph High School Hosts "A Closer Look at STJ"

St. Joseph High School is hosting "A Closer Look at STJ" from 6:15-7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 14. Take a campus tour and learn about advanced placement/dual credit courses, tuition assistance, athletics, STJ summer camp registration, and have refreshments with the Flyer Family.

For more information, please contact Jen Korinek, admissions coordinator, at jkorinek@stjvictoria.com or (361) 573-2446 ext. 217.



DIOCESAN KJT SOCIETIES SUPPORT DIOCESAN CHARITIES—On behalf of Christopher Urban Catholic Union of Texas, The KJT, president, Father Bob Knippenberg, KJT chaplain, right, presents two checks to Bishop Brendan Cahill for the annual donations from KJT societies within the Diocese of Victoria. One check is for the Seminarian Education Fund in the amount of \$1,675.00. The other check is for the Priest & Religious Retirement Fund in the amount of \$7,568.00. The Catholic Union of Texas, The KJT adopted these two statewide charity projects in 2015.

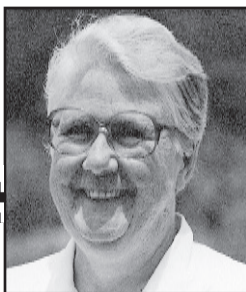
Tip to Help Your Prayer Life

Frequent the Sacraments – If you can make daily Mass even once a week, you have doubled your access to the greatest gift ever given humanity. Now, go to Confession at least monthly and you are surely going to get a multitude of graces. Put these on a calendar so you don't skip them.



SISTERLY THOUGHTS

by Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



More Triumphs and Trials

(As the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament celebrate the sesquicentennial of their foundation in Victoria, let us continue to review their story)

In spite of earlier hardships experienced before the Sisters arrived in Victoria December 21, 1866, and opened the eagerly-awaited school on January 7, 1867, the Sisters enjoyed success during that first semester. A young woman from New Braunfels had joined them the day they arrived in Victoria; and soon another followed. The people of Victoria were most generous in supporting the Sisters and the newly established school, and enrollment steadily climbed. Besides the usual academic curriculum, studies included fine arts such as music, painting, ornamental penmanship and needlework. French was taught and after a young immigrant woman from Germany entered, German was added to the curriculum.

As the summer vacation ended and the school reopened in September, hopes were high that the success of the previous semester would continue. Alas, sorrow would strike them again. The scourge of yellow fever made its appearance in Victoria that fall of 1867. The two young women from Texas who had entered the Convent both succumbed to the illness. Needless to say, their deaths were a severe blow to the school.

However, fortunately for the young foundation, three Sisters from France and two young postulants from Ireland

weathered the trip to Texas several months later. At that time land travel was quite challenging, even though some railroads had been built by this time. Let's peek at one of the Sister's diary for an account of their trip from Port Lavaca to Victoria.

In the afternoon when all was ready, we, in the company of good Bishop Dubuis, boarded a train, on which there were about two dozen other passengers. The weather was fine; but, since the month was January, we were provided with several woolen blankets as protection against a possible "norther," for we were lightly clad.

Hardly an hour passed when the "norther" was upon us. In five minutes the temperature had fallen below the freezing point. The train had no stove. Muffling ourselves in our blankets we blessed our kind benefactor (a thoughtful woman who had given bright red blankets to the Sisters who had no knowledge of Texas weather). Soon the train derailed and in doing so scattered the contents of the tinder box on the ground. The gentlemen came to our assistance and escorted us to the baggage car, which had retained its position. Our seats were boxes, barrels, plowshares, and planks. After a night's wait while the men worked on the engine to no purpose, one of the party suggested that we walk to the next station. Bishop Dubuis thought it too much for us. But one of the gentlemen favored the plan; so off we started, plowing through mud and water until we reached our destination, where we rested for hours.

Late in the afternoon we made another start on the same train, only to experience a repetition of the first accident. However, some of the passengers had gone on ahead to arrange for vehicles (ox-carts) to meet us, and thus we were able to continue our journey to Victoria, where we were met by Father Gardet (the pastor) and a delegation of citizens, who conducted us to the convent, into which we were received with great joy and every kindness by Mother Saint Clare (the first foundress) and the other dear Sisters.

(to be continued)

In Memory of Sister Maria Francisca Tamayo

Sister Maria Francisca Tamayo, MCSH a member of the Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, passed away at the age of 89, Saturday, March 5, 2016. She was born October 10, 1926, in Mexico to the late Rosalio Tamayo and Victoria Vasquez.

She is preceded in death by her parents and siblings Manuel and Augustin.

Memorial services were held Sunday, March 13, 2016, with a rosary recited at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. The funeral Mass was celebrated Monday, March 14, 2016, at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish presided by Bishop Brendan Cahill and Rev. Albert Yankey.

Burial followed at Catholic Cemetery #3.



FOURTH DEGREE KNIGHTS HONOR BISHOP—Bishop Brendan Cahill was given an award for the Fourth Degree exemplification held in Cuero on February 27, 2016 at Saint Michael's. This Exemplification was held in Bishop Cahill's honor. Pictured, left to right, John Leal, Diocese of Victoria KC deputy marshal from Port Lavaca; Joseph Soto, district marshal Texas 2nd district with the 4th Degree Knights of Columbus from Shiner; Bishop Cahill, and Ray Sykowski Diocese of Victoria KC deputy marshal from Eagle Lake.

St. Joseph Yoakum Names New Principal

YOAKUM— Father Matthew Huelefeld said, "I am so happy to report that our 'Principal Search' for the next school year is complete! After consultation with the members of the Principal Search Committee—the candidate offered the contract (and accepted) is Mr. Sean Mooney. I am personally grateful to the Search Committee and in coordination with Mr. John Quarry, Diocesan Catholic School Superintendent."

Mr. Mooney is a 34 year-old Catholic who was born and raised in New Braunfels. He is a 2006 graduate of Texas A & M (College Station) with a B.S. in Agricultural Leadership Development. He also completed a Masters of Science in Education Curriculum and Instruction in 2013 from Texas A & M (Corpus Christi). He is also completing a second Masters of Arts in History. He has served as an Adjunct Professor with Del Mar College in Corpus as well. Mr. Mooney is married, and he and his wife (an accountant)

welcomed a baby daughter this past year. Both are employed at St. John Paul II Catholic High School in Corpus Christi. Mr. Mooney has been the United States History/U.S. Government Department head there since July, 2012. Mr. Mooney comes with solid references and a desire to continue in Catholic Education advancing to the role of Administration. He and his wife have been considering relocating to a smaller community and are beginning the transition as they look for a home in the general area. He is excited to be coming to St. Joseph School and being a part of our continued commitment to a solid Catholic Education. He values the role of the faith in education, is committed to a team approach in working with the staff and faculty, understands the importance of communication with everyone involved, and is interested in helping the school achieve a continued public presence in the community. Mr. Mooney will be joining us as of July 1, 2016, as the principal.

Incarnate Word Blessed Sacrament Gift Shop



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Today's Catholic Teacher School of the Month



St. Rose of Lima Catholic School in Schulenburg, TX, proudly celebrated its 125th anniversary during the 2014-2015 school year. The one-room schoolhouses with simple desks and basic supplies have given

way to updated buildings complete with personal computers, electronic tablets, science and computer labs, and interactive whiteboards. The mission of the school has stood the test of time: "We are God's presence to the world, developing excellence through Jesus."

St. Rose of Lima has an enrollment of 190 students serving 127 families. Teachers, with a combined 376 years of teaching experience, share a passion for helping all students grow in knowledge, faith, and love. Pastor Father Tim Kosler is committed to the daily operations of the school and maintains personal relationships with all students, families, faculty, and staff. Principal Rosanne Gallia promotes academic excellence in a Christian environment for all students. During her tenure the school was accredited by the TCCED and received exemplary ratings in the areas of Catholic identity and special needs as well as for the school's guidance program, Conscious Discipline.

Conscious Discipline is a comprehensive social emotional intelligence classroom management program that empowers both teachers and students. It is based on current brain research, child development information, and developmentally appropriate practices. The program has been used to lead teachers through a process that promotes permanent behavior changes in both teachers and children. This relationship-based community model helps create an optimal learning environment for all children.

Classrooms now include class commitments, meaningful jobs for all, visual routines, and a place for self-regulation. School-wide routines also include a daily brain smart start and monthly school family assembly. Students, faculty, and staff are continuing to build relationships based on respect and love.

Today's families come from many

different backgrounds and dynamics, yet they still seek the primary gift of the faith for their children. St. Rose currently has 15 generational families with six of these enrolled for four consecutive generations.

St. Rose of Lima Catholic School provides a variety of learning opportunities from play-based with our youngest students to field trips and interactive, integrated technology assignments for the oldest. Teachers plan differentiated methods of instruction and provide in-

clusive classrooms for all. There are a variety of extracurricular activities. In addition to weekly school Masses, students also participate in a variety of prayer services including Advent wreath, Christ the King, St. Francis' Blessing of the Animals, children's Holy Hour and adoration, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Rosary, and more.

St. Rose of Lima Catholic School is a modern example of quality Catholic education that still holds true to the timeless values and tradition of the Catholic Church. Our goal is to produce students of character who can faithfully witness gospel values in today's world. St. Rose's 125 years of tradition and transformation serve as a reminder of the school's fundamental mission and its commitment to faith, academic, and character formation; producing ethical, faithful citizens contributing to society. Ultimately, these are the virtues that will sustain the school for the next 125 years.



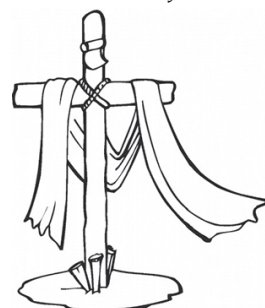
Students at St. Rose School in Schulenburg listening to a story read to them.



BISHOP BRENDAN CAHILL BLESSES NEW ATHLETIC CENTER—The Tom O'Connor, Jr. Athletic Center, at St. Joseph High School was blessed with a ceremony on Wednesday, March 9. The student body, special guests, family and friends were present. Tours of the facility were given afterwards by Student Ambassadors. The gym will serve as an athletic facility and will serve the community in times of weather related disasters, as a 24-hour safe room. Pictured, left-right, Robby and Tami Burdge, Bishop Brendan Cahill and Principal/President of St. Joseph High School William McArdle, Jr.



LIVING STATIONS—At the end of Lent, a tradition at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish is to celebrate the Living Stations of the Cross. This year, the high school seniors of St. Paul High School reenacted the last hours of Jesus' life.



LIVING STATIONS—On Holy Thursday, the 7th and 8th graders of St. Michael Catholic School, Weimar portrayed the Living Stations.

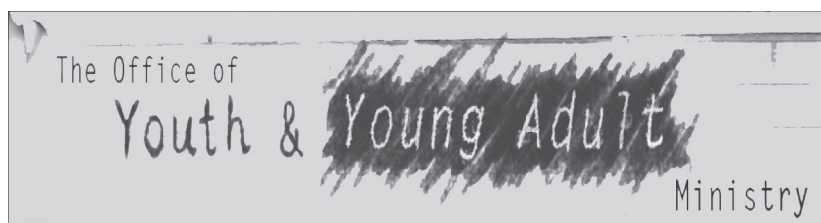
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Calendar of Events

2016

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



SUPPORTING YOUTH AND SEMINARIANS—

Through the partnership of KC Council #9088 at Holy Family in Victoria, the Bishop David Fellhauer Invitational Golf Tournament continues to be a success. Last year over \$60,000 was raised to benefit the Youth and Vocations Offices of which \$28,000 went directly to the Education of Seminarians Fund. The Diocese of Victoria is pleased to announce that the project for the long awaited Pavilion at the Spiritual Renewal Center is also being

funded by these funds. It will be completed just in time for the youth camps that begin in June 2015. Sponsors for the tournament are still being accepted. Forms are available on the victoriadiocese.org website. All sponsors are invited to attend the “gumbo dinner” the evening of the tournament Friday, April 22.



Our Lady of Sorrows Ballet Folklorico from Victoria with awards won in a recent competition in Round Rock.

OLS Ballet Wins Numerous Awards

Our Lady of Sorrow Ballet of Victoria, succeeded in competition to rake up numerous wins and trophies for the 4th consecutive year in the “Bailes de Mi Tierra” Competition in Round Rock, Texas in February 26-28, 2016 weekend.

In the Adult PR/NP Division - 1st place Trio Entry (Diane DeLeon, Jordan Garcia, Dinah Retiz) with a dance from the state of Hidalgo.

1st place in the Adult Ensemble (Diane DeLeon, Jordan Garcia, Alyssa Rios, Seth O’Canas) with a dance from the state of Colima.

1st place in the Young Adults in small group entry (Diane DeLeon, Jordan Garcia, Dinah Retiz, Angela Robles, Alyssa Rios, Gina Tames, Jorge Perez, Christal Martinez, Seth O’Canas) with a dance from the state of Tamaulipas.

1st place Young Adult Soloist (Alyssa Rios)

2nd place in the Young Adult Ensemble

(Diane DeLeon, Dinah Retiz, Angela Robles, Alyssa Rios, Gina Tames, Christal Martinez) with a dance from the state of Colima.

2nd place Young Adult Duet (Alyssa Rios, Gina Tames) with a dance from the state of Hidalgo.

2nd place in the Junior Category Trio entry (Celeste Navarro, Olympia Rodela, Karina Robles) with a dance from the state of Vera Cruz.

3rd place Junior soloist (Angela Robles)

3rd place in Young Adults Small group entry (Diane DeLeon, Jordan Garcia, Dinah Retiz, Angela Robles, Alyssa Rios, Gina Tames, Jorge Perez, Christal Martinez, Seth O’Canas)

Congratulations to all the dancers. This years’ completion had over 530 entries with private/nonprofit, elementary, junior and high school divisions from throughout Texas.



YOUTH SPECTACULAR—

Sarah Swafford, founder of Emotional Virtue Ministries, pictured in left photo, speaking to youth at the diocesan Youth Spectacular held in El Campo recently. She spoke to a group of over 300 about living drama free with integrity. One youth said that they were so blessed to have heard her talk and that she helped them realize that they are worth so much more than they previously thought. The day concluded with Adoration and Mass with Bishop Brendan Cahill.





JCDA LEARN ABOUT RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS—The Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas #206, Yoakum, held their March meeting which focused on the topic of peace. The members listened to an informative and fascinating talk about vocations and peace given by Sister Louise Marie Jones of the Incarnate Word Convent located in Victoria. She spoke of her journey becoming a nun with humor and straightforwardness. The members left the meeting with advice on how to live a balanced life, to listen and to follow your calling. She also stressed to the members the importance of education.



OUTDOOR GARDEN BLESSED—Bishop Brendan Cahill came to St. Anthony, Palacios, recently to visit with the children from CCD program and bless the new Stations of the Cross Garden.



RECEIVING JESUS—Anthony Tomanek receives First Holy Communion with his class from Holy Family, Victoria on April 3, 2016.

Why Study the Sacraments of Initiation, Healing and Vocation?

Father Bob Knippenberg taught a series of classes, beginning in January through March, on *The Sacraments of Initiation and The Sacraments of Healing and Vocation*, for the Diocese of Victoria Pastoral Institute Extended Program.



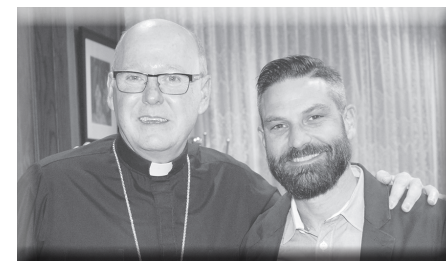
Three locations received the instruction through distance learning, while Father Bob taught live from his parish, Holy Family Church in Whar-ton. Dr. Gloria Gonzalez who attended the distance learning shares, “Personally, the distance learning sacraments course was one of inspiration in which I learned the value and the importance of the sacraments. Father Bob did an excellent job with his presentation; it was so profound and gave such relevance and meaning to all the sacraments. Additionally, his voice was loud and clear when speaking. Very worthwhile.” Those who attended the live class were equally impacted by the class series. Bill shared, “As a member of the RCIA Team who is always looking for additional information to help us instruct and inspire our catechumens and candidates, the Pastoral Institute on the Sacraments presented by Father Bob Knippenberg was extremely helpful. His knowledge and ability to explain the Sacraments is outstanding.” Georgia who also attended the live class series shared, “The Pastoral Institute sessions provided a wealth of knowledge and a deeper understanding of the Sacra-

ments. We are looking forward to using what we learned and helping those who come to RCIA seeking Christ. Father Bob is a master teacher who enables us to pass on what we learned to our catechumens and candidates.”

So, what are sacraments? “The sacraments are ‘powers that come forth’ from the Body of Christ which is ever-living and life-giving. They are actions of the Holy Spirit at work in his Body, the Church. They are ‘the masterworks of God’ in the new and everlasting covenant” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2nd ed., n. 1116).

For twelve weeks, Pastoral Institute participants studied the “masterworks of God”—the seven Sacraments. First, they engaged the three Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. Then they moved on to study the Sacraments of Healing: Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick, and the Sacraments of Vocation: Holy Orders and Marriage. Father Bob shares, “It was my hope as the “instructor” to assist those taking the class to not only “study” the sacraments but to actually engage them in a 3-month meditation on the mystery of our life in Christ. Hopefully, those taking the class truly experienced “fides quarens intellectum”—faith seeking understanding.”

The next series of classes will begin in the Fall of 2016.



Ennie Hickman, long time friend of Bishop Brendan Cahill, stopped by for a visit. Ennie is the President of Adore Ministries, a community of Catholic lay missionaries, who dedicate their lives to the gospel and strive to live a life of simplicity and authenticity. For more information about Adore Ministries go to <http://adoreministries.com>.

**North American
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June 6-13**



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**Alaska Cruise and
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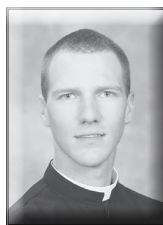
August 5-13, 2017

Book by April 30, 2016

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Meet a Seminarian (a TCL series)

by James Dvorak

The Greatness of the Marital Promises

Why would one person give oneself to another person unconditionally? The risk is great, but the reward of being involved in a promise is so much greater. Through Christ and his sacraments, we receive great fruits. But it is necessary that we come to the sacrament with the longing for Christ's glory. This is shown by the promises that each spouse makes in the sacrament of matrimony.

By promising fidelity, unity, and permanence, one attempts to come ever closer to Christ through the sacrament. The three promises declare one's effort to imitate the relationship of Christ and his Church visibly on earth. Through the sacramental character of these promises, the goods that come forth are not only natural, but also supernatural.

This is seen mainly in two gifts: the procreating and educating of children, and the mutual fidelity of spouses. Both gifts are natural goods, but through the sacrament, they are made supernatural inasmuch as they partake in Christ's grace. The sacrament of matrimony takes these gifts to a higher dimension; the gifts now have a trajectory toward perfection and toward salvation. What I mean is this: The natural goods of procreating and educating

children, and being faithful to one's spouse are goods in themselves. However, the goods are elevated to the height of salvation by means of the sacramental promise. The sacrament enables the couple to achieve the perfection to which they are called, and thus allows them to achieve salvation. Now, a child is procreated and educated in order to know, to love, and to serve God. Likewise, the promise of fidelity enables each spouse to give himself or herself completely to the other, just as Christ did for mankind on the Cross, and thereby a person is able to experience fully the other in a way no one else is able. These goods are fulfilled in the light of reaching salvation with our Almighty God.

In the sacrament of matrimony, both spouses attempt to achieve holiness and reach salvation by making the marital promises. If you are married or considering marriage, I hope this series has enlightened you about the truth of the sacrament and the participation in Christ's grace to which it calls you. Without promises, there is no sacrament of matrimony. Your promise defines you as the person that you are, and what better way to define yourself than by fulfilling your capability of receiving Christ's grace and perfection.

Reporting Abuse

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

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

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

Reporting Child Abuse Hotline • 1 (800) 252-5400 • www.txabusehotline.org

If you know or suspect a child or person has been abused or mistreated, you are required to report it to the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services or to a law enforcement agency within 48 hours.

If the person is in immediate danger, call 911.



FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH ALTAR — Father Jasper Liggio, Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria, created a beautiful altar to celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph. A Mass was held and was followed by a dinner.



EVENING OF FUN—You enjoy playing games? Well come out to the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Ann #369 Games Party Thursday, May 5, from 6:00-9:30 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Victoria. With a donation of \$8 p/p you can enjoy a meal served at 6:30 p.m., door prizes and more. RSVP to Dolores Schroller at (361) 575-6111 or Joan Schramek at (361) 485-2387. Pictured above, seated l-r, Kathryn Ormsby, Donna Moeller, Joan Schramek; standing l-r, Susana Moya, Jo Ann Jalufka, and LaVerne Klesel.



KJZT SOCIETY #111 PREPARES MEAL—In appreciation for all services rendered to Jackson County residents, the St. Agnes KJZT Society #111 recently served a luncheon to all EMS personnel. Pictured, left-right, Robert Swire, EMS, Russell Johnson, EMS, Doris Anel, KJZT President, Mary Sheblak, KJZT Vice President, Barbara Durocher, KJZT Treasurer, James Sudik, EMS Director and Michael Grayson, EMS.



Congregation From San Antonio, With Ties to the Diocese of Victoria Celebrates 150 Years Of Ministry

SAN ANTONIO—The Sisters of Divine Providence are celebrating the 150th Jubilee of their ministry in the United States. In 1866 Bishop Claude Dubuis invited Sisters St. Andrew Feltin and Alphonse Boegler to become missionaries in his Texas diocese. With the mandate “to found everywhere rural schools for girls,” they left their motherhouse in eastern France for a new mission. Within twenty years, they opened or staffed more than twenty schools not only in Texas rural areas but also in the cities of Austin, San Antonio and Galveston. In 1896 the Sisters opened Our Lady of the Lake Academy in San Antonio that developed into Our Lady of the Lake University.

Missionary Catechists

Later in 1930, Sister Benitia Vermeersch, CDP, founded the Missionary Catechists of Divine Providence in Houston to respond to the needs of refugees escaping the Mexican revolution (1910-36) by providing food, shelter and religious instruction for Mexican children. The MCDPs gained autonomy as a Pontifical Congregation in 1989. Today they minister primarily in Texas, California, and Kansas.

CDP and MCDP Ministries

Over the last century-and-a-half, the Sisters of Divine Providence and the Missionary Catechists of Divine Providence have served and studied in more than 1000 places in Texas, 38 other states, and 14 countries. During that time they have enlarged their works to include education at all levels, health and social services,

peace and justice initiatives, and religious instruction in parishes and dioceses.

The CDPs first Texas school (1866) was in what is now St. Mary's Cathedral School in the current Austin Diocese. Later Bishop Dubuis sent the Sisters to Castroville, where they established their Mother House. In 1896, they moved the Mother House to San Antonio, where they opened Our Lady of the Lake Academy that developed into the present Our Lady of the Lake University.

Diocese of Victoria

The CDPs and MCDPs have ministered in more than 40 cities and small communities in the current Diocese of Victoria. According to CDP records, the Sisters came to the diocese in 1871, when they took charge of Sts. Peter and Paul School in Frelsburg. The next year the Sisters taught at St. Joseph (Bernardo Prairie) and St. Roch (Mentz). In 1880, they began teaching at the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in High Hill; 1881, St. Joseph in Yoakum; 1882, St. John in Schulenburg; 1885, St. Mary's Institute in Columbus; 1887, St. Edward in Dubina (Navidad) and St. Joseph in Sedan; and 1889, St. Michael in Weimer.

In 1890, the Sisters taught at St. Rose of Lima, Schulenburg; 1894, St. Joseph in Moulton; 1896, Assumption in Praha; 1897, St. Anthony in Pisek and St. Michael in Cuero. In 1901, CDPs taught at Holy Rosary in Bluff (Hostyn); 1902, Pecan School in Holman; 1903, St. Anthony in Middle Creek; 1904, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Nada and St. Martin in Ammansville, and 1919, Sts. Cyril and



Our Lady of the Lake Conventual Chapel in San Antonio

Methodius in Cistern.

In their earlier days the Sisters ministered in education. Within the diocese they taught in more than twenty-five schools with some schools reaching high enrollments during various years: El Campo's St. Philip's (540 students), Schulenburg's St. Rose/Bishop Forest High (560 students), and Yoakum's St. Joseph (475 students). They also ministered in Catholic schools conducted by other orders (St. Joseph High School and Nazareth Academy in Victoria) and in some public schools. Although the Sisters of Divine Providence are not teaching in the diocese today, four of the schools they opened are still operating: St. Philip (El Campo), St. Rose of Lima (Schulenburg), St. Michael (Weimer); and St. Joseph (Yoakum).

Both CDPs and MCDPs later served in parish ministry and religious education. Some of the parishes where they ministered were St. Joseph, Boling; Our Lady of Guadalupe, Cuero; St. Agnes, Edna; St. Robert Bellarmine, El Campo; Sacred Heart, Flatonia; Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Ganado; St. Andrew Hillje; St. Ann, Hochheim; St. Pro-

copius Mission, Louise; Ascension of Our Lord, Moravia; St. Anthony of Padua, Palacios; Sts. Peter and Paul, Plum; St. Ann Mission, Point Comfort; Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca; St. Joseph, Port O'Connor, St. Patrick, Seadrift; Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Shiner; and St. John Nepomucene, New Taiton.

2016 Jubilee Activities

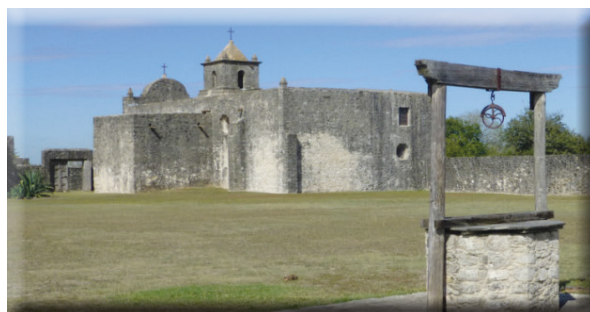
The 2016 celebrations began with a retreat for CDPs, MCDPs and Associates and an opening Liturgy of the Eucharist; and on February 7 the MCDPs celebrated 70 years of Rome's Papal Approval.

During the year the Sisters and Associates will continue to remember the communities and dioceses where they served and studied in special Masses. During April the congregations will especially remember the Diocese of Victoria.

Among the other activities planned is a Heritage Day on October 9. A festive Mass commemorating the anniversary of the Sisters' landing in Galveston will take place at Sacred Heart Conventual Chapel, Our Lady of the Lake Convent in San Antonio on October 23. Other events include an exhibit featuring the Sisters' artwork and artifacts and service projects throughout the year in honor of the Church's Year of Mercy and the ministry of the Sisters and Associates. For more information on their 150th Anniversary events please visit the congregation's website: www.cdptexas.org; Facebook page www.facebook.com/CDPTexas; or Twitter Feed: #cdpnuns.



The CDP Sisters in Columbus, Texas in 1892.



Presidio La Bahía Rich in History

Continued from pg. 1

ica. The preservation of this relationship greatly enhances the visitors' understanding of the partnership between the Spanish Crown and the Catholic Church in colonizing the New World.

The chapel was erected in the quadrangle for the sole use of the soldiers and Spanish settlers living in the town of La Bahía surrounding the fort. The name given to the chapel was "Our Lady of Loreto", and is the oldest building in the compound in continuous use since the 1700's. The Presidio chapel still serves as a community church. Our Lady of Loreto Chapel at Presidio La Bahía has served the spiritual needs of Catholics - Spanish, Mexican, Texas, American, in turn - since 1779. Even today, Mass services are held every Sunday at 5:00 p.m. at the Our Lady of Loreto Chapel.

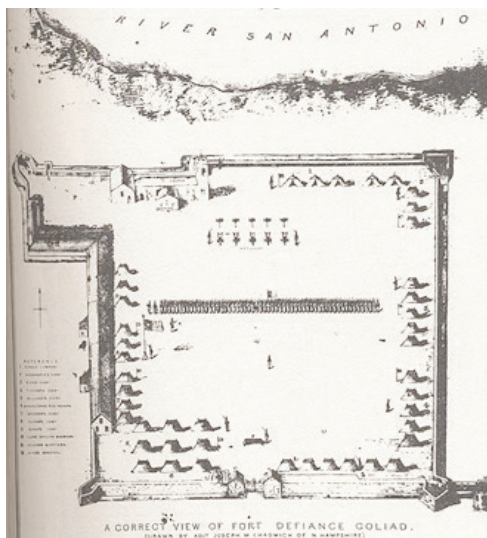
Each year, a group of Texas history guardians, known as "Friends Of The Fort", make tax-deductible contributions to Presidio La Bahía. Those donations are used to underwrite the cost of the living history programs that are offered throughout the year and to purchase items of need. La Bahía sustains itself only by admission fees, donations, and profits from the items that are sold. No tax dollars are spent at Presidio La Bahía.

The most popular annual event at the site, held in March/April each year is the Goliad Massacre Living History Program, a two-day re-enactment of the battle of Coleto Creek and the subsequent execution of Colonel James W. Fannin and his troops. Presidio La Bahía's Living History Program was developed to provide the public with an accurate re-enactment of the famous massacre of Colonel Fannin and his men. The re-enactors wear the uniforms and clothing

of the time period, 1836. Weapons used are accurately depicted. The Candlelight Tour is one of the most popular events of the weekend. At the conclusion of the daytime events on Saturday, it's time for the re-enactors to portray what might have happened the night before the Goliad massacre. The tour takes the visitor back to the fateful night before what would become known as the Goliad Massacre. The tour begins at sunset, and the visitors suddenly find themselves entering a moment in time long ago.

Director, Scott McMahon says that when he became the Director in February 2014, there was only one annual living history event. Scott has added an event every month. He believes in adding new programming; for example, in September the focus was on daily life of the soldiers stationed at the Presidio. Scott shares his vision for the Presidio, "I like historic sites that keep things fresh. I would like the Presidio to be a place people always want to visit regularly."

The Presidio is open Monday-Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. The Presidio welcomes overnight guests in its rentable living quarters, originally set up for priests quarters. The living quarters have been renovated to accommodate guests. For more information visit presidiolabahia.com.



KC FREE THROW WINNERS—Pictured are the winners of the Knights of Columbus State Free Throw held in San Antonio Saturday, March 5. Left-right, Elizabeth Grahmann - 2nd place, from Yoakum with KC Council #2433 Hallettsville; Ann Estelle Brown - 2nd place, from Hallettsville with KC Council #2433 Hallettsville; Alvin Kulcak - Knights of Columbus Victoria Diocesan Deputy; Koryl Zapata - 1st place from Waelder, KC Council #3233 Moulton; Erin Blaschke - 1st place from Moulton, KC Council #3244 Moulton.



YEAR OF MERCY PILGRIMAGE—Father Phi from Sisters of Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Convent and a group of parishioners/members of his Healing Ministry Group, made a pilgrimage on Sunday, February 28, 2016, to Holy Cross Church in Yorktown, where Father Phi led the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet alternating in English/Vietnamese, before going to Raphael's Refuge in Flatonia.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY—Chancery Staff, Rene Garcia and Ryan Leos really got into the spirit of St. Patrick's Day celebration.



EASTER EGG HUNT—The Our Lady of Victory School, Victoria, 3k and 4k children had a Easter egg hunt on the Chancery grounds. Following the hunt they enjoyed an Easter party.



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APRIL

National Child Abuse
Prevention Month



This month is a time to recognize that each and every one of us can play a part in promoting the well-being of our children, who are gifts entrusted to us by God. National Child Abuse Prevention Month reminds us of the need to be vigilant about providing a safe environment for all within the Church. We must all do our part to protect the life and dignity of our children at home, at school, and at church in an effort to end neglect and abuse of our innocent youth.

Please join the Diocese of Victoria Office of Child and Youth Protection in its commitment to remain tireless and observant in

protecting and caring for our children, our youth, and vulnerable adults. As we celebrate the season of Easter, let us also celebrate the protection of our most valuable gift from God: our children. Resource: www.emmauscounselingcenter.com/home.html.

Holy Family, Victoria, Returning God's Gifts....

In gratitude for God's abundant generosity, the parish family of Holy Family Church in Victoria donated \$52,145.40 to local and international organizations to be used for special projects.

These funds, donated through a monthly "Shares with Others" collection, were disseminated in mid-December. The recipients were: The Boys and Girls Club, Habitat for Humanity, Kolbe Prison Ministries, Nazareth Academy, St. Vincent

de Paul – Our Lady of Victory Conference, The Emmaus Counseling Center, The Riding Therapy Center, Victoria Christian Assistance Ministry (VCAM), Victoria County Senior Citizens Center, Victoria Gabriel Project, Homeless Coalition, Kidz Connection, Rushing Winds Ministry and the Guatemala Orphanage.

Grant applications will be available in mid October for the 2016 grant year.



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5th Sunday Of Easter Gospel – John 13:31–33A, 34–35

A **reading** from the **holy Gospel** according to **John**: When **Judas had left them, Jesus said**, / “**Now** is the **Son of Man** glorified, and **God** is glorified in **him**. / If God is **glorified** in him, / God will **also** glorify him in **himself**, / and God will **glorify** him at **once**. / My **children, I will** be **with** you **only a little while longer**. / I **give** you a **new commandment**: love **one** another. / As I **have loved** you, so **you** also **should** love one another. / **This** is **how all** will **know that you are** my **disciples**, / if you have love **for one another**.”

R	F	O	R	T	F	E	L	Y	W	Y	L	E	V	I	G	Z
H	O	L	Y	G	O	S	P	E	L	O	O	X	W	I	T	H
C	N	M	X	E	O	W	D	N	N	V	P	U	E	J	Y	A
W	I	E	L	A	R	E	O	G	N	E	R	D	L	I	H	C
H	G	I	W	Y	W	W	E	H	A	V	E	Q	F	K	J	A
Q	H	W	O	H	N	R	D	I	A	S	D	S	U	U	F	T
W	W	S	O	N	O	F	M	A	N	E	H	M	D	L	W	W
W	X	M	E	H	T	O	K	W	I	O	A	A	E	L	J	G
A	J	G	X	N	N	N	Z	F	U	L	S	S	T	I	V	N
J	R	O	M	E	O	X	I	L	Q	K	M	H	F	T	N	I
M	Y	D	H	W	T	R	D	T	B	I	A	F	L	T	O	D
O	F	C	J	N	O	B	H	Z	H	T	C	S	L	L	N	A
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O	G	Z	O	N	C	E	R	E	H	T	O	N	A	I	S	M

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Although the above material is copyrighted and copying of it is prohibited by law, the author does offer use of the material for educational purposes under an Educators Program. If you are interested in using this puzzle or book for educational use or for more information, contact Elie's Spiritual Treasures at (361) 894-7274, elies_spiritual_treasures@yahoo.com or visit www.searching-for-jesus.com.

There will be a drawing from those entries who send the above form with crossword puzzle to *The Catholic Lighthouse*, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 for a chance to win an Elie's Spiritual Treasures Bible Word Search book. Drawing will be held on April 29.

*We will be publishing a puzzle quarterly, the next one will be in August.

REASON WE DON'T
PRAY WELL OR ENOUGH

Ignorance – We just don't know what to do, how to do it, or even where to start. We allow ourselves to remain ignorant, because it is easier than putting in the effort to learn how to pray.



Easter Vigil at the Cathedral



Sunday Readings from April 10-May 15

April 10 - Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41
Psalms 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19

April 17 - Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 13:14, 43-52
Psalms 100:1-2, 3, 5
Revelation 7:9, 14B-17
John 10:27-30

April 24 - Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 14:21-27
Psalms 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13
Revelation 21:1-5A
John 13:31-33A, 34-35

May 1 - Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 15:1-2, 22-29
Psalms 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8
Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23
John 14:23-29

May 8 - Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord
Acts 1:1-11
Psalms 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9
Ephesians 1:17-23
Luke 24:46-53

May 15 - Pentecost Sunday
Acts 2:1-11
Psalms 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34
1 Corinthians 12:3B-7, 12-13
John 20:19-23

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

Brought to you by: Catholic Communications Campaign



Why Do Catholics Celebrate The Easter Vigil?

By Rev. Lawrence Rice, CSP

You may notice that many Christians observe Easter Sunday a little differently than Catholics do. For lots of churches, the peak celebration is Easter Sunday, maybe even a service at sunrise. Most Catholics will tell you that for us, Easter Sunday is almost anti-climactic. That's because for us, the most significant celebration was the night before, at the Easter Vigil.

We've been preparing for Easter through forty days of Lent, culminating in the Easter Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter on Saturday night. All that waiting and preparation peaks when we gather on Saturday night for a solemn vigil.

We wait in darkness, bless a fire, process with candles, and hear re-told the stories of our salvation through the scriptures. The emphasis is on waiting for the culmination of the story: Christ's resurrection from the dead. Bells are rung, and alleluias are sung as we hear the gospel account of Christ's rising. Then, following this proclamation of the core of our beliefs, new members are brought into the Church through baptism and a profession of faith. The recounting of Christ's new life is closely connected to the Church's renewal through the reception of its new members.

This celebration as a vigil is important because it doesn't just commemorate something God did in the past; it celebrates something God is doing today. Although our salvation was accomplished 2000 years ago, we are also watching and waiting to see what God is doing in our lives today.

Because our past and our future are connected, through God's saving power, it wouldn't seem like enough for us to simply sit in our pews on Sunday morning, as we do every week.

The celebration of Easter, as a vigil, invites us to break out our most potent symbols of God's action, and our response. So, all the waiting, the readings, music, candles, procession, and initiation, all remind us that God has accomplished something amazing by loving us so much. And our vigil is a statement, individually and collectively, that we are ready to be renewed and to live out of the grace we've received.



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Spain & Portugal

April 28 - Sky Restaurant - 11:30 a.m.

May 1 - Early Booking Discount

Barcelona - November 7

Madrid and Portugal - November 10

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Obispo Brendan Cahill - “Los Ojos del Lince” de Fe”

Queridos Hermanas y Hermanos,
Para alentar a nuestra oración Diocesana durante este Año Jubilar de la Misericordia hemos producido y distribuido cartas de oración con una oración especial

por el Padre Charles Kram, Jr. He estado orando esta oración todos los días como parte de mi ofrecimiento de la mañana, y durante la Cuaresma una imagen de la oración se ha destacado-“en unión con el sufrimiento silencioso de Jesús en la cruz y María al pie de la Cruz.” Esto se hizo una oración para mí que cada uno de nosotros en



la Diócesis de Victoria podríamos, por Semana Santa, tener la experiencia desde la perspectiva de Jesús y de María caminando el camino del Calvario. Imagino en mi oración, mirando el sufrimiento que Jesús sufrió por nuestra salvación y le doy gracias por el gran regalo de Su Amor. Hay un paso que sigue en nuestra oración que puede ser tan importante- aceptando en nuestros corazones el deseo amar el mundo con el mismo amor que nos mostró. ¿Como se parece este tipo de Amor?

Aquí está una imagen del manual del Legión de María, “Juntamente con María, estuvieron sobre el Calvario los representantes de cierta legión -el centurión y su cohorte-, desempeñando un papel lamentable en el ofrecimiento de la Víctima; aunque ciertamente no sabían que estaban crucificando al Señor de la Gloria (1 Cor. 2, 8). Pero, aun así, sobre ellos descendió la gracia a raudales. Dice San Bernardo: “Contemplad y ved qué penetrante es la mirada de la fe. ¡Qué ojos de lince tiene! Reparadlo bien: con la fe supo el centurión ver la Vida en la muerte, y en su ultimo aliento al Espíritu soberano”. Contem-

plando a su víctima sin vida ni figura, le proclamaron los legionarios romanos verdadero Hijo de Dios (Mt. 27, 54).”

El sufrimiento de Jesús no era completamente silencioso y la comunicación era más en sus acciones que en sus palabras breves y potentes. Miró a las multitudes con amor puro- en un modo pienso con los “ojos del lince” mirando hacia atrás al Centurion invitandole a la Verdad y Salvación.

El sufrimiento que aguantamos en nuestro camino no tiene que estar en silencio. Esto es la fuente de la Libertad verdadera y el Poder verdadero en el modo que San Pablo viviría y escribiría sobre estas palabras – “es el poder de Dios guiando todos que creen en la salvación” (ROM. 1:16-17).

Como ya hemos entrado en la temporada de Pascua y nuestra oración se convierta en el efusión del Espíritu Santo en el Pentecostés, espero que nuestros ojos miren sobre el mundo con el mismo amor que Jesús ofreció en el camino al Calvario. ¡Que Dios bendiga a usted y su familias, muchas gracias por tu hermoso testimonio de amor y misericordia de Dios todos los días!

+ Brendan



¡La Temporada de Pascua ha Comenzado!

La mayoría de la gente piensa que Pascua es solo un día. Los Católicos celebran la semana Santa por 50 días. El tiempo de Pascua se extiende hasta la fiesta de Pentecostés.

Una forma en que la Iglesia persigue este objetivo de ver a Dios presente en el mundo es a través de la lectura de los Hechos de los Apóstoles. Misas durante toda la temporada de la Pascua serán de los Hechos de los Apóstoles, en lugar de la práctica habitual de la lectura del Antiguo Testamento. Este año Pentecostés es domingo, 15 de mayo de 2016.

Competición de Capirotada



Nuestra Señora de los Dolores tuvo una competición de capirotada para el segundo año. ¡Deliciosas recetas fueron compartidas! Los ganadores fueron de izquierda a derecha: Sra. Sadie Garcia (1st), Sra. Belinda Villafraña (2nd), Sra. Sarita Gutierrez (3rd), y Sra. Sofia Jervis (4th). Los jueces fueron Padre Philip Brune, Sr. Pete Navarro y Sr. Arthur Vasquez.

Cómo Rezar La Coronilla De Divina Misericordia

Oraciones opcionales para comenzar

Expiraste, Jesús, pero tu muerte hizo brotar un manantial de vida para las almas y el océano de tu misericordia inundó todo el mundo.
Oh, Fuente de Vida, insondable misericordia divina,
anega el mundo entero derramando sobre nosotros hasta tu última gota.
(Se repite 3 veces) Oh Sangre y Agua, que brotaron del Corazón de Jesús como una fuente de misericordia para nosotros, en ti confío.

El Padre nuestro, el Ave María y el Credo de los Apóstoles.

En cada decena del rosario (en la cuenta de cada “Padre Nuestro” se reza)
Padre Eterno, te ofrezco el Cuerpo, la Sangre, el Alma y la Divinidad de tu amadísimo Hijo, nuestro Señor Jesucristo, para el perdón de nuestros pecados y los del mundo entero.

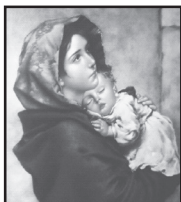
(En cada una de las 10 cuentas del “Ave María”, se reza)
Por su dolorosa Pasión, ten misericordia de nosotros y del mundo entero.

Oración final (Se repite 3 veces)

Santo Dios, Santo Fuerte, Santo Inmortal, ten piedad de nosotros y del mundo entero.

Oraciones opcionales para concluir

Oh Dios eterno, en quien la misericordia es infinita y el tesoro de compasión inagotable, vuelve a nosotros tu mirada bondadosa y aumenta tu misericordia en nosotros, para que en momentos difíciles no nos desesperemos ni nos desalentemos, sino que, con gran confianza, nos sometamos a tu santa voluntad, que es plenitud de tu amor y tu misericordia.



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Padre Elizondo evocó ‘el bien de toda persona’, dice homilista

Por Catholic News Service

SAN ANTONIO (CNS) — Padre Virgilio Elizondo “inspiró, retó, enseñó y nos lideró por nuevos caminos de pensar en Dios, Jesús, La Virgen de Guadalupe, la iglesia, el mundo y nosotros mismos”, dijo padre David García el 19 de marzo.

Padre García, director de las Antiguas Misiones Españolas de la Arquidiócesis de San Antonio, hizo el comentario durante su homilía en la Misa memorial para su amigo de mucho tiempo.

Padre Virgilio Elizondo, conocido nacionalmente como profesor de Teología Pastoral e Hispánica en la universidad Notre Dame, y funda-

dor de lo que es hoy es el Colegio Católico México Americano en San Antonio, fue encontrado muerto en su hogar durante la tarde del 14 de marzo. Él tenía 80 años de edad.

Tarde al día siguiente la oficina de medicina forense del condado Bexar había afirmado que su muerte fue suicidio, confirmando que el sacerdote murió de una herida de bala autoinfligida.

La Misa memorial para padre Elizondo, quien era ampliamente conocido como “el padre del pensamiento religioso latino de Estados Unidos”, se celebró en la iglesia St. Rose of Lima en San Antonio, donde padre Elizondo había servido como vicario parroquial durante muchos años. El arzobispo Gustavo García-Siller de San Antonio fue el celebrante principal de la liturgia bilingüe con sacerdotes de la arquidiócesis como concelebrantes.

Un servicio de sepultura para miembros de su familia había de llevarse a cabo en otra fecha.

“Él nos ayudó evocando el bien que hay en toda persona, especialmente los marginados y los pobres, de modo que todos sintiéramos una aceptación y acogida que nos inspirara a tratar a otros de la misma manera”, dijo padre García en su homilía pronunciada en inglés y español. “Junto con mucha gente, lo considero mentor y doy gracias a Dios por las maneras en que Virgilio cambió mi vida”.

Padre Elizondo nunca limitó su trabajo ni su amistad a solamente la comunidad hispana,

dijo padre García, porque el finado

sacerdote se sentía igual de cómodo con rabinos e imanes que con sacerdotes y profesores universitarios católicos.

“Él se sentía tan cómodo con inmigrantes indocumentados y los desamparados como con la élite política y empresarial de la ciudad”, continuó el homilista. “A

él le encantaba celebrar las costumbres populares religiosas tanto como las ceremonias solemnes del Misal Romano. En efecto, a todos nos asombraba su profundidad, su mente y su interminable creatividad que generaba más ideas que las que podíamos atender”.

Padre García evocó a Jesús, “aquel que Virgilio llamaba mestizo, que combina en sí

mismo todas las razas, culturas y pueblos” para mostrarle “misericordia a Virgilio y a nosotros”.

“Dejemos que esa misericordia sea un momento de ternura y atención, de sanación y esperanza, de una promesa de que esta vida es breve pero el reino de Dios es para la eternidad”, dijo el sacerdote.

Padre García mencionó el alegato de mala conducta sexual hecho contra padre Elizondo en mayo del 2015, acusación que el finado sacerdote negó vigorosamente en una declaración pública y en conversaciones con amigos. Él estaba preparado para combatirla jurídicamente.

Padre Elizondo fue nombrado secundariamente en una demanda judicial civil presentada por una persona no identificada en el tribunal de distrito del condado Bexar en San Antonio. La demanda también nombró al exsacerdote Jesús Armando Domínguez, de la Arquidiócesis de San Antonio.

La demanda alegaba que el no identificado había sido abusado sexualmente cuando era niño, de 1980 a 1983, mientras vivía en un orfanato y tenía a Domínguez como mentor, quien entonces era estudiante en el seminario Assumption en San Antonio. El no identificado alegó que cuando fue a reportarle el abuso a padre Elizondo, el sacerdote lo besó y lo manoseó.

“Los alegatos contra padre Virgilio y ahora su muerte nos han dejado a todos con un profundo sentido de pérdida y sufrimiento. Es verdadero el dolor que sentimos”, dijo padre García. “Nunca sabremos todos los hechos y la herida que hay hoy tomará mucho tiempo sanarse, si lo hace.

“Lo que sabemos y la razón por la cual estamos hoy aquí es que el sacerdote, padre Virgilio Elizondo, dejó una influencia tremenda y positiva en las vidas de mucha gente”, dijo el homilista. “Él ayudó especialmente a la comunidad hispana de este país a articular una teología que nos permitió sentirnos parte de la historia de Jesús de una manera nueva y más profunda”.

El arzobispo García-Siller, en sus comentarios durante la Misa, también ofrecida en inglés y español, dijo que la gran congregación reunida en St. Rose of Lima esa mañana representaba “solamente una fracción de miles y miles de personas cuyas vidas fueron tocadas por padre Virgil, nuestro hermano”.

Padre Elizondo se mantuvo conectado a sus raíces, no solamente en San Antonio sino también específicamente en la parte occidental de la ciudad, dijo el arzobispo. Él también logró “una comprensión y apreciación siempre más profunda de esas raíces”. Siendo mestizo, él vivía “en la frontera” entre dos culturas, estadounidense y mexicana, que “agudizaron su percepción de la riqueza y diversidad de su herencia. ... Él dedicó gran parte de su vida a ayudar a otros a entender la cultura y la religión hispana”.

El arzobispo también describió a padre Elizondo como “completamente y siempre un pastor”.

“Ser un sacerdote amable y compasivo era parte de la naturaleza de padre Virgilio; era parte de su ADN, en la médula de sus huesos. Él se extendía hacia los desamparados y las prostitutas, a los líderes cívicos y a empresarios. ... Como sacerdote, él vivía la visión del papa Francisco: una visión de encuentro, de diálogo e inclusión”.

El arzobispo García-Siller terminó sus comentarios recordando que cuando padre Elizondo se enteró que un alegato de abuso se había presentado contra él en una demanda civil “estaba literalmente en el Jardín de Getsemaní”.

“A él le quedaba un día en su viaje a Tierra Santa y pasó el día completo en el Calvario, en la Iglesia del Santo Sepulcro”, dijo el arzobispo. “En cierto sentido él se quedó en el Calvario hasta este pasado lunes (14 de marzo). Entonces él cruzó el umbral de la vida a la muerte, solo, pero con la esperanza de la resurrección. Su partida fue un momento en una historia larga y hermosa de su vida. Que nuestro Dios todo misericordioso y compasivo le conceda descanso eterno y paz”.



Papa Francisco

La alegría de la esperanza trae luz en momentos más oscuros, dice el papa

Por Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — La esperanza es una virtud humilde pero potente que le da a los cristianos paz durante los momentos más oscuros de la vida, dijo el papa Francisco durante su Misa matutina.

“La esperanza es una virtud humilde, esa virtud que fluye bajo el agua de la vida pero evita que nos ahogemos entre tantas dificultades”, dijo el papa el 17 de marzo durante la Misa en la capilla de la Casa Santa Marta.

El papa reflexionó sobre el Evangelio del día (Jn. 8:51-59), donde Jesús le dice a los escribas: “Abraham, el padre de ustedes se estremeció de gozo esperando ver mi día: lo vio y se llenó de alegría”.

La referencia de Jesús a Abraham, dijo el papa, enfatiza la importancia de la esperanza en la vida cristiana. Aunque Abraham experimentó tentaciones en su camino, “él creyó más allá de toda esperanza”.

“Cuando no hay esperanza humana hay esa virtud (sobrenatural) que trae a uno adelante. Es humilde, simple, pero le da a uno alegría — a veces gran alegría, a veces solamente paz — pero le da a uno la seguridad de que la esperanza no engaña. La esperanza no engaña”, él dijo.

La esperanza es difícil de reconocer y explicar, él dijo, pero es el “hilo de esperanza” lo que une a los cristianos y los guía hacia adelante y “nos da paz en momentos difíciles”.

“La esperanza no engaña, siempre está allí: silenciosa, humilde pero fuerte”, él dijo.



Author gives strong, clear portrait of U.S. priest killed in Guatemala

By Kathleen Finley
Catholic News Service

“The Shepherd Who Didn’t Run: Fr. Stanley Rother, Martyr from Oklahoma” by Maria Ruiz Scaperlanda. Our Sunday Visitor (Huntington, Indiana, 2015). 255 pp., \$19.95.

Few people will encounter an actual martyr in their lives, someone who dies for his or her faith. If we were to go looking for a martyr in our times, perhaps one of the least likely places we might think to look would be on a farm in Oklahoma.

Maria Ruiz Scaperlanda tells the inspiring story of Father Stanley Rother, from his days of growing up in rural Oklahoma to his being drawn to the priesthood and to serve the people of Guatemala, even to giving his life for them.

Scaperlanda gives a strong and clear portrait of a boy and young man who absorbed his family's deep Catholic faith and love of the land but whose academic abilities often fell far behind his practical skills and interests. Having failed the seminary curriculum the first time – much of it in Latin then – he was only able to go to another seminary with special permission and tutoring help to achieve ordination, much like St. John Vianney, the cure of Ars, more than a hundred years earlier.

After his ordination and a few years in pastoral ministry in Oklahoma, Father Rother was drawn to the diocesan mission team that had been sent to Guatemala years earlier as a result of St. John XXIII inviting the churches of North America to help those in Latin America. So in 1968, he joined the team working in Santiago Atitlan, a peaceful village near breathtaking Lake Atitlan in the southwest part of Guatemala.

He connected well with the simple people of the earth there, the Tz’utujil Indians, openhearted people with a deep faith. “Padre Francisco” – easier for them to say than Stanley – became deeply loved by them, even dressing like them and eating in their homes. He made it a point to learn their language, a difficult one to master, although languages had never come easy.

When he dined at the rectory in later years after a number of the other members of the team had left for various reasons, he always welcomed an older peasant man to dine with him, one whom many in the community could not be around for long because of his odor and his mannerisms.

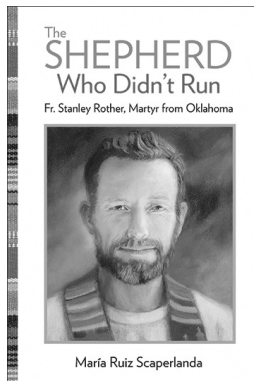
As the 1970s went by, there were more and more signs of violence that were coming nearer to the remote area where he was ministering, and many foreigners and natives of the area went into hiding from the brutal civil war that was raging. Father

Rother often ended up hiding those fleeing the daily disappearances, killings and danger that were the life of his people.

In early 1981, he learned that his name also was on a death list; he returned to Oklahoma to see his family and was urged to stay for his safety, but he knew he needed to return to be with his people.

Scaperlanda takes us into the beautiful country of Guatemala in a way that those of us who have had an opportunity to travel there will really appreciate. She also helps us see how Father Rother’s gifts, including his open simplicity, his practical skills and steadfastness were just the ones needed in the mission to which he was called.

The only shortcoming of the book for this reviewer was its title because many dedicated pastors and shepherds in that part of the world felt that they had to leave at times to be there for their people in the long run. But Father Rother didn’t leave his flock, and the church in Guatemala, the United States and the world is richer for his steadfast, caring love for his people.



Stations of the Cross for deaf help them follow story of Jesus’ passion

By Catholic News Service

GREEN BAY, Wis. (CNS) — Praying the Stations of the Cross is a popular Lenten activity for Catholics, but for those who are deaf or hard of hearing, it can be a difficult, sometimes impossible challenge to follow along with the story of Jesus’ passion.

About 10 years ago, the deaf community in the Diocese of Green Bay began holding “Deaf Stations of the Cross” at St. John the Evangelist Church in Green Bay. Using American Sign Language, community members take turns presenting the meditations and prayers that make up the stations. This year, they used a booklet that offered Mary’s perspective of Jesus’ journey to the cross, according to Jean Laux, director for Deaf Ministry at St. John the Evangelist Parish.

About 20 people turned out for the Deaf Stations of the Cross March 11. Images of each station were projected onto a



Tammy Schmidt interprets an opening prayer during Stations of the Cross for the deaf community March 11, at St. John the Evangelist Church in Green Bay, Wis. (CNS photo/Sam Lucero, *The Compass*)

screen in the church sanctuary.

“We do not move from station to station because it is too hard to see the person signing,” explained Laux, who is deaf. “We need to have a clear sight line.” The stations also are voice interpreted for people who do not know American Sign Language.

The “Deaf Stations of the Cross” are held only once during Lent, said Laux, because people travel long distances to attend.

REASON WE DON'T PRAY WELL OR ENOUGH

Ignorance – We just don’t know what to do, how to do it, or even where to start. We allow ourselves to remain ignorant, because it is easier than putting in the effort to learn how to pray.

College Students Unite Nationally for Rez Week

AUSTIN—Forty college campuses across the country will unite for prayer, worship and sharing their faith, during Rez Week, March 28th through April 1st. The goal of Rez Week is to “make Jesus the most talked about person on college campuses”.

Hundreds of college students gathered at The University of Texas at Austin for prayer and worship from over 50 different organizations and churches starting on March 28, 2016.

“It’s one event, happening in many different locations at the same time, of students coming together to seek God for the Jesus Movement of this generation,” says Jeremy Story, President of Campus Renewal, the organization behind Rez Week.

To kick off Rez Week on Monday evening March 28, a hundred people, both students and others, engaged in a live interactive prayer broadcast from David’s Tent.

Rez Week, short for Resurrection Week, began in 1995, at The University of Texas at Austin, as a way for the various

campus ministries and churches to set aside differences and come together around their belief in Jesus Christ.

“Rez Week would give us the opportunity to get our ministries together to see that we all love Jesus and want to see him glorified,” states Matt Vanderworp, senior music education major at The University of Houston.

Beginning in 1995, Rez Week took place on approximately one hundred campuses across America for several years. On the University of Texas at Austin campus, Rez Week continues event though the national event was discontinued. In the past two years, after much prayer and interest from College pastors, Campus Renewal felt it was time to reignite Rez Week and expand it nationally.

“Every campus that starts a Rez Week is another campus that is impacted by the gospel,” says Kelsie Rogers, junior marketing major at The University of Texas at Austin, which has continued doing Rez

Week the past twenty-two years, “The amount of changed lives will multiply as a result of other campuses doing this event.”

The campuses doing Rez Week include big ones and small, community colleges and four year universities, Christian and secular schools, from nearly every region of the United States. Each campus’s event will vary, from single nights of united prayer, to week long festivals with various activities.

“There are 33,000 people on our campus and only about 1% of them know Christ,” Kevin Chieng, a senior studying kinesiology at San Jose State University, expresses, “When we unite around Jesus and his glorious gospel we can reach those 33,000 together.”

Campuses participating in Rez Week understand this idea: they are not uniting for the sake of the Church alone, but are uniting for a greater purpose -to reach more of the many students who are lost or searching, who will leave the campus and become the leaders of the next generation.



The Joy Of Hope Brings Light In The Darkest Times, Pope Says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Hope is a humble, yet powerful virtue that gives Christians peace in life's darkest moments, Pope Francis said at his morning Mass. "Hope is a humble virtue; that virtue which flows beneath the water of life but that keeps us from drowning in so many difficulties," the pope said March 17, during the Mass in the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae. The pope reflected on the day's Gospel (Jn. 8:51-59), in which Jesus tells the scribes, "Abraham your father rejoiced to see my day; he saw it and was glad." Jesus' reference to Abraham, the pope said, underlines the importance of hope in Christian life. Although Abraham experienced temptations along the way, "he believed beyond all hope." "When there is no human hope, there is that (supernatural) virtue that brings you forward. It is humble, simple, yet it gives you joy — at times great joy, at times only peace — but it gives you the assurance that hope does not deceive. Hope does not deceive," he said. Hope is difficult to recognize and explain, he said, but it is the "thread of hope" which unites Christians and guides them forward and "gives us peace in difficult moments." "Hope does not deceive, it is always there: silent, humble yet strong," he said.

Catholics Urged To Sign Petition Calling For U.S. Declaration Of Genocide

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The archbishop who serves as president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has asked U.S. Catholics to sign a pledge calling for an end to the slaughter of Christians and members of other religious minority groups in the Middle East. "Today, the people of God must speak up for our brothers and sisters facing genocide in the Middle East," said a March 14, statement from Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, USCCB president. "As a people of faith, we must convince the U.S. Department of State to include Christians in any formal declaration of genocide." The same day the House in a bipartisan 393-0 vote approved a nonbinding resolution that condemns as genocide the atrocities being carried out by Islamic State militants against Christians and other religious and ethnic minorities in the areas it occupies in Iraq and Syria. Secretary of State John Kerry must decide by mid-March whether to make a formal declaration of genocide. After the House vote, Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wisconsin, said that as the Obama administration "waffles on this issue and doubles-down on its failed strategy" to defeat the Islamic State, "the American people are speaking loudly and clearly on this issue."



M I G R A N T S — A man sits on the bench at a makeshift camp for migrants and refugees near Idomeni, Greece, April 1. (CNS photo/Marko Djurica, Reuters)

Pope Francis To Make Debut On Instagram, Vatican Official Says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Firming up his presence on social media, Pope Francis will make his debut on the photo-sharing app Instagram, a Vatican official announced.

Msgr. Dario Vigano, prefect of the Secretariat for Communications, said the pope's new account "Franciscus," will go online March 19, and offer another side of his pontificate through photos.

During a news conference presenting a new book on the pope, Msgr. Vigano dubbed him "the Apple pope" because "there is very complex system behind a simple interface."

That simplicity translated well for the pope's Twitter account, which has well over 25 million followers in nine languages.

Whether at general audiences or during foreign trips, thousands of people try to take a coveted "papal selfie" with the pope. While it is unlikely the pope will pose for his own selfies, the account will offer viewers a glimpse into the pope's life and messages.

The announcement came just over two weeks after Pope Francis met with Kevin Systrom, CEO and co-founder of Instagram.

"Today I had the honor of meeting Pope Francis," Systrom wrote to his followers on the photo-sharing app. "We spoke about the power of images to unite people across different cultures and languages. It was by far one of the most memorable experiences of my life!"

Catholic Leaders Reflect On Life, Work Of EWTN Founder Mother Angelica

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Mother Angelica "reflected the Gospel commission to go forth and make disciples of all nations" said Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, president of the U.S. bishops' conference.

"Like the best evangelists, she used the communications tools of her time to make this happen. She displayed a unique capacity for mission and showed the world once again the vital contribution of women religious."

Archbishop Kurtz was one of several Catholic leaders who took note of the March 27, death of Mother Angelica, a Poor Clare of Perpetual Adoration, who founded the Eternal Word Television Network. Virtually all of them, at one time or another, had appeared on EWTN.

"Her work, begun in the cloister,

reached across the globe," Archbishop Kurtz said in a March 28, statement. "She was a convincing sign as to how even the humblest of beginnings can yield abundant fruit."

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia, who served on the EWTN board of directors for many years, called Mother Angelica "a woman of extraordinary faith, intelligence, energy and determination." He added he "saw firsthand the tremendously positive impact her work for Jesus Christ had on many millions of people."

"Mother Angelica brought the truth and the love and the life of the Gospel of Jesus to so many people, not only to our Catholic household of faith, but to many thousands of people who are not Catholic, in that beautiful way she had of touching lives, bringing so many people

into the Catholic faith," said Bishop Robert J. Baker of Birmingham, Alabama, in whose diocese EWTN is located.

"Mother Angelica was a pioneer of the new evangelization before that term ever became popular," said Msgr. Walter Rossi, rector of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, the site of many Masses telecast live each year by EWTN.

"By providing religious programming, the Mass and devotions, first by television and now by every form of communications media, Mother Angelica and EWTN proclaimed the message of the Gospel to millions of people throughout the world," he said.

"She untiringly exhorted all to pursue holiness by living with God in the present moment. We are grateful for your prayers for this courageous daughter of the church," said Mother Dolores Marie, superior of the Poor Clare Nuns of Perpetual Adoration of Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Hanceville, Alabama. The monastery is north of the Birmingham suburb of Irondale, where EWTN has its headquarters.



(CNS photo)

"Her voice and her message will be with us for a long time," said a statement from Father Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life, about Mother Angelica. "We have all lost a friend, a mentor, a spiritual mother, a voice of conscience, and a source of laughter and encouragement."

"Mother Angelica was a true media giant. She proved that the church belonged in the popular media alongside the news, sports, and talk shows," said Franciscan Father Michael O. Sheridan, president of the Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio. The show "Franciscan University Presents," a roundtable theology discussion, has been produced by the university for EWTN since 1993.

"She heeded the call of the Second Vatican Council to bring the Gospel message into contemporary society. With humor and the occasional stern word, but always moved by a deep love of people, Mother Angelica faithfully conveyed the knowledge and love of God to Catholics, Christians, and nonbelievers alike," Father Sheridan added.



Hayley Orrantia stars in a scene from the movie “God’s Not Dead 2.” The Catholic News Service classification is A-II – adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG – parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children. (CNS photo/Pure Flix)

God’s Not Dead 2

NEW YORK (CNS) — The very real threats to religious freedom in contemporary society could serve as the theme for a valuable documentary or a thought-provoking drama.

What we get with “God’s Not Dead 2” (Pure Flix), however, is a flawed message movie undermined from the start by a fictional premise that feels thoroughly implausible.

In following up on his 2014 original, director Harold Cronk, along with returning screenwriters Chuck Konzelman and Cary Solomon, shifts the scene from the groves of secularist academe to the halls of an Anywhere, USA, public high school.

There, history teacher, and committed evangelical believer, Grace Wesley (Melissa Joan Hart) is asked a question regarding the Christian antecedents of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.’s strategy of nonviolence during the civil rights movement. (She has already covered the influence of Mahatma Gandhi on Rev. King.)

Grace responds by citing Jesus’ famous admonition, recorded in the Gospel of Matthew: “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you.” Whereupon all hell breaks loose.

Never mind that Grace has done nothing that could possibly be seen as proselytizing in the classroom; that she has invoked no specifically religious belief such as the divinity of Christ or his role as mankind’s savior; that her answer is strictly factual and thoroughly within the appropriate confines of the discussion. Faster than you can say Madalyn Murray O’Hair, the administration is down on her

like a pack of wolves -- closely followed by the school board and the American Civil Liberties Union.

If only Grace would apologize for her lapse in judgment, all would be forgiven. But she remains steadfast. So it’s off to court, where she’ll be represented by untried but good-hearted lawyer Tom Endler (Jesse Metcalfe).

Cheering Grace on from the sidelines – and providing her with emotional and spiritual support – is her kindly grandfather, Walter (Pat Boone). Leading the charge against her is the American Civil Liberty Union’s serpentine lead attorney, Peter Kane (Ray Wise).

Kane oozes sweet reasonableness, yet he rests his case on the thoroughly irrational notion that Jesus never existed. The debate that follows showcases the interesting work of J. Warner Wallace, a veteran Los Angeles County cold-case detective who applied police investigative techniques to examining the evidence about Jesus’ life, death and resurrection. But the fact that Kane is a straw man pursuing an unrealistic strategy compromises the impact of Wallace’s rebuttal.

Audiences may also be slightly unsettled by the fact that Kane’s backup counsel, who hovers around with little to say, looks like a thin Seth Rogen playing a young Henry Kissinger. His persona implicitly evokes a stereotype far better left alone.

Taken as a whole, this reaffirmation of belief, though appropriate for most moviegoers, suffers from an off-key tone, a pervasive sense of victimhood and sometimes painful sentimentality.

The film contains mature themes and an instance of harsh parental violence.

“Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice” (Warner Bros)

The titans of the DC Comics universe battle it out in this follow-up to 2013’s Superman reboot, “Man of Steel,” once again directed by Zack Snyder. The Dark Knight (Ben Affleck) grows to resent the death and destruction wrought as collateral damage in the clash between Krypton’s favorite son (Henry Cavill) and his archenemy, Gen. Zod (Michael Shannon). So he joins in a rising chorus of voices questioning the mighty alien’s true intentions. From the sidelines, megalomaniac Lex Luthor (Jesse Eisenberg) aggravates the conflict for his own purposes. All of this threatens the shackled-up domestic bliss shared by Superman’s alter ego, Clark Kent, and his Daily Planet newspaper colleague, Lois Lane (Amy Adams). But help is on the way with the unexpected appearance of 5,000-year-old Amazon princess Wonder Woman (Gal Gadot). Snyder’s film is at once thoroughly entertaining and thought provoking, even if its operatic scale comes at the cost of endless mayhem and an ear-splitting score. The roller-coaster ride into which he straps viewers is often exhilarating and ultimately exhausting – and much too intense for the younger set. Relentless and intense action violence, cohabitation, brief partial nudity,

The following movies have been rated O – Morally offensive by Catholic New Service. This classification is applied, most importantly, to films that deny the existence of God, ridicule religious faith or are otherwise sacrilegious. Movies that directly contradict scriptural values and church teaching on such matters as euthanasia, abortion, suicide, adultery, homosexual activity or vigilante killing and revenge also fall into this category. So, too, do films that feature excessive violence, gratuitous or exploitative sexuality or, for no artistically valid reason, non-stop vulgarity.

“Meet the Blacks” (Freestyle) – Motion Picture Association of America rating, R – restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

“The Perfect Match” (Lionsgate) – The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R – restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

“The Brothers Grimsby” (Columbia) – The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R – restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

occasional profanity and crude language. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III – adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 – parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

“Miracles From Heaven” (Columbia)

Remarkable fact-based story of a 10-year-old Texas girl (Kylie Rogers) who develops a rare, painful and incurable disease that prevents her body from digesting food. Though her parents (Jennifer Garner and Martin Henderson) are both churchgoers, persistent Mom – after struggling to obtain a correct diagnosis and access to the care of a kindly specialist (Eugenio Derbez) – loses her faith in the face of her daughter’s current torment and impending death. Yet a startling, almost inexplicable, turnaround awaits her. While it’s clearly designed for believers, and sometimes feels padded, director Patricia Riggen’s squeaky clean drama minimizes neither its protagonist’s crisis of doubt nor the larger mystery of innocent suffering. Mature themes, potentially upsetting incidents and medical procedures. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II – adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG – parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

“My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2” (Universal)

The close-knit Hellenic family featured in the 2002 original -- loving, clingy, earthy and in your face at all the most inopportune moments -- returns in this romantic comedy, but without the zest of that first outing. The problem is not so much the ambling plot, which involves marital strains between star and screenwriter Nia Vardalos’ self-sacrificing character and her husband (John Corbett) as well as a technical glitch requiring that her long spliced parents (Michael Constantine and Lainie Kazan) go through a fresh wedding. The real difficulty is that Vardalos only manages the occasional adept gag, while director Kirk Jones can do little with the rest of the project. As a result, the story comes down to a few pithy quotes interspersed with half-hearted physical comedy that has the taste of stale mousaka. Sexual references and light banter. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



EVENTS

The Catholic Lighthouse
Page 19 — April 2016

Meals • Picnics and more

April

Victoria—KJZT Society #101 bake sale Apr. 16-17 after all Masses at Holy Family. Benefits the Food Bank.

Beasley—St. Wenceslaus Annual Bazaar Apr. 17 on the parish grounds (407 S 3rd St.). A BBQ beef, chicken, sausage dinner beginning at 10:30 a.m. at \$10 p/p dine-in or plates-to-go available. Live auction at 12:00 p.m. along with games, music and more for all ages.

Blessing—Catholic Daughters Court #2546 of St. Peter's Church will have a chicken spaghetti meal (chicken spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, and dessert), Apr. 17, at St Peter's Parish Hall. Serving begins at 10:30 a.m. until sold out. Plates are \$8 p/p (dine-in or to-go). Benefits the Catholic Daughter scholarships and charities.

Victoria—KC Golf Tournament April 22.

Bay City—Holy Cross School Annual Spring Bazaar Apr. 24. Lunch from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the KC Hall with a live auction starting at noon. Also included will be a "snack shack", play area for the children and raffle. More information can be found on the school's website: www.bcholocrossschool.org.

Bloomington—St. Patrick's Spring Festival, Apr. 24 at the parish hall. A half pound BBQ brisket dinner starting at 11:00 a.m. at \$9 p/p with curb service available. Live auction at 11:30 a.m., there will also be games, country store and cake walk.

Weimar—St. Michael Church Spring Festival Apr. 24 at Veterans Memorial Park. Fried chicken and sausage dinner at 11:00 a.m. at \$9 p/p. Auction-1:00 p.m.; games, washing pitching; hamburgers and music by Czechaholics and Hitmen (11:00 a.m.-8:30 p.m.).

Victoria—LISTOPAD a story of 3 boys and a Revolution at Leo J. Welder Center of the Performing Arts. Sponsored by Victoria County Czech Heritage Society and Victoria Film Society, Monday, April 25, at 7:30 p.m. Beginning at 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. a meet and greet with film director. Tickets \$9 are per person on sale at box office or on line weldercenter.org.

May

Victoria—Holy Family Parish Festival, May 1 at the Community Center.

Victoria—Catholic Daughters Court St. Ann #369 Games Party, Thursday, May 5, 6:00-9:30 p.m. at the KC Hall. Entrance fee is \$8 p/p with a meal served at 6:30 p.m. There will be door prizes, raffle drawings and fun for everyone. RSVP by calling Dolores Schroller at (361) 575-6111 or Joan Schramek at (361) 485-2387.

Hallettsville—Sacred Heart Parish Picnic, May 29 at the KC Hall.

Shiner—Sts. Cyril and Methodius Picnic, May 29 at the KC Hall.

June

East Bernard — Annual Czech Kolache Klobase Festival, Saturday, June 11 from 10:30 a.m to 8:00 p.m. at Riverside Hall sponsored by KJT Society No. 40. Admission is \$8 p/p and children 12 and under free. Entertainment indoors and under pavilion with water fan cooled comfort. Sausage/BBQ chicken plate lunches available beginning 11:00 a.m. Hamburgers and sausage sandwiches available in the afternoon. Arts/crafts and family fun. For more information, go to www.kkfest.com or call 979-335-7907.

Ministries • Ongoing Activities

Amor Meus Spirituality Center—On-going opportunity for guidance and discussion on one's spiritual journey with experienced spiritual directors. Call for appointment. Amor Meus Spirituality Center, 1101 N.E. Water St., Victoria, TX 77901; (361) 575-7111; e-mail: amormeus@yahoo.com; website: www.amormeusspiritualitycenter.org.

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

Courage—Ministers to persons with same-sex attractions and their loved ones. The ministry also has an outreach, Encourage, which ministers to relatives, spouses, and friends of persons with same-sex attractions. It is a Roman Catho-

Conferences • Masses • Retreats and more

Holy Land Pilgrimage—Walking in the footsteps of Jesus July 11-19, 2016, with spiritual director Father Peter Yeboah-Amanfo from St. Peter's Church, Blessing. Fly round trip from Houston for \$2,850 p/p. For more information about this trip visit www.nativitypilgrimage.com, call (844) 400-9559 or e-mail info@nativitypilgrimage.com.

Schulenburg—Contemplative Prayer: The Cloud of Unknowing Seminar directed by Dr. Michael Fonseca: Saturday, April 30, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. God's Embrace Little Chapel of St. Mary, 1601 High Hill Rd. Cost of the seminar is \$25 p/p, seating is limited to 40. Register to reserve your space at www.godsembrace.org (includes seminar materials) or by calling (979) 561-8883. Pot Luck lunch - bring your favorite dish to share or choose to dine out.

Victoria— "Come and See" Discernment Weekends for single Catholic women 18 to 50 years of age on April 9-10 and May 14-15, at Incarnate Word Convent. For more information call (361) 575-7111, email iwbsvoc@yahoo.com or go to www.iwbsvictoria.org.

Victoria—Amor Meus private / directed overnight retreat, April 22-24 - Time to renew, reflect and relax! Enjoy the peaceful accommodations at the Amor Meus Spirituality Center. Whether you prefer one day or a few days overnight, an individual retreat can be created to fit your needs. Amor Meus Spirituality Center, 1101 N. E. Water St. To register or if you need more information call (361) 575-7111.

ACTS Retreats—For information, visit www.actsmissions.org.

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

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

lic Apostolate endorsed by the Pontifical Council for the Family. For more information, visit www.couragerc.net.

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

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

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

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

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

Natural Family Planning—NFP is the only church-approved form of family planning. To learn about the NFP class schedules in the Victoria area, contact David and Annie Coffey at victorianfpteachers@yahoo.com. For the CREIGTON MODEL Fertility Care System (CrMS) featuring NaPro TECHNOLOGY™ contact Susanne Koch in Wharton at (505) 710-0903 or susannekoch614@gmail.com. See pg. 11 for information on upcoming classes.

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

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

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

*Have an event for the on-line calendar or newspaper?
e-mail us at: lighthouse@victoriadiocese.org*



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