



The Catholic Lighthouse

The cradle of Texas Immigration



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

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JULY 2016

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Ordinations for the Diocese of Victoria



Special Insert Pages 10-13

Texas Bishops Highly Concerned with Ruling That Puts Women Seeking Abortion at Grave Risk

AUSTIN — The U.S. Supreme Court has decided, in a 5-3 decision, to strike down Texas HB2, a law that protects women's safety while seeking an abortion. The Texas bishops are highly concerned that the ruling puts women at grave risk.

The Texas State Legislature overwhelmingly approved HB2. Its main purpose is to secure surgical center, health and safety

standards for women seeking an abortion. Their lives are just as precious as those of their children.

Surgical abortion is an invasive procedure that poses numerous and serious medical complications. The state has a legitimate interest in ensuring the maximum level of safety for the woman subjected to the procedure and that viable emergency care is available if complications such

as hemorrhage, infection, uterine perforation, blood clots, cervical tears, or allergic reactions occur. It is irresponsible for physicians to perform this procedure without being able to provide follow-up treatment for the associated complications.

The Catholic Church in Texas, in communion with millions

See Texas Bishops, pg. 16

Statement from Bishop Cahill on Tragedy in Orlando

“Due to the recent tragedy in Orlando, Pope Francis expressed his love and concern for the victims, their families and America at this time. As he has so beautifully taught, we are all sons and daughters of a gracious God. May we console one another in love and re-commit ourselves to a culture of life and respect for the dignity of every person. God bless you. Let's keep each other in prayer.”

**Most Rev. Brendan J. Cahill +
Bishop of Victoria in Texas**



Bishop Brendan Cahill A Shepherd's Message

Ordained as Bishop June 29, 2015

Faithful Citizenship

Brothers and Sisters,

When I voted in the primaries in March I remember my reaction when the election volunteer asked me: "Which primary?." I whispered my answer and proceeded to go and cast my ballot. Thinking after, I wondered if someone was watching would he or she wonder why I was so secretive about my party affiliation. I thought about it myself and several things have become clearer for me.

The first thing is the important duty we have as American citizens to vote - in every election. It surprises me how many people don't vote, or seem not to be involved in the political process. As we take time this month to honor the Declaration of Independence on July 4, I believe we need to take time also to consider and discuss the major political issues of our time.

On our diocesan web-site (victoriadiocese.org) we have a link to a document approved by the bishops of the United States, "Faithful Citizenship". We bishops approved this at a recent meeting, and it includes thoughts about many important issues. I hope that this can provide a guide for Catholics and all people of good will to discuss many important issues facing our society. I encourage you and your family to take

time to read this document as a preparation for the upcoming national elections. It is kind of long and detailed, so it can be intimidating to start reading - but it is definitely worth working through a little bit at a time.

As you read "Faithful Citizenship" you will come across some statements that as bishops we do not believe we should endorse or actively support any particular candidate or party. I realize that some people seem to think that the bishops and I seem to be "on the side" or "against" certain candidates, especially in a presidential election. To me it really depends on the individual issue, and I hope that we as Catholics could work with any successful candidate in working for a just and peaceful society.

This leads me to consider my "secretiveness" about my party affiliation back in March. I have pretty strong personal political opinions about what I think is best for the country. I also realize that there are great people, and many good friends, who have opposing views. The beauty of the nation founded from the Declaration of Independence is that we as American citizens are able to express these different

See Faithful Citizenship, pg. 8

Bishop Brendan's Schedule

July

- 6 2:30 p.m., Finance Board Meeting, Chancery, 2nd Floor
- 9 6:00 p.m., Pastor Installation Mass, Fr. Michael Lyons, Sts. Peter & Paul Church, Frelsburg
- 10 2:00 p.m., Sisters of the Incarnate Word & Blessed Sacrament Jubilee Mass, Incarnate Word Convent
- 17 11:00 a.m., Mass, New Fourth Degree Assembly 3595, Holy Cross Church, East Bernard
- 20 9:30 a.m., Mass, Twin Pines Nursing Home on Mockingbird, Victoria
- 4:00 p.m., Building Board Meeting, Chancery, 2nd Floor
- 21 6:30 p.m., Bishop's Charity Banquet, Victoria Country Club
- 22 6:00 p.m., 150th Anniversary of IWBS Victoria Foundation Year Opening Mass, Holy Family Church, Victoria
- 23 10:00 a.m., Diaconate Ordination, The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
- 24 10:30 a.m., Mass, St. Anne's Patron Feast Day Celebration, St. Ann's Church, Point Comfort
- 7:00 p.m., Mass, St. Anne's Patron Feast Day Celebration, St. Ann's Church, Hochheim
- 30 9:30 a.m., Mass, Archdiocesan Youth Conference, George R. Brown Convention Center-Houston
- 31 6:00 p.m., Local School Advisory Council Workshop & Dinner, Port Lavaca

August

- 1-5 Knights of Columbus Supreme Convention, Toronto, Canada
- 5 4:00 p.m., Nazareth Academy Readin, Writin, and Reelin Tournament, Port O'Connor
- 6:30 p.m., KC Barbecue and Auction, Port O'Connor

Official Appointments

Effective April 13, 2016 Father Christopher Fuchs was appointed associate vocation director for the Diocese of Victoria.

Effective July 5, 2016, Father Max Landman has been appointed parochial vicar of Sacred Heart Church, Hallettsville, and its missions, Ascension of Our Lord, Moravia, St. John the Baptist, St. John, and Immaculate Conception Church, St. Mary.

Effective July 5, 2016, Father Peter Oscar Amo has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Michael Church, Cuero, and its mission church, Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Effective July 5, 2016, Father George Kunnath has been appointed parochial vicar of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Bay City.

Effective July 5, 2016, Father Barnabas Kyeah has been appointed parochial vicar of Holy Family Church, Victoria.



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Social Media



Keep up with the Diocese of Victoria and The Catholic Lighthouse on social media.

Facebook: Diocese of Victoria in Texas
Instagram: @dioceseofvictoria



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.

June 27, 2016

	TOTALS
• Rev. Msgr. John C. Bily Seminary Burse #2	
Previously reported	\$6,289.00
In honor of Rev. Msgr. John C. Bily for his service to St. Michael Parish, Weimar by Allen and Jeanette Hoelscher	<u>20.00</u>
Total	\$6,309.00

• Rev. Jerome Caponi Seminary Burse #2	
Previously reported	\$125.00
In memory of Marie Marek Luchak on the 6th anniversary of her death June 12, 2010 by John J. Marek	<u>25.00</u>
Total	\$150.00

• Rev. Tommy Chen Seminary Burse	
In honor of Rev. Tommy Chen's 8th Ordination Anniversary to the priesthood by St. Ann's Altar Society, Point Comfort	100.00
In memory of Agnes Hartl by Albert and Doris Winter	25.00
In memory of Agnes Hartl by Irene Hare	<u>25.00</u>
Total	\$150.00

• CDA Court of St. Ann #369 Seminary Burse #2	
Previously reported	\$11,168.99
In memory of Clarice Hall by C.D.A. Court St. Ann #369	50.00
Annual donation by C.D.A. Court St. Ann #369	<u>250.00</u>
Total	\$11,468.99

• Rev. Wayne Flagg and Rev. Philip Brune Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$8,230.00
In honor of Rev. Philip Brune's 2nd ordination anniversary to the priesthood by: Lambert and Carol Brune	25.00
Mark and Sharon Kubicek	25.00
In honor of Charles and Mickey Glueck's 50th wedding anniversary by Darry and Barbara Meyer	25.00
In thanksgiving of Rev. Wayne Flagg by Johnny and Jo Ann Canik	<u>25.00</u>
Total	\$8,330.00

• Rev. Scott Hill Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$1,403.00
In honor of Charles and Mickey Glueck's 50th wedding anniversary by Daryl and Joan Hill	<u>50.00</u>
Total	\$1,453.00

• Rev. Daniel P. Kahlich Seminary Burse	
In honor of my 50th ordination anniversary to the priesthood by Rev. Dan Kahlich	2,000.00
In honor of Rev. Dan Kahlich's 50th ordination anniversary to the priesthood by: Albert and Rita Kozel and Family	500.00

Hostyn KJT Society #3	250.00
Benedict and Dianna Kallus	50.00
M/M Joseph C. Hild	100.00
Wayne E. Marek	<u>50.00</u>
Total	\$2,950.00

• Rev. Paul P. Kaspar and Parents, John & Frances Kaspar Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$500.00
Donation in memory of Lawron J. Popp by Frances Vesely	<u>10.00</u>
Total	\$510.00

• Knights of Columbus Victoria Council #1329 Seminary Burse #4	
Previously reported	\$667.50
In memory of Adolf Motal by K of C Victoria Council #1329	<u>100.00</u>
Total	\$767.50

• Rev. Dan Morales Seminary Burse in Honor of his Work for Vocations	
Previously reported	\$3,981.00
In memory of Agnes Hartl by Josephine Novak and Cynthia Richard	25.00
In honor of Rev. Dan Morales by Paz and Andrea Morales	25.00
In honor of Rev. Dan Morales' 52nd birthday celebration by: Daryl and Joan Hill	52.00
Paul and Helen Flessner	50.00
John Tinoco	100.00
In memory of Helen Borowicz by Otto and JoAnn Bleier	<u>25.00</u>
Total	\$4,258.00

• Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #7	
Previously reported	\$10,495.00
In memory of Lorraine Butchek by Hubert and Elizabeth Janak	25.00
In memory of Rev. Msgr. Celestino Say by Frances Holley Family	25.00
In memory of Rev. Charles Sonnier	25.00
In honor of Rev. Msgr. John Peters on Pastor Appreciation Day by Sacred Heart School teachers, staff and students	300.00
In memory of Larry Berger by: Kenneth and Rene Staff	40.00
Catherine Miksch	20.00
Diane Kutac	20.00
Dorothy and Melvin Zapalac	10.00
Alphonse Besetzny	10.00
David and Karen Koranek	20.00
David and Michele Kubos	<u>25.00</u>
Total	\$11,015.00

• Rev. Michael Rother Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$6,835.00
In memory of James A. Rother by John Rother, Jr., Bernard and Madeline Rother, James and MaryAnne Gibson, John and Michaelen Krchnak	<u>100.00</u>
Total	\$6,935.00

• Henry A. Schoenfeld Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$4,075.00
In memory of Thomas Holub by Bernice Schoenfeld	20.00
In memory of Larry Berger by Bernice Schoenfeld	20.00
In honor of Rev. Max Landman's priestly ordination by Bernice Schoenfeld	<u>20.00</u>
Total	\$4,135.00

• Rev. Charles Sonnier Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$3,095.00
In memory of Rev. Charles Sonnier by:	
Barney and Pat Barfield	25.00
M/M J. O. Hermes	200.00
A friend	100.00
Catholic Life Insurance Branch #82, Yoakum	500.00
Wesley and Elaine DeBord	40.00
M/M John Herman	10.00
Michael D. Seale	50.00
Janice Hill	30.00
Fred and Bernice Ohneiser	25.00
Rick and Laurie John	100.00
Trevor and Stormy Seekamp	40.00
Robert Shimek, Sr. and Cindy Murphy	20.00
James and Mary Honish	25.00
Mary Rainosek	20.00
John and Debbie Pekar	100.00
Gary and Becky Cooper	100.00
Robert, Terry, Kathleen and Chase Hermes	50.00
Robert and Susie Stevens	40.00
Mrs. Vernon F. Matusek	25.00
Linda Gaudette	1,000.00
Charles and GERALYN Klimitchek	100.00
Glenn and Anita Schulte	30.00
Emma Raska	25.00
Richard and Jeanette Poppe	50.00
Lana Muenich Family	25.00
Kenneth and Judy Anderle	250.00
Jerome and Jocelyn Bolom	50.00
Greg and Cindy Patek and Family	50.00
Ron and Marie Terreo	25.00
Harvey and MaryAnn Matusek	25.00
Anthony and Dorothy Spann	100.00
Mark Janak and Karen Sullivan	20.00
A.J. and Liz Mican	25.00
Leroy and Donna Leopold	100.00
Brian and Denise Leist and sons	50.00
Brett, Sheila and Caleb Noake	30.00
Ben Scott	50.00
Yoakum CB Club	100.00
Anthony and Joyce Harper	50.00
Joni Anderle and Rylie Vancura	20.00
Michael and Robin Trojcek and family	15.00
Paul and Dolores Janak	100.00
Donation by a parishioner from St. John the Baptist, Koerth	2,500.00
Total	\$9,385.00

• St. John the Baptist Church, St. John In Memory of Rev. Brian Crookes Seminary Burse #2	
Previously reported	\$5,961.00
In memory of Albert Berckenhoff by Forrest and Ann Dittrich	20.00

In thanksgiving by Elsie Farek	<u>100.00</u>
Total	\$6,081.00

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

DSA update

2016 Diocesan Services Appeal	
Diocesan Goal:	\$ 1,936,221.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$ 665,319.18
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 565,670.18
Number of Parish Families Participating:	2,451

Save the Date October 1!

**Annual Conference for
Catechesis and Ministry
Prayer: The Faith Prayed
Holy Family Church, Wharton**

Bishop Brendan Cahill will offer his keynote address, "Gladly Will I Glory in My Infirmities" using the title of the book on Father Charles Kram. The bishop will offer the same keynote in Spanish. A second keynote address, "To Be Known As God's and As God Knows Us!" will be presented by Charleen Katra, and Rita Martinez will offer it in Spanish. The conference begins at 9:00 a.m. and closes with Mass at 4:30 p.m. For complete descriptions of workshops and presenter biographical information, go to www.victoriadiocese.org or call (361) 573-0828.

Incarnate Word & Blessed Sacrament Gift Shop



(361) 575-7111
1101 NE Water St.
(in Old Victoria)
Victoria, TX 77901

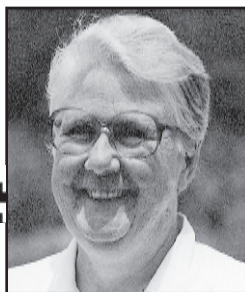
M-F 8:30-4:30 Sat. 9:30-3:30

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



SISTERLY THOUGHTS

by Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



Year of Change

(Continued from last month)

In 1874 a development that helped the Sisters in Victoria was the fact that they were able to become certified as educators and thus become eligible to draw public school salaries for four months each year as part of the "Community System". This allowed them to save their earnings for future buildings.

Then, in 1882, three Sisters left Victoria to make the fifth foundation in Texas in Hallettsville; this foundation was transferred to San Antonio in 1926. Today, the Sisters continue to serve at Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville and at the San Antonio foundation. The order by this time was well established in the New World.

Although the Victoria community of IWBS Sisters had sent Sisters out to begin new foundations, the little community continued to prosper in the bustling little town on the Guadalupe River. Things were happening! The Italian Count Joseph Telfener with a host of immigrants from his homeland completed the railroad from Rosenberg to Victoria (the Macaroni Line) in 1882. Steamboats navigated the Guadalupe River to Victoria until the middle 1880's. During this time telegraph service had reached Victoria; soon afterward telephone service was available. Victoria was being connected with the rest of the world! In the city itself, businesses were springing up in what is now the downtown area. People were able to get around the growing city on a mule-powered streetcar system with four cars.

Change was also happening

in the Church and in the Convent School. Graduates of the school were requesting entrance into the order. The increasing numbers helped staff the school and some of the other newly-established foundations.

At the diocesan level, the

would be able to send Sisters to Victoria. This was the ill-fated voyage on which four of the twelve young Sisters died from yellow fever before they ever got to Texas. Bishop Neraz, filled with missionary zeal, would continue to administer the diocese



Early Sisters at the Monastery of the Incarnate Word in Victoria. Notice that some of the Sisters are wearing black habits instead of the white garments with a maroon scapular. These "lay" sisters were not bound to stay within the cloister and could leave the monastery for business needs.

bishop of San Antonio, Rev. Anthony Pellicer, who was a great advocate of Catholic education, suffered from diabetes. At this time insulin treatment was not yet available and although he sought treatments that were



practiced at the time, he succumbed to the disease in 1880. At his death the Rev. John Neraz was consecrated bishop of the Diocese of San Antonio. Bishop Neraz was no stranger to the Sisters. He had come from France in 1866 on the warship on which Mother St. Claire Valentine returned from her recruiting trip to Europe to get volunteers, so that the Brownsville community

for the next fourteen years.

The school continued its spiritual and academic advancement to many boarders and day students. One of its monetary achievements was the acquisition of a sewing machine for \$100.00; however, at least one of the Sisters cited that it was not able to produce quality stitching, equal to the hand-stitching which was part of the curriculum. Another undertaking by the Sisters in 1880 was the purchase of the old Fairgrounds about a mile away from the Convent. As time went on, a garden was planted and animals were raised to provide food for the Sisters and the boarders. Since the site was in walking distance of the school, it also served as a picnic area for the students. Sister Mildred shares, "When I entered Nazareth Convent in 1954, it was one of the responsibilities of the candidates (high-school students living at the convent and studying to become Sisters) to go out to the property, which was



This two-story brick building (1872) provided additional space for classrooms and boarders during the 1880's.

called the "Villa", to take care of the rabbits and ducks and to clean the duck pond. I remember someone slipping and falling into the duck pond."

During the summer the candidates spent the nights at the Villa in order to provide space for the Sisters who lived and taught elsewhere during the school year but were home for the summer. When Nazareth Convent became

overcrowded, it was decided to build Incarnate Word Convent on Water St.

(to be continued)

For more about the early days of the Sisters in Victoria – please come by the Gift Shop at Incarnate Word Convent and purchase Sister Alberta Novosad's book: TEXAS FOOTPRINTS in the Sands of Time.

The Sisters of the Incarnate Word
and Blessed Sacrament
cordially invite you to join us
as we celebrate the

150th Anniversary
of our Victoria Foundation in 1866

Jubilee Year Opening Mass
Friday, July 22, 2016 | 5:30 p.m.

Most Reverend Brendan Cahill to preside

Holy Family Catholic Church
704 Mallett Drive
Victoria, TX 77904

Reception to Follow





PERFECTION—Jose Andres Ramos, a seventh grader from Our Lady of Victory School, was chosen as the Grand National Grade-Level Champion in Zaner-Bloser's 2016 National Handwriting Contest. More than 270,000 students participated from public and private schools, requiring students from kindergarten through second grade to submit print entries while students in third through eighth grade submit cursive entries. Andres was not coached during the process; his skill is self-discipline, which he demonstrated while he persevered through penmanship's challenges. At the school's award ceremony, Andres was recognized for his achievement by Principal Sr. Laura Toman and Catholic Schools Superintendent Dr. John Quarry. Pictured above is Andres with Dr. Quarry.

Catholic Educators Honored by KC's

On May 18, 2016, about 200 Victoria Catholic school teachers and their spouses were honored by the Holy Family Knights of Columbus Council #9088 with a fried chicken dinner held at the Holy Family Activity Center.



Eddie Huse

Faculty and staff from Nazareth Academy, Our Lady of Victoria School and St. Joseph High School along with KC members and their wives listened to inspiring words from St. Joseph Class of 1977 graduate Eddie Huse. He thanked the teachers for their dedicated efforts

toward strengthening Catholic education. Huse is anticipating his ordination into the Permanent Diaconate this summer after seven rigorous years of preparation. He expressed the importance of Christian principles taught by these three Catholic schools which provide a strong foundation of lifelong Catholic faith saying, "God always wins out at the end of the day".

Mr. Huse pointed out that these three schools have been in existence for a combined 356 years and they deserve our prayers. He also recognized St. Joseph High School teacher David Pozzi for 48 years of teaching, the longest tenure of these three schools. This is just one example of the tremendous dedication these teachers have for instilling Catholic education into our leaders of tomorrow.

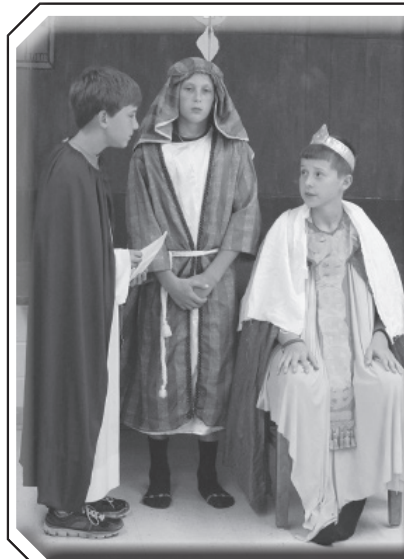
Tip to Help Your Prayer Life

Establish Good Habits – You should be able to rely on your habits to help you, and not hurt you, in your prayer. A good habit takes 66 days (at least) to establish. So, if you can commit to a routine of prayer for 2 months, you should start to lay the groundwork for healthy prayer habits.



Bishop Selects Group to Attend Conference at Notre Dame

CUERO—Congratulations to Jennifer Saenz, principal of St. Michael and Fr. David Berger, for having been selected by Bishop Brendan Cahill to attend the Latino Enrollment Institute (LEI) this summer on the campus of the University of Notre Dame. Additionally, a staff member from St. Michael will be accompanying the pastor and principal to Notre Dame. The institute will focus on attracting and retaining Latino families to our Catholic schools. St. Michael was selected as a pilot school to launch this initiative within our diocese. Depending on the success of the LEI for our diocese, Bishop Cahill may choose to expand the program's footprint to other Catholic schools of the diocese in the future.



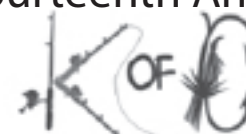
The Story Of Esther

HALLETTSVILLE—The sixth grade Religion class at Sacred Heart Catholic School brought their year of study to a happy conclusion by putting on a play. Their teacher Sister Emiliana wrote the play on the story of Esther from the Old Testament to help them enjoy and remember the story and emphasize the moral lessons. The students worked hard outside of class making props and gathering costumes so they could spend class time perfecting their parts in the play. They were very proud of their accomplishments. There were two showings, first for the fourth graders and then the fifth graders.

Holy Family K of C Council #9088

Presents the

Fourteenth Annual



READIN', RITIN' & REELIN'
Fishing Tournament

August 5 & 6

Port O'Connor Community Center

Door Prizes

Live Auction



Cash Prizes

Raffle

For information on entrees, contact:

www.nazarethacademy.org

Sister Ann Meletio at 361-485-2044

Julie Fulgham at 979-649-5516

George Wenzel at 361-649-7707

All Proceeds Benefit

Nazareth Academy School, Victoria



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



Camp David 2016



Reflection on Camp David

By Jordan Morgan
Seminararian



This was my first year to experience Camp David and I really had no idea what to expect. I was a little hesitant at first but that quickly went away after I arrived and met the Youth Leadership Team (YLT). The YLT was very welcoming of my presence and they were very interested in getting to know me not only as a person, but also me, the seminararian. We spent a lot of time together and became well acquainted.

It wasn't long after my arrival that the campers started to arrive at Camp David. I quickly realized that this was going to be a fun week. The youth spent time getting to know each other and most importantly, developing a deeper relationship with God. The youth were able to take full advantage of this year's theme, "Care of God's Creation." They participated in many sessions that talked about what harms the environment and what we can do to fix these issues. You could tell the youth participate in their science classes; it showed when they had to give examples of the things that destroy God's creation and what we can do to help fix it.

Camp David was divided into two overnight sessions and a day session for the younger group. Each session closed with the planting of an olive tree. This activity really impacted the youth, encouraging them to start making changes to protect their environments.

I look forward to the years to come to spend time with the youth and help them grow closer to God. I cannot wait for Camp David 2017!



Let's Go!
Europe Trip
August 15-26, 2016
Tour Rome, Italian Riviera, Venice, Salzburg, Austria & Prague

French Rhone River Cruise
September 20-28, 2016
Lyon, Macon, Vienne, Tournon, Viviers & Avignon, Air Discounted

Rhine Riverboat Getaway
August 5-13, 2017
Basel, Switzerland to Amsterdam, Netherlands, Air Discounted

ABCATS TRAVEL
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(361) 578-0828
slovakjim@att.net
www.abcatstravel.com



Blessing KC's Present Scholarships

BLESSING—Knights of Columbus Council #4307 presented their annual scholarships and Knights of Columbus Bibles to the three recipients for the academic year of 2015-2016. The presentations were made on May 21 after the 6:30

p.m. Mass with council chaplain Rev. Peter Yeboah-Amanfo at St. Peter's Church. The recipients are Ryan Lezak, Margaret Nance, and Dionicio (Isiah) Morales.

Also in attendance were members of Council #4307.



Bishop Brendan Cahill and Father Roger Hawes following confirmation at Holy Cross in Yorktown.



HOLY SPIRIT—Bishop Brendan Cahill at the confirmation ceremony June 5, at St. Patrick's Church in Bloomington, along with Father Samuel Appiasi. Also assisting but not pictured was Deacon Fred Soto.



GRADUATES RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS—Knights of Columbus Council #9088, Holy Family Victoria, presented scholarships to graduating high school seniors. Those honored were, left-right, Brenna Sestak, Christopher Ontai, Samuel Bonorden, and Lucas Kabela. Knights of Columbus representatives back row, left-right, Harvey Kocian, Grand Knight; Charles Bluntzer, Scholarship Chairman; and Steve Dolezal, Deputy Grand Knight.

Summer Fun Days at Chancery Library



Save the Dates July 13 & 27 ~ Last Summer Fun Days

Library Fun Days at the Chancery have been a big hit this Summer! The children have planted seeds, learned about the Eucharist, crafted crosses, made milk carton chapels and more. Library Fun Days will be on July 13 and July 27 from 10:00 -11:00 a.m. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church FRELSTBURG, TEXAS

COUNTRY FESTIVAL

Sunday
August 7

Polka Mass - 10:00 a.m.



FRELSTBURG'S ORIGINAL FRIED FISH

with Buttered Potatoes, Hush Puppies, Cole Slaw, Pinto Beans, Bread, Pickles & Tea
Meal Tickets: Large \$10.00 Small \$6.00 - **Drive Thru Line:** Plate-to-Go \$10.00
(Hamburgers, Nachos & Snacks available after 3 PM)

AUCTION 1:00 PM
Inside Air Conditioned Hall

★ Religious Articles ★ Prizes ★
★ Ring Toss ★ Country Store ★
★ Grocery Walk ★ Cake Walk ★
★ Ice Cream ★ Fish Pond ★
★ SILENT AUCTION ★

FREE DANCE
The Lost Cause Band
Inside the Hall after the AUCTION

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In Memory of...

Sister Manuela Hernandez

Sister Manuela Hernandez, MCSH a member of the Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, passed away at the age of 90, Thursday, May 19, 2016. She was born October 29, 1925 in Mexico to the late Andres Hernandez and Maria De Jesus Cruz.

She is preceded in death by her parents.

Funeral Mass was celebrated Monday, May 23, 2016 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church presided by Father Albert Yankey. Burial followed at Catholic Cemetery #3.

Sister Constanza Rosa Dominguez

Sister Constanza Rosa Dominguez, MCSH a member of the Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, passed away at the age of 90, Friday, May 6, 2016.

She was born February 17, 1926 in Mexico to the late Pilar Dominguez Rivas and Leonor Colin Monroy.

She is preceded in death by her parents. Funeral Mass was celebrated Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church presided by Father Albert Yankey. Burial followed at Catholic Cemetery #3.

Sister Faustina Orsak

Sister Faustina Orsak, 76, of Victoria, died May 23, 2016. She was born March 21, 1940, in Sealy, Texas to the late John and Albina Gajewski Orsak. She was a Sister of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament. She attended elementary

school at Frydek Catholic School and at Immaculate Conception School in Sealy.

She entered Nazareth Convent in 1955, after graduating from Nazareth Academy. She became a novice on August 5, 1959 and made her first vows on August 6, 1965. She earned a



Bachelor of Arts degree in History with a minor in English from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio. She was awarded a Texas Teacher Certificate, specializing in the elementary level. During the 56 years of her religious profession, Sister Faustina taught in San Antonio, Victoria, Floresville, Selma, and Hallettsville.

Sister Faustina retired from full-time active classroom duties in 2012 to reside at Incarnate Word Convent Healthcare.

Survivors include her brothers, Dennis Orsak, Edwin Orsak and wife Theresa, Daniel Orsak and wife Bonnie; sisters, Bernadette Coroneos and husband Joe, Linda DuFour, Darlene Brewer and husband Curt; and Aunt Mary Gajewski; many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents and brothers, Joe, Patrick, and Clement Orsak.

A Funeral Mass was held on Wednesday, May 25, 2016 at Incarnate Word Convent. Burial followed at Catholic Cemetery No. 3.



SAYING GOOD-BYE—The diocese wishes farewell to Gloria Aparicio who faithfully served as secretary to Bishop Emeritus David E. Fellhauer and Bishop Brendan Cahill. God bless her on the next chapter of her life.

Faithful Citizenship

Continued from pg. 2

views and debate them fiercely. After the election we are called once again to trust in "We the People," and work together for the good of our culture.

One more thought about politics in this national election year. Growing up in Texas I have come to a conclusion that while we spend a lot of time debating national politics, most of the day-to-day work of building a better culture is carried on by the local politicians. As we focus on the national election, we need also to participate in elections for school boards, city councils, county commissioners, judges, etc., etc. Having worked quite a bit with these local politicians in the past I can assure you they particularly appreciate

greater citizen involvement.

We are blessed to live in the United States of America, we are blessed to live in Texas. Writing about politics, I want to especially thank all of the men and women who have placed their names on ballots for a variety of offices. Thank you also to all those election volunteers who make it possible for us to vote in a safe way. May God bless America and each of you and your families with deeper gratitude and commitment to continually participate in building a just and peaceful society - let's keep each other in prayer,

Brendan +

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Diocese of Victoria • The Catholic Lighthouse • Special Insert • July 2016



The priest reveals the heart of God - "My compassion grows warm and tender."

(Hosea 11:8)

Priests and Transitional Deacons Ordinations • Priests Anniversaries

Father Peter Oscar Kofi Amo

Name: Father Peter Oscar Kofi Amo

Age: 41

Hometown: Born in town of Winnebe in the central part of Ghana, West Africa; raised in town of Komenda in the central part of Ghana and Terkwa, in the western part of Ghana

Parents: Oscar Peter Amo and Mrs. Theresa Awo Amo

Siblings: (2 brothers and one sister) Martin Amo married to Esther with 3 children lives in Ghana, Benedicte Amo married to Mark with a son and they live in Italy, Stephen Amo studying in Kenya in the seminary with the Fransiscan Friars. He will be ordained a deacon next year and God willing by the end of 2017 he will be a priest.

First Parish Assignment: St. Michael and Our Lady of Guadalupe in Cuero

Where did you attend College/ Seminary? St. Paul Major Seminary from 9-12th grade and St. Peters Regional Seminary in Ghana

How did your Vocation come about? "As a young boy we lived in an area where there was a mission church. There was hardly a priest around. I fell in love with the priesthood at age 14. We were all waiting for the priest to show up and he wasn't showing up. I thought to myself I wish I was a priest I would get up and celebrate Mass."

What or who inspired you to enter Seminary? It was always in my heart to become a priest. In Ghana I waited 9 years working as a teacher in the high school never losing hope on becoming a priest. People around me thought I would give up and move on to the next vocation. Archbishop Mathias Nketsiah in Ghana had a friend in the United States, Bishop David Fellhauer, who accepted me into the diocese to discern. I flew from Ghana, to London, to Houston and to Victoria and here I am serving the people of the Diocese of Victoria in Texas!

Do you have any hobbies? Listening to cool music like Whitney Houston & Michael Jackson and playing soccer

A few words to those who were a part of his vocation: After all of these years I thank Archbishop Mathias Nketsiah and Father Charles Elvis Otsiwah for recommending me to Bishop David Fellhauer who accepted me in the Diocese of Victoria. After staying with Father Dan Morales for over a year I thank him so much for teaching me American culture, how to drive, and many other things. I thank Bishop Brendan Cahill for his fatherly care and love for me. Finally, I have been ordained as a priest to serve in this diocese!

See Father Peter Oscar Kofi Amo, pg. 12



"You are a priest forever..." (Hebrews 7:17)

Father Max Landman

The Catholic Lighthouse
Page 11 — July 2016

Name: Father Max Alexander Landman

Age: 29

Hometown: Uvalde, Texas

Home Parish: Sacred Heart, Uvalde, Texas

Parents: Jack Landman, Jr. (deceased); Liza Toombs

Sibling: 1 older sister, Camille Simon, she lives in New Orleans

First Parish Assignment: Sacred Heart, Hallettsville; and the surrounding parishes, Ascension in Moravia; St. Mary's; St. John the Baptist

Where did you attend College/ Seminary? TCU for undergrad; Holy Trinity Seminary for philosophy; Pontifical College Josephinum for theology

How did your Vocation come about? The first inklings of a vocation to the priesthood came about when I was nine or ten years old, serving at Mass. I did not really understand the theology, but I had a profound sense of peace in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, and sometimes imitated being a priest. There were also strong suggestions from a few different people that I needed to be a priest, including shortly before Confirmation from a very holy and dedicated catechism teacher. Her influence in particular made it impossible for me to simply dismiss the idea. Before graduating from college, the death of my great Aunt Biddy had a profound impact on me, both as a spark for taking my faith more seriously and, for reasons I cannot explain, planting the idea of priesthood firmly in my heart. When that idea still remained after working for a year after graduation, I realized that I would not be at peace unless I gave seminary a shot. Fortunately, I was able to persevere through many difficulties and foster a relationship with our Lord that guided me on to ordination.

What or who inspired you to enter Seminary? In addition to the people and events I mentioned above, there was the devotion of my grandmother, my mother's faith, my father's

See Father Max Landman, pg. 12



"The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me ..." (Isaiah 61:1)



The ordination celebration held at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory included the ordination of two deacons. Jacob Aaron Mendoza and Stephen Paul Vacek were ordained transitional deacons. Deacons preparing for the priesthood are transitional deacons for one year before being ordained a priest. Both men are attending St. Mary's Seminary in Houston.

The two new deacons were asked: *How did you feel being ordained a deacon knowing that in 1 year you will become a priest?*

Deacon Jacob Mendoza

"I was excited and humbled to be ordained, I am eager for priesthood, but also excited to be in a period of 1 year transition to fully prepare for priesthood."

Deacon Jacob will be spending every other weekend during the school year at St. Philip Parish, El Campo.

Deacon Stephen Vacek

"My ordination to the diaconate was the most joyful moment of my life. I am humbled to be called by God's people, the people of our diocese, to the vocation of the transitional diaconate and next year the priesthood. I thank the Lord for the gift of serving at his altar, proclaiming his gospel, and serving the people of God of the Diocese of Victoria. May God bless you! Spanem Bohem!"

Deacon Stephen will be spending every other weekend during the school year at Sacred Heart Parish, Hallettsville.

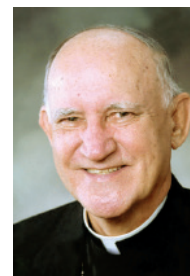
Anniversaries

75th



Msgr. Eustace Hermes
Retired Cemetery Director Living at Elmcroft, Victoria

60th



Bishop Charles Grahmann
1st Bishop of the Diocese of Victoria, Retired Living at Casa de Padres, San Antonio



Msgr. Thomas C. McLaughlin
Retired Diocese of Victoria Vicar General / Chancellor Living at Padua Place, San Antonio

50th



Rev. Daniel Kahlich
Pastor Queen of the Holy Rosary Hostyn and Sts. Peter and Paul Plum



Monsignor Christopher J. Schreck, Rector / President,
and the faculty, staff and seminarians of the
Pontifical College Josephinum
send congratulations and prayerful best wishes to

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FATHER MAX LANDMAN**

Ordained to the Priesthood June 4, 2016
At Victoria, Texas

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Father Max Landman

Continued from pg. 11

influence, and the witness of St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI.

What was your favorite part of Seminary? The most enjoyable part was developing strong friendships that will help sustain me throughout my life.

Favorite Saint or one that inspires you? I am in awe over soon-to-be St. Teresa of Calcutta's perseverance through darkness.

What is your favorite scripture? The response of the people in Luke 7:16. Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, exclaiming, "A great prophet has arisen in our midst," and "God has visited his people."

What is your favorite book? *The Brothers Karamazov* by Dostoyevsky

Hobbies? Golf; I'm also pretty interested in culture, politics, and the media

What would you like to share with the people of the Diocese of Victoria? I want to tell the people of this diocese how welcoming and supportive they have been, and what a privilege it is to serve them in the name of Christ.

A few words to those who were a part of his vocation: I would like to express my gratitude to Bishop Fellhauer for welcoming me into the diocese and ordaining me a deacon and Bishop Cahill for so eagerly embracing his new flock and ordaining me a priest.

Father Peter Oscar Kofi Amo

Continued from pg. 10

What would you like to share with the people of the Diocese of Victoria? I have received love, care and a lot of support, from the good people in this diocese. The prayers of support have helped me reach the altar of our Lord Jesus Christ. May God bless them and their families.



"It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you ..." (John 15:16)



“I stayed with the same company for 58 years”, says Msgr. Bily.



Fr. Tim said, “We were travel companions for Tribunal meetings in Victoria. We have been good loyal friends for many years and continue to be.”



His parishioners knew him as “father fix it”. On many occasions Father Bily would be found cutting the yard, fixing a leak, a broken door or taking care of anything else around St. Michael School or church that needed to be done.



Seminarian Recalls, Msgr. Bily Always Around

**By Dalton Ervin
Seminarian**

WEIMAR—The Reverend Monsignor John C. Bily has spent the last twenty-eight years, in addition to four years as an associate pastor from 1962-1966, of his fifty-eight years of priestly ordination at St. Michael Catholic Church in Weimar. It is in the midst of his twenty-eight-year tenure that my time with Msgr. Bily begins. When my parents celebrated the Sacrament of Matrimony at St. Michael Church, it was the then Fr. Bily who accepted their vows and it was he who baptized me almost 25 years ago. Growing up on the same block as the church made Fr. Bily a fixture in my life. Whether we were cutting through his yard on the way to school, riding bikes, or playing the unending games

of hide-and-seek, Fr. Bily was always around.

Looking back at this seemingly omnipresent priest, the image of St. Joseph, the foster-father of Jesus and husband of Mary comes to mind. In the Gospels, we read very little of the life and work of Joseph. We know he was a carpenter and that it was he who took the Holy Family to Egypt in order to protect the infant Christ from Herod’s terror until it was safe to return. Joseph is known for his silent yet tireless work in supporting and protecting the family entrusted to him by God. Likewise, Fr. Bily quietly worked by repairing, caring for, and protecting the parish entrusted to him by the Most Reverend Charles Grahmann in 1988, through the entirety

of the service of the Most Reverend David Fellhauer, until today in 2016 under the Most Reverend Brendan Cahill. This pastor of St. Michael Parish in Weimar served as repairman, gardener, bus driver, plumber, electrician, security, and countless other roles making very little noise and attracting no attention except for the gentle

hum of his lawn mower.

It would be through Fr. Bily’s priestly ministry that I would first hear the words of absolution in the confessional. At his anointed hands I would receive the Body and Blood of Jesus in the Eucharist. Through his guidance of the parish, I would be prepared for and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, and with his recommendation I would apply and enter into seminary formation for the Diocese of Victoria. At the same time, Fr. Bily would be the presence of Christ for my family in times of tragedy and death. Saying that this priest simply played a role in discerning and cultivating my own vocation would be an understatement. Countless people in Weimar share this same story, and many now

have children and grandchildren who are being baptized by the same faithful pastor.

The more time I spend around Msgr. Bily, the more I learn about the true meaning of being a priest and loving the people of God entrusted to his fatherly care. His legacy of fidelity, support, and perseverance will remain in Weimar as long as St. Michael Catholic Church does. Although we can count the number of Sacraments he has administered, the number of lives he has affected both in and out of the confines of the walls of the church, Catholic and non-Catholic alike, Msgr. Bily’s years of service and devotion to others are beyond enumeration. The Lord has been faithful to His promise and “[given us] a shepherd after [His] own heart” (Jeremiah 3:15).



Photography Courtesy of Lydia Ford



Meet a Deacon (a TCL series)

Deacon Leo Sharron

I was born in San Bernardino, California on September 27, 1962 to Leo and Melba (Scheffler) Sharron. We moved back to my mother's hometown of Cuero, Texas when I was about 2 years old and now at the age of 53 I am still a Cuero boy. I attended St. Michael's School in Cuero for 8 years where the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament ran the school. This was at a time when tuition was only about \$20 a month! Over the course of my years at St. Michael's I gave the poor sisters a lot of grief with my mischievous behavior. I think I have been spanked in every corner of every room of the school and I deserved every one of them! Many of the sisters who taught me did their time in purgatory on Earth. That being said, I managed to win the religion award over the course of many of those years.

My wife Anne and I have been married for twenty-five years. She has a kindness and sense of charity that I often lack. She has truly been an inspiration in my life. We have one son, Anthony who is married to Ceara and they have blessed us with two beautiful granddaughters who are 1 and 2 1/2 years old. Next to God, family is most important to me.

I have an Associates Degree in Electronics and Computer Technology from Texas Vocational School, a Diploma in Pastoral Theology from St. Thomas University in Houston, and a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Houston-Victoria. I am currently working toward a Masters in Education in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at UHV.

Since I was a small boy I have always felt a need to be of service to others. I always felt drawn to religious life, but was not ready to discern that call until much later in my life. In 2001, I answered God's call and entered formation for the diaconate and was ordained on my son's birthday on July 29, 2006. I am assigned to St. Michael and Our Lady of Guadalupe Churches in Cuero.

It is an honor to be able to serve the people of God as a deacon. Through my ministry, God has given me the opportunity to fulfill my desire to be of service to others. As a deacon I assist at Masses, preach, help with religious education of adults and children, preside at baptisms, funerals, and on occasion with weddings. I provide grief counseling to family members in my parish and community as well as visit the sick and homebound.

In addition to my parish duties, I also serve as a full time chaplain for Hospice of South Texas. Working with terminally ill patients and their families is one of the most profound and fulfilling experiences in my life. Being able to walk with patients as they face the end of their life is an honor and a blessing. Helping families cope with end of life issues and grief help me to grow in my own faith.

As I work on my Masters in Counseling, I hope to continue to work with Hospice of South Texas and to provide grief support groups and counseling to those struggling with the loss of loved ones.

I feel truly blessed to have been called to serve the people of God as a deacon. I credit my Catholic education, the good sisters (God bless them for putting up with me), all my teachers, and all the priests who have been an example of faith and service for forming me in faith.



Deacon Leo Sharron and his family.

Most of all, I give thanks to God for my grandmother, Minnie Scheffler, who never stopped praying for me, even in the shaky times of my life. Her dedication to prayer and her unwavering faith lead me to a deep conversion of heart.

My advice to all parents and grandparents is to never stop praying for your children.

May God's blessing continue to be with you all.

Permanent Deacon Formation Class Forming

Christ, whom the Father has sanctified and sent into the world, has through His apostles, made their successors, the bishops, partakers of His consecration and His mission. They have legitimately handed on to different individuals in the Church various degrees of participation in this ministry. Thus the divinely established ecclesiastical ministry is exercised on different levels by those who from antiquity have been called bishops, priests and deacons. This teaching formed the foundation for the "restoration" of the

diaconate as a proper and permanent rank of the hierarchy.

If interested in discerning a possible vocation to the diaconate, please discuss your interest with your pastor, and send contact information to Deacon Chuck Glynn (cglynn@victoriadiocese.org). Informational meetings for you and your family will be held from 2-4:00 p.m. on Saturday September 10 at Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria, and again from 2-4:00 p.m. on Sunday September 11 at Sacred Heart in Hallettsville. You only need to attend one of the sessions.



Three to be Ordained Permanent Deacons



Edward Huse
Holy Family
Victoria



Michael Tankersly
Sacred Heart
Hallettsville



Anthony Hensley
Assumption of BVM
Ganado

They will be ordained to the Permanent Diaconate on July 23 at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory by Bishop Brendan Cahill. See the photos and story in the August 2016 *Catholic Lighthouse*.

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Sunday Readings from July 10 - August 14

July 10 - Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 30:10-14
Psalms 69:14, 17, 30-31, 33-34, 36, 37
Colossians 1:15-20
Luke 10:25-37

July 17 - Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Genesis 18:1-10a
Psalms 15:2-3, 3-4, 5
Colossians 1:24-28
Luke 10:38-42

July 24 - Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Genesis 18:20-32
Psalms 138:1-2, 2-3, 6-7, 7-8
Colossians 2:12-14
Luke 11:1-13

July 31 - Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23
Psalms 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17
Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11
Luke 12:13-21

August 7 - Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 18:6-9
Psalms 33:1, 12, 18-19, 20-22
Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19
Luke 12:32-48

August 14 - Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10
Psalms 40:2, 3, 4, 18
Hebrews 12:1-4
Luke 12:49-53

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

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Dedication of the Church and Altar of St. Mary's Church in Praha

PRAHA—The 1st phase of the restoration project began in 2011 with the replacement of the leaking shingle roof. The church closed in January 2015 to worshippers in order that the interior restoration work could begin. A year and a half later the work was completed and on June 12, 2016 St. Mary's Church was rededicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Most Reverend Brendan J. Cahill celebrated the rededication with concelebrating bishops, The Most Reverend David E. Fellhauer and The Most Reverend Charles V. Grahmann as well as 6 concelebrating priests.

Bishop Cahill began the dedication Mass by blessing and sprinkling holy water throughout the church. During Mass, Bishop Cahill anointed the new altar with chrism oil and Bishop Fellhauer anointed the walls of the church. The new altar replaced the makeshift one of the 1960s. Arches were added in the new altar making it possible to see the Last Supper scene. After the dedication a meal was shared by parishioners and friends.

HISTORY

A group of Czech immigrants in Praha built a stone chapel in 1865 and a larger church was built in 1876 as the immigrant population increased in the area. The present stone church was completed November

20, 1895. St. Mary's Praha was the first Catholic Church between Houston and San Antonio. Many changes took place in 1965 with the liturgical changes of the Second Vatican Council. Changes over the years include:

- A new altar was put in front of the reredos (the present main back altar) so that the presider would face the worshipping assembly.
- The original long leaf pine wooden floor in the sanctuary has been restored. It was covered with green shag carpet and the church floor was covered with green and white vinyl tile.
- The ambo (pulpit) was removed and replaced with a simple wooden structure.
- Ceiling fans with light kits replaced the old light fixtures installed in the 1930s with the advent of electricity.
- The 3 church bells were rope pulled and had not rung in years. These are now digitally controlled. They ring automatically at 6:00 a.m., noon, 6:00 p.m. and after Sunday Mass.
- The stained glass windows are now re-leaded and repainted. The process has restored the glass windows to their original



Catholic Daughters Court St. Ann friends and family participate in a pilgrimage to Holy Doors with Fr. Kristopher Fuchs. Above: group in front of Holy Cross in Yorktown.

CDA Hosted Pilgrimage to Holy Doors

Catholic Daughters of the America's Court St. Ann #369 held a Holy Doors Pilgrimage on April 30, 2016 in celebration of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Members and their guests met at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory in Victoria. The Rev. Kristopher Fuchs gave a reading of the parable of the prodigal son and pointed out the stained glass window depicting the parable and the mercy of God.

The group traveled to Holy Cross Church in Yorktown, where Father Kristopher explained indulgences offered during the Year of Mercy. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy was prayed by the pilgrims.

Upon arrival at Rafael's Refuge, a

configuration.

- The antique chandelier hanging in the nave of the church dates back to the 1800s. It was made in the former Czechoslovakia. In the 1930s it was wired and the original wax candles were replaced with electrical bulbs.
- The canopy of the ambo is a replica of the original. It was designed and rebuilt by Ernest Chaloupka, Jr. and George Kalisek of Moulton.
- A new air condition/heat system has been installed with the air vents in the floor instead of in the ceiling.
- The deteriorating original hand-crafted oak pews were repaired and refinished.

To help maintain and preserve this spir-

itual heritage for the future consider making a donation to the St. Mary's Church Restoration Endowment Fund. For more information go to www.stmaryspraha.org.

The journey through these Holy Doors was a beautiful procession as each person reflected on God's mercy. They will cherish the joyful and spiritual experience that was shared by all.

itual heritage for the future consider making a donation to the St. Mary's Church Restoration Endowment Fund. For more information go to www.stmaryspraha.org.



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GHANA ENVIRONMENT—Men in Ghana collect recyclable material washed ashore after heavy flooding in Accra June 13. (CNS photo/Christian Thompson, EPA)

Blueprint of Catholic Response to Orlando: Pray, Act, Show Solidarity

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As Orlando, Florida, and the nation moves on from the shock of the June 12 nightclub attack, many are finding that there is no set path to find solace. But in the midst of collective mourning over the worst mass shooting in U.S. history, the Catholic Church has something to say not only about the senseless attack on human life but also about finding peace in troubled times and showing solidarity with the suffering. Many U.S. Catholic bishops condemned the shooting at the gay nightclub, which left 50 dead, including the shooter, and more than 50 others injured. Chicago Archbishop Blase J. Cupich

took the lead in expressing sorrow that the gay community was singled out by the gunman. He said he and the Chicago Archdiocese stood with members of the gay community in the wake of “the heinous crimes” in Orlando “motivated by hate, driven perhaps by mental instability and certainly empowered by a culture of violence.” Bishop Robert N. Lynch of St. Petersburg and several others similarly expressed sadness for gay community’s loss and the pain they experienced because of prejudice and hatred. That’s a start, some say, hoping those messages will begin to diffuse hateful rhetoric that can lead some people to violence. “Church teaching does not say you should be evil toward people,” said Patricia McGuire, president of Trinity Washington University, who said the heart of the church’s message is the need to love our brothers and sisters and welcome all.

Fear Closes, Prayer Opens Believers to God’s Surprises, Pope Says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Prayer is a key that opens the door to God, unlocks selfish, fearful hearts and leads people from sadness to joy and from division to unity, Pope Francis said on the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul. Prayer is “the main way out: the way out for the community that risks closing up inside itself because of persecution and fear,” he said during a Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica June 29. Prayer — entrusting oneself humbly to God and his will — “is always the way out of our personal and community’s closures,” he said. Twenty-five archbishops appointed over the course of the past year were invited to come to Rome to concelebrate the feast day Mass with Pope Francis. They came from 15 countries. Of the new archbishops, 11 were from the Americas, 10 from Europe and one each from Asia, Africa, Oceania and the Middle East.

Texas Bishops Highly Concerned with Ruling

Continued from pg. 1

of Catholics and pro-life people across America and the world, will continue their efforts to protect life and human dignity from conception to natural death.

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

Supreme Court Tie Vote Blocks Temporary Plan to Stop Deportations

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With a tie vote June 23, the U.S. Supreme Court blocked the Obama administration’s plan to temporarily protect more than 4 million unauthorized immigrants from deportation. The court’s 4-4 vote leaves in place a lower court injunction blocking the administration’s immigration policy with the one-page opinion stating: “The judgment is affirmed by an equally divided court.” Legal experts have called it an ambiguous and confusing political and legal decision that leaves many in a state of limbo. It also puts a lot of attention on the vacant Supreme Court seat that may determine how the case is decided in an appeal. Religious leaders were quick to denounce the court’s action as a setback for immigrant families and stressed the urgency of comprehensive immigration reform. Seattle Auxiliary Bishop Eusebio L. Elizondo, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Migration, said the court’s decision was a “huge disappointment” and a setback, but he said the focus now needs to be on how to fix the current immigration system. “We must not lose hope that reform is possible,” he said.

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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.



Obispo Brendan Cahill - “Ciudadanos Fieles”

Hermanos y Hermanas,

Cuando voté en las primarias en marzo, recuerdo mi reacción cuando el voluntario de la elección me preguntó: “¿Cuál primario? Susurré mi respuesta y procedí a emitir mi voto. Pensando después, si alguien estaba viendo, habría preguntado por qué era tan reservado sobre mi afiliación partidaria. Lo pensé y varias cosas se han hecho claras para mí.

La primera cosa es el deber importante que tenemos como ciudadanos Americanos para votar - en cada elección. A mí me sorprende cuanta gente no votan o parecen ajenos al proceso político. Como tomamos tiempo este mes honrar la declaración de independencia el 4 de julio, creo que necesitamos tomar tiempo para considerar y discutir las principales cuestiones políticas de nuestro tiempo.

En nuestro sitio diocesano (victoriadiocese.org) tenemos un enlace a un documento aprobado por los obispos de los Estados Unidos, “Ciudadanos Fieles”. Nosotros obispos aprobamos esto en una reunión reciente, e incluye pensamientos sobre temas importantes. Espero que esto pueda proveer una guía a católicos y toda la gente de buena voluntad para que puedan discutir estas temas importantes que enfrenta nuestra sociedad. Le pido a usted y a su familia que toman tiempo leer este documento como una preparación para las elecciones nacionales próximas. Es un poco largo y detallado y puede ser intimidante para empezar a leer - pero definitivamente vale la pena leer un poco a la vez.

Al leer “Ciudadanos Fieles” encontrará algunas declaraciones que como obispos, no creemos que debemos respaldar o apoyar activamente cualquier candidato o partido en particular. Realizo que algunas personas pueden creer que los obispos y yo podemos ser “en el lado” o “contra” ciertos candidatos, especialmente en una elección presidencial. A mí realmente depende en el asunto individual, y espero que nosotros, como católicos, pudiéramos trabajar con cualquier candidato en trabajar para una sociedad justa y pacífica.

Esto me lleva a pensar en como fui/ reservado sobre mi afiliación del partido político en marzo. Tengo fuertes opiniones políticas personales sobre lo que creo que es mejor para el país.

Sé que hay personas buenas y muchos buenos amigos, que tienen puntos de vista opuestos. La belleza de la nación fundada

de la declaración de independencia es que como Ciudadanos Americanos somos capaces de expresar estas visiones diferentes y debatirlos ferozmente. Después de las elecciones somos llamados una vez más a confiar en “Nosotros el Pueblo” y trabajar juntos por el bien de nuestra cultura.



Un pensamiento más sobre la política en este año de elecciones nacionales. Creciendo en Texas he llegado a una conclusión que mientras pasamos mucho tiempo debatiendo sobre la política nacional, la mayor parte del trabajo de construir una mejor cultura día a día se lleva a cabo por los políticos locales. Mientras nos enfocamos en las elecciones nacionales, tenemos también

que participar en las elecciones para los consejos escolares, ayuntamientos, Comisionados del Condado, jueces, etc., etc.. Habiendo trabajado mucho con estos políticos locales en el pasado, puedo asegurarles que aprecian especialmente participación ciudadana. Somos benditos que vivimos en los Estados Unidos y en Texas. Escribiendo sobre la política, quiero agradecer especialmente a todos los hombres y mujeres que han puesto sus nombres en las papeletas para una variedad de oficinas.

Gracias también a todos los voluntarios de las elecciones que hacen posible que podamos votar de una manera segura. Que Dios bendiga a América y a cada uno de ustedes y sus familias con gratitud más profunda y compromiso de participar continuamente en la construcción de una sociedad justa y pacífica, vamos a mantener cada uno al otro en la oración.

Brendan +



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Un memorial es mostrado el 24 de junio en la Catedral San Juan Bautista en Puerto Rico. El arzobispo Roberto González Nieves de San Juan celebró una Misa para las víctimas de la masacre en Orlando, Florida. La Misa fue interrumpida cuando la policía entró a la catedral San Juan Bautista para investigar la posibilidad de una bomba adentro. (Foto CNS-Wallice J. de la Vega)

La declaración de Obispo Brendan Cahill sobre la tragedia en Orlando:

Debido a la tragedia reciente en Orlando, Pope Francis expresó su amor y preocupación por las víctimas, sus familias y América en este tiempo. Como él ha enseñado tan bien, todos somos hijos e hijas de un Dios de gracia. Vamos a apoyar el uno al otro con amor y volver a comprometernos con una cultura de vida y el respeto a la dignidad de cada persona. Que Dios los bendiga. Mantenemos uno al otro en el oración.

Brendan+

Voto de Corte Suprema bloquea plan temporal para detener deportaciones

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Con un empate de votos el 23 de junio, la Corte Suprema de los EEUU bloqueó un plan de la administración del presidente Obama que hubiera protegido temporalmente a más de 4 millones de inmigrantes de deportación.

El voto de 4-4 afirma la decisión de una corte de apelaciones que impidió los planes de decretos presidenciales que impiden deportación. En una opinión legal de una página, la Corte Suprema dijo: “El dictamen se reafirma por una corte igualmente dividida”.

Expertos de ley la han llamado una ambigua y confusa decisión política y jurídica, y una que deja a muchos en un estado de suspenso. La decisión también dirige la atención pública al puesto vacante en la Corte Suprema. La persona que llene ese lugar puede determinar el caso en el futuro si se vuelve a presentar en apelación.

Líderes religiosos no tardaron en denunciar la acción de la corte como una regresión para familias inmigrantes y enfatizaron la urgencia de una reforma comprensiva de inmigración.

El obispo Óscar Cantú, de Las Cruces,

Nuevo México, se refirió al dictamen de la corte como una “una triste decisión” y dijo que el plan de inmigración del presidente había sido “el resultado de años de laborioso trabajo y esfuerzos comprometidos de defensores de inmigrantes, de organizaciones comunitarias, de algunos legisladores y de la comunidad de fe”.

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Meals • Picnics and more

July

Moravia—Ascension Parish Picnic July 17. A stew and fried chicken dinner beginning at 11:00 a.m. at \$9 p/p. There will be entertainment throughout the day. Music by Mark Halata & Texavia and The Czechaholics.

August

Port O'Connor—Knights of Columbus Council 9088 and Nazareth Academy Fishing Tournament, Aug. 5 and 6. See ad on pg. 5 for more information.

Yoakum—Annual St. Joseph Alumni Reunion, Aug. 6 with Mass at 5:00 p.m. followed by a reception and dinner at St. Joseph Family Center. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Call the rectory at (361) 293-3518 for more information.

Frelsburg—Sts. Peter and Paul Country Festival, Aug. 7 beginning with a Polka Mass at 10:00 a.m. A fried fish meal at 11:00 a.m. at \$10 p/p large and \$6 p/p small. For more information call (979) 732-3430 or (979) 732-0257. See ad on pg. 7.

Victoria—Our Lady of Sorrows Jamaica Aug. 7 at the Victoria Community Center. Beginning at 10:30 a.m. with a carne guisada dinner at \$9 p/p. Live auction at 1:00 p.m. Games and fun for all.

Yoakum—St. Joseph Parish Picnic Aug. 7 at the Yoakum Community Center. A stew and sausage meal served starting at 10:30 a.m. at \$9 p/p. See ad on pg. 8

Victoria—KJZT Society 101 Mass for living and deceased members Aug. 14, 7:30 a.m. at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. Breakfast to follow in the cafeteria. Please RSVP by calling (361) 573-2669.

Praha—160th Prazska Pout/Praha Picnic Aug. 15. A 10:00 a.m. Mass with Bishop Cahill at St. Mary's Church. From 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. stew and fried chicken dinner at \$9 p/p. Music from 11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. by Ennis Czech Boys, Praha Brothers and The All Around Czech. There will be a cakewalk, games, country store and more throughout the day. Auction at 1:00 p.m. For more information visit stmaryspraha.org.

Hillje—St. Andrew Summer Festival, Aug. 21 at the Parish Hall. A prime beef barbecue and sausage dinner at 11:00 a.m. with drive-thru plates-to-go also available both at \$9 p/p. Indoor auction at 12:30 p.m. There will be a country store, bake sale, cakewalk and more along with some music.

Hungerford—St. Francis Seriphin KJT Society #79 centennial celebration, Aug. 28 beginning with Mass at 9:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist Church. A barbecue chicken/sausage dinner starting at 10:30 a.m. at the Community Center (KJT Hall). Silent auction, and hourly door prizes. Free dance, 1:00-5:00 p.m., music by the Red Ravens. All proceeds benefit upkeep and maintenance of the society's hall.

September

Cuero—Our Lady of Guadalupe Jamaica, Sept. 4

Shiner—Sts. Cyril and Methodius Picnic, Sept. 4

Hallettsville—Sacred Heart Parish Picnic, Sept. 4

Nada—St. Mary's Parish Festival & Homecoming, Sept. 4

Vanderbilt—St. John Bosco Festival, Sept. 4

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

Engaged Encounter—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.

Pilgrimages

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

Spiritual Director: Bishop Brendan Cahill—Holy Land Prayer & Encounter Jan. 23-Feb. 3, 2017, to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. The Gospels and the Rosary come to Life as we visit Nazareth, Bethlehem, Cana, sail on the Sea of Galilee, Mt. Tabor, Jericho, and pray the Stations of the Cross in Jerusalem on the way to an early Mass in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. On this very special pilgrimage with Bishop Cahill, there will be special opportunities with Christian brothers and sisters, and learn how they are the "living stones" of the Holy Land. And, yes, you will take a dip in the Dead Sea too! Contact: Ceci Triska by email at jctriska@sbcglobal.net or call (979) 543-8575.

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.

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

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

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

Conferences • Masses • Retreats and more

Wharton—Prayer: The Faith Prayed - Conference for Catechesis and Ministry Oct. 1 at Holy Family Church. Keynotes by Bishop Brendan Cahill, Charleen Katra and Rita Martinez. The conference begins at 9:00 a.m. and closes with Mass at 4:30 p.m. For complete descriptions of workshops and presenter biographical information, go to www.victoriadiocese.org, click Ministries, then XXIX Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry, or call (361) 573-0828.

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. For more information, call (361) 237-3634.

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



KJZT HELP THOSE IN NEED—

The KJZT Society 101 of Victoria recently had a bake sale with proceeds benefiting the Food Bank of the Golden Crescent. Pictured above presenting a \$1,500 check, is

Irene Brosch, KJZT Secretary; Evelyn Dierlam, KJZT President; Robin Cadle, Food Bank Director; Wendy Hrnir, KJZT Member; and Carolyn Nevlud KJZT, Treasurer.



KJZT SO- CIETY #53 SUPPORTS GABRIEL PROJECT—

The Fraternal 100 Project provided \$100 from the state office to each society achieving a Platinum Status for the year 2015 to be used by the

society as they wish. The KJZT Society #53 St. Zdislava of Wied achieved this status and gave their money to the Gabriel Project - Lavaca Chapter which helps women experiencing a crisis pregnancy/an alternative to abortion. Pictured above, left-right, Katherine Kahanek, KJZT President; Julie Kubena, Gabriel Project representative; Bea Butschek, and Janet Janak, KJZT Members.



KJZT #9 DO- NATES TO TURTLE WING FOUN- DATION—

Holy Rosary Society #9 St. John's 100 Project donation is being given to Turtle Wing Foundation.

Turtle Wing Foundation is a 501c3 non-profit organization whose mission is to help children with learning challenges in rural areas achieve their full potential. This foundation was founded by DeeAnn Hooper, in honor of her son, Jack Hooper, who passed away April 5, 2011, of a viral-like syndrome of unknown origin. During their 2014-2015 fiscal year, Turtle Wing Foundation helped provide early intervention and supplemental services to 159 children with hundreds more being impacted by Community Education & Advocacy programming. The recipients have all been from Colorado, Fayette, Lavaca and surrounding counties with academic, social-emotional, behavioral and/or developmental needs. To learn more about Turtle Wing Foundation visit www.turtlewingfoundation.org or contact Managing Director, Susie Shank, at (979) 820-8964. Pictured above, left-right, Joyce Janda and Bessie Dornak with KJZT #9 and Susie Shank, Turtle Wing managing director.



WEIMAR KC'S HONORS NEW PRIEST—

As a deacon last summer, Father Max Landman served at St. Michael Church, Weimar, assisting Msgr. John Bily. The Weimar Knights of Columbus Council #2153 are proud to be one of the co-sponsors for the seminarians of the Diocese of Victoria. Newly ordained Father Max Landman is

shown receiving a monetary donation from the members of Weimar Knights of Columbus Council #2153. Presenting the donation is Grand Knight Martin Luchak, left and Treasurer Francis Janacek, right.



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A Painted Church Rededicated St. Mary's Church in Praha



Interior of St. Mary's Praha, in 2005 file photo.



Interior of St. Mary's Praha, at the rededication Mass.

June 12,
2016



The original ambo was stripped and gilded in 24-k gold leaf. The canopy is a replica of the original.



Bishop Cahill blessed the new altar of sacrifice. It replaces the makeshift Formica altar of the 1960s.



The hand painted ceiling of the church was left intact. The ceiling was painted by Godfrey Flury (1864-1936) of Oensingen, Switzerland.



Celebrating at this Mass were Bishop Brendan Cahill, Bishop Emeritus David Fellhauer, Bishop Charles Grahmann; priests, Msgr. Lambert Bily, Msgr. John Wagner, Msgr. Emil Wesselsky, Father Gabriel Maison and Father Kofi Amissah, pastor St. Joan of Arc, Diocese of Albany; Deacon John McCourt and Master of Ceremonies Dalton Ervin, Seminarian.

To the east of the church is the *Zdrávas* Maria fountain. It was constructed as a part of the rededication of the church.

See story on pg. 15

