



The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

VOL. 31, NO. 6

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OCTOBER 2017

Daily Mass – A Perfect Start to Each Day



By Sarita V. Richmond, Editor

PORT LAVACA—It was 1996 and Father Dan Morales would not take “no” for an answer. He had a dream in his heart to open a Catholic school for the people he was serving in the Port Lavaca area. His vision was to partner with parents in the community to raise children with a strong moral compass. He needed religious support to see this idea come alive and so he reached out to the Panhandle Franciscan Sisters. Father Dan traveled 650 miles to the Panhandle and met the Community of



Franciscans. As he spoke of his hopes and dreams for the school, one of the oldest Sisters (90) rose from her seat and said that, if she were thirty years younger, she would volunteer! Father Dan typically and

cheerfully answered that he would take her today. The Superior agreed in the end to send three Sisters to pioneer the new mission.

The first staff consisted of three School

Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis from Panhandle, Texas, and two lay teachers from the surrounding area, under the guidance of the administrator, Mr. Bob

See Daily Mass, pg. 27

Hurricane Harvey Special



In the Path of the Storm



See pg. 12

Community Coming Together

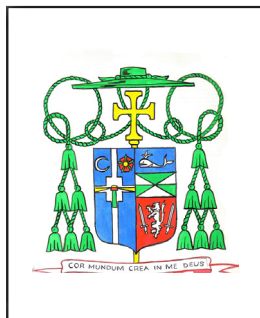


See pg. 13-14

Rebuilding



See pg. 16



Bishop Brendan Cahill *A Shepherd's Message*

A Gift to be Treasured and Protected

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

During the preparations for the arrival of Hurricane Harvey the news turned one moment to the evacuation of the neo-natal unit of a hospital in Corpus Christi. As the most vulnerable little babies were being transported to the helicopters I couldn't help but be awed by the love and tenderness with which these children were being handled. My soul turned quickly to pray for those children, their families and all the people who made it possible for them to be safe as a storm approached. The number of people who made that moment possible includes countless men and women – construction workers, doctors and nurses, helicopter pilots, hospital personnel, etc., etc. – each

person contributing his or her specific gifts, talents and work for the building up of society.

It seems to me that under the intense stress of the impending storm, the human spirit turned to its most basic instincts – this included the urge to acknowledge and protect each human life, with a special care for the most vulnerable. Neighbors checked on neighbors with special health needs, people made sure to evacuate nursing homes that were in danger, and the list goes on and on of people taking special care of those who were in special need. These images illuminate the basic respect and knowledge we possess that every human life is a gift of an almighty God – with no exceptions.

During the Respect Life month of October the Catholic Church makes an explicit effort to proclaim and support the truth that seemed so clear in the threat of the storm – from conception to natural death each human life is a gift of God to be treasured and protected. This may sound obvious and easy to agree with, but if we look into many areas of our social and political life we can quickly see that we need to fight for this every day. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church (#396-412) affirms, because of original sin we must battle evil and “the sin of the world” (Jn. 1:29).

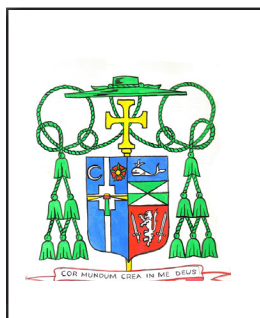
This issue of the Lighthouse will include references to some of our activities in the Diocese of Victoria for Respect Life month. It seems fitting to me that this is also the month of the Rosary. I'll include here a quote from St. John Paul II's teaching on the Rosary that I shared with you last October:

“6. A number of historical circumstances also make a revival of the Rosary quite timely. First of all, the need to implore from God the gift of peace. The Rosary has many times been proposed by my predecessors and myself as a prayer for peace. At the start of a millennium which began with the terrifying attacks of 11 September 2001, a

millennium which witnesses every day in numerous parts of the world fresh scenes of bloodshed and violence; to rediscover the Rosary means to immerse oneself in contemplation of the mystery of Christ who “is our peace”, since he made “the two of us one, and broke down the dividing wall of hostility” (Eph 2:14). Consequently, one cannot recite the Rosary without feeling caught up in a clear commitment to advancing peace, especially in the land of Jesus, still so sorely afflicted and so close to the heart of every Christian.

A similar need for commitment and prayer arises in relation to another critical contemporary issue: the family, the primary cell of society, increasingly menaced by forces of disintegration on both the ideological and practical planes, so as to make us fear for the future of this fundamental and indispensable institution and, with it, for the future of society as a whole. The revival of the Rosary in Christian families, within the context of a broader pastoral ministry to the family, will be an effective aid to countering the devastating effects of this crisis typical of our age.”

See A Gift to be Treasured, pg. 3



Obispo Brendan Cahill *Mensaje del Pastor*

Un Regalo Para Atesorar y Proteger

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas,

Durante los preparativos para la llegada del Huracán Harvey la noticia se dirigió un momento a la evacuación de la unidad neonatal de un hospital en Corpus Christi. A medida que los bebés más vulnerables eran transportados a los helicópteros, no pude evitar sentirme impresionado por el amor y la ternura con que estaban siendo manejados estos niños. Mi alma se volvió rápidamente para orar por esos niños, sus familias y todas las personas que hicieron posible que estuvieran a salvo mientras se aproximaba una tormenta. El número de personas que hicieron posible ese momento incluye a innumerables hombres y mujeres – trabajadores de la construcción, médicos y enfermeras, pilotos de helicópteros, personal del hospital, etc. – cada persona aportando sus dones específicos, talentos y

trabajo para la construcción de la sociedad.

Me parece que bajo el intenso estrés de la tormenta inminente, el espíritu humano se volvió hacia sus instintos más básicos – incluyendo el impulso de reconocer y proteger cada vida humana, con atención especial a los más vulnerables. Vecinos examinaron a vecinos con necesidades especiales de salud, gente se aseguró de evacuar los hogares de ancianos que estaban en peligro, y la lista sigue y sigue de las personas tomando cuidado especial de aquellos que estaban en necesidad especial. Estas imágenes iluminan el respeto y conocimiento básico que poseemos de que toda vida humana es un don de un Dios todopoderoso, sin excepciones.

Durante el mes de respetar la vida de octubre, la Iglesia Católica hace un esfuerzo explícito para proclamar y apoyar las ver-

dades que parecían tan claras en la amenaza de la tormenta, desde la concepción hasta la muerte natural cada vida humana es un regalo de Dios para ser atesorado y protegido. Esto puede parecer obvio y fácil de acordar, pero si nos fijamos en muchas áreas de nuestra vida social y política podemos ver rápidamente que tenemos que luchar por esto todos los días. Como afirma el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica (# 396-412), debido al pecado original debemos luchar contra el mal y “el pecado del mundo” (Jn 1:29).

Este publicación del Lighthouse incluirá referencias a algunas de nuestras actividades en la Diócesis de Victoria para el mes de Respeto a la Vida. Me parece apropiado que este sea también el mes del Rosario. Voy a incluir aquí una cita de las enseñanzas de San Juan Pablo II sobre el rosario que compartí con ustedes en el octubre pasado:

“6. Algunas circunstancias históricas ayudan a dar un nuevo impulso a la propagación del rosario. Ante todo, la urgencia de implorar de Dios el don de la paz. El rosario ha sido propuesto muchas veces por mis Predecesores y por mí mismo como oración por la paz. Al inicio de un milenio que se ha abierto con las horribles escenas del atentado del 11 de septiembre de 2001 y que ve cada día en muchas partes del mundo nuevos episodios de sangre y violencia, promover el rosario significa sumirse en la contemplación del misterio de

Aquél que «es nuestra paz: el que de los dos pueblos hizo uno, derribando el muro que los separaba, la enemistad» (Ef 2, 14). No se puede, pues, recitar el rosario sin sentirse implicados en un compromiso concreto de servir a la paz, con una particular atención a la tierra de Jesús, aún ahora tan atormentada y tan querida por el corazón cristiano.

Otro ámbito crucial de nuestro tiempo, que requiere una urgente atención y oración, es el de la familia, célula de la sociedad, amenazada cada vez más por fuerzas disgregadoras, tanto de índole ideológica como práctica, que hacen temer por el futuro de esta fundamental e irrenunciable institución y, con ella, por el destino de toda la sociedad. En el marco de una pastoral familiar más amplia, fomentar el rosario en las familias cristianas es una ayuda eficaz para contrastar los efectos desoladores de esta crisis actual.”

Una vez más quiero agradecer especialmente a cada uno de ustedes que se ha comprometido a rezar el Rosario por el don de la paz en el mundo y por la familia. Como San Juan Pablo II nos invitó a orar esto fielmente, creo que podemos mantener nuestra confianza en el poder de esta oración – más de lo que nunca sabemos! Que Dios los bendiga a ustedes ya sus familias, mantengámonos en oración.

+ Brendan



Bishop Brendan's Schedule

October		Catechists, Victoria
7	KC's Texas State Convention, Victoria	
8	10:00 a.m. Mass at St. Mary, Nada	
9	2:00 p.m. Interfaith Meeting 7:00 p.m. Holy Name Retreat Center Anniversary Mass, Houston	
12-17	Deacon Retreat, Colorado Springs, Colorado	
18	4:00 p.m. Building Board Meeting 5:30 p.m. Adult Confirmation Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria	
19	Catholic Jags event	
20	2:30 p.m. Reconciliation and Mass at Stevenson Unit, Cuero	
22	10:00 a.m. Mass and dedication of hall at St. John Bosco, Vanderbilt	
23	7:00 p.m. Spanish Mass at St. Rose of Lima, Schulenburg	
25	8:05 a.m. Mass and School visit at St. Joseph, Yoakum	
26	10:00 a.m. Forty Days for Life event, Houston	
28	9:00 a.m. Lunch and Learn at Nazareth Academy, Victoria	
29	8:00 a.m. Joint prayer service with Trinity Lutheran Church at Our Lady of Lourdes, Victoria	
30	Noon Mass with Missionary	

November

1	8:00 a.m. School Mass and visit at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
3	Irish Gala, Houston
5	8:45 a.m. Mass and CCD visit at Sts. Peter and Paul, Frelsburg
6-7	Catholic Rural Life Board Meeting, Minneapolis

A Gift to be Treasured and Protected

Continued from pg. 2

Once again, I want to particularly thank each of you who has committed to pray the Rosary for the gift of peace in the world and for the family. As St. John Paul II invited us to pray this faithfully, I believe we can maintain our confidence in the power of this prayer – more than we ever know! May God bless you and your families, let's keep each other in prayer,

+Brendan

DSA update

2017 Diocesan Services Appeal

Diocesan Goal:	\$ 1,994,298.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$ 900,359.38
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 826,667.38
Number of Parish Families Participating:	2,869

Updated September 25, 2017

VICAR FOR RELIGIOUS APPOINTED—Sister Stephana Marbach, IWBS has been appointed the Vicar for Religious in the Diocese of Victoria. The Vicar for Religious maintains a connection between religious communities and all members of consecrated life and the Diocese of Victoria. She will also work to welcome new congregations and individual religious to the diocese and assist them with housing, ministry agreements, religious compensation and distribution of materials.



Chancery Welcomes New Staff Member Tony Martinez

Anthony "Tony" Martinez grew up in Edgemont, a small town in western South Dakota. The town was named for being on the "Edge" of the Black Hills and is near Mount Rushmore. He is from a large Catholic family with 7 boys and 2 girls. Tony has a twin brother, Andy who is 10 minutes older than him. He graduated valedictorian of his high school class and obtained a BS/BA in Accounting from the University of South Dakota.



After 22 years of blistering winters he relocated to San Antonio for his first job out of college. He spent 3 years in San Antonio in Public Accounting with KPMG Peat Marwick. During that time he also obtained a license of a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). Tony then took a job with The Coca-Cola Company in Atlanta, Georgia. In 1996 he happily returned to

Texas with Coca-Cola. While there Tony held positions of increasing responsibility in the areas of Accounting, Finance, and Procurement.

It was during this time that Tony met his wife, Cindy. They were married at Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Sweet Home, Texas in 2001. Tony and Cindy reside in Shiner, Texas and are currently parishioners of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church. They have two daughters, Nicole who is a 4th grade teacher in Rockport, and Jessica who works and lives in the Victoria area.

Tony feels that his broad range of experience over the past 30 years will aid in his new position as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the Diocese of Victoria. He will assume the responsibilities of CFO January 1, 2018. Tony shares, "I am excited to be working again in the area of Accounting and Finance and look forward to growing together in community with those at the Diocese of Victoria." A couple of mantras that Tony believes are: 1) "Work Hard, Study Hard and be Teachable" and 2) "Strive to be the person that your dog thinks that you are!"

Stocks ■ Bonds ■ CDs Mutual Funds ■ IRAs



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Victoria, TX 77901

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kenny.french@edwardjones.com

Incarinate Word & Blessed Sacrament Gift Shop



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Victoria, TX 77901

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

**Bibles, Books, Rosaries, Medals
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Inspirational Gifts**



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DEADLINE IS THE 15th OF THE PRECEDING MONTH

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Seminary Endowment Fund

Seminary Endowment Fund (formerly known as Seminary Burses) is 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 person, living or deceased. Publication of the burses will appear periodically when new contributions are received.

Donation Categories: Lector - \$.01 - \$99.99; Acolyte - \$100 - \$499.99; Candidate - \$500 - \$1,499.99; Transitional Deacon - \$1,500 - \$2,499.99; Priest - \$2,500 >.

September 20, 2017

• **Rev. Wayne Flagg and Rev. Philip Brune Seminary Burse**

Lector

In memory of Alvin Emmel by
Elbert and Joan Brune

In memory of Rev. Dan Morales by
Lambert and Carol Brune

• **Rev. Scott Hill Seminary Burse**

Lector

In memory of Lydia Orsak Stelzel by
Daryl and Joan Hill

• **Rev. Roman M. Janak & Rev. Msgr. Hubert J. Janak Seminary Burse**

Lector

In memory of Joseph and Cecelia Fikac
by the Fikac Children

• **Rev. Dan Morales Seminary Burse in Honor of his Work for Vocations**

Lector

In memory of Rev. Dan Morales by
Paz and Andrea Morales

• **Rev. Charles Kolek, OSB & John and Marie Kolek Seminary Burse**

Acolyte

In memory of Rev. Charles Kolek and
John and Marie Kolek by
Kolek Family Reunion

• **Rev. Jerome J. Stryk Seminary Burse #2**

Acolyte

In memory of Louis Stryk by
Daniel Stryk

• **Rev. Timothy Kosler Seminary Burse**

Acolyte

In memory of Calvin H. Dieringer by
Henrietta Veselka
In memory of Jo Lane Schwenke by
Henrietta Veselka
In memory of Brother Knight Roland A.
Proske by
K of C Council #2902, Schulenburg

• **Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #7**

Lector

Donation by Soila Sanchez
In honor of their 70th Wedding
Anniversary by
Arthur and Rose Mary Etzler
In memory of Roland Prashke by Willie
E. Barborak

Acolyte

In honor of Arthur and Rosemary
Etzler's 70th Wedding Anniversary by
A. W. Spies, Jr.

• **Knights of Columbus Victoria Council #1329 Seminary Burse #4**

Acolyte

In memory of:
Pete Cavazos
Varnely Owen Martin
Daniel Boltz
Donald Kruppa
all above by K of C Council #1329

To contribute to an existing Seminary
Endowment Fund send contributions with
the appropriate fund designation to:

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



CDA MEMBER RECEIVES HIGHEST HONOR—During the banquet at the 27th Biennial Texas State JCDA Convention held in McAllen, Texas, Diane Hermann, local JCDA Court St. Paul Chairman in Shiner, Texas, was honored to receive the St. Anne Medal for her many years of service to JCDA. Diane has completed nine years serving as chairman for the court in Shiner. Shown presenting Diane with her medal is Sheila Martinka and Peggy Supak, at the mike, both are State Co-Chairmen of the Texas State JCDA organization. The St. Anne medal is the highest national award for adults working with Catholic members in organizations serving girls.

Education of Seminarian Fund

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

Donation categories: Lector - \$.01 - \$99.99; Acolyte - \$100 - \$499.99; Candidate - \$500 - \$1,499.99; Transitional Deacon - \$1,500 - \$2,499.99; Priest - \$2,500 >.

Lector

Paz & Andrea Morales
in Memory of Father Dan Morales

Randy & Regina Janak
in Memory of Melvin Kunz

Acolyte

Adeline Krenek
in Memory of Eugene Krenek

Catholic Life Insurance

Candidate

St. Ann's Society, High Hill
in Memory of Father Dan Morales

Robert & Kathryn Kennedy

Catholic Daughters Court
St. Bernadette #1108, East Bernard

St. Mary Altar Society, Hallettsville

Transitional Deacon

Priest

Frank & Theresa Bramanti

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

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



FATHER ROTHER BEATIFICATION OKLAHOMA—A tapestry of Blessed Stanley Rother is seen during his beatification Mass Sept. 23 at Oklahoma City's Cox Convention Center. Blessed Rother, a priest of the Oklahoma City Archdiocese, was murdered in 1981 in the Guatemalan village where he ministered. (CNS photo/Dave Crenshaw, *Eastern Oklahoma Catholic*)



2018
Peru ~ May 12-21
With Deposit by Dec. 10 \$200 Savings!



Hawaii ~ June 16-24

Brochures for 2018
should be in the mail in October.

Next Travel Meeting Oct. 26
Presentation on Peru.
Call for information.

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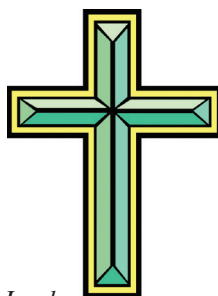
Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria who were ordained during the month of September:

Rev. Wayne N. Flagg 09/24/1988 St. Michael Church, Weimar

"If some of you hear the call to follow Christ more closely,
to dedicate your entire heart to Him, like the Apostles John and Paul...
be generous, do not be afraid,
...because you have nothing to fear when the prize that you await is God Himself,
for Whom, sometimes without ever knowing it, all young people are searching."
~ Pope Saint John Paul II

Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria who died during the month of September:

Rev. Dan Morales	09/03/2016
Rev. Msgr. Werner Bockholt	09/08/1992
Rev. Marcus Valenta	09/09/1984
Rev. Msgr. John J. Hanacek	09/14/1994
Rev. Jude Belisle, O.Ss.T.	09/17/1994
Rev. Donald Hayden, O.Ss.T.	09/19/2009



For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord;
so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. (Romans 14:8)

Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria, who were ordained during the month of October:

Rev. Frank B. Lenz	10/29/1994	Retired
Rev. Gabriel Mensah	10/29/1983	Military Chaplain - Retired

Eternal Father,
we lift up to you these and all the priests of the world.
Sanctify them. Heal and guide them.
Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son,
Jesus, the Eternal High Priest.
May their lives be pleasing to you In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria, who died during the month of October:

Rev. Joseph Vrana	10/10/2016
Rev. Charles Carolan	10/13/2009
Rev. Msgr. Julius Petru	10/15/2001
Rev. Joseph Pham due Trinh	10/16/2007



Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil for you are with me
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
Psalms 23:4



Editor Note

Dear Lighthouse Readers,
Due to Hurricane Harvey there was not a September issue of the Lighthouse mailed. We combined information from September into this issue. Sorry for any inconvenience. Our prayers are with all who are suffering from the effects of the hurricane.
Sincerely,
Sarita V. Richmond, Editor

In Memory of ...

Ernest E. Berger Father of Rev. David Berger

SHINER—Ernest Ervin Berger, 78, of Shiner, Texas passed away on Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at his residence.

Funeral Mass was held on Saturday, September 23, 2017 at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church in Shiner. Interment followed at Shiner Catholic Cemetery.

Ernest was born on September 2, 1939 in Shiner. He was the son of Ferdinand and Annie (Kalisek) Berger. He married Mary Ann Etzler on January 27, 1968 at Sacred Heart Church in Hallettsville. He was a lifetime farmer/rancher. Ernest was a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Ernest is survived by his wife; four sons, Ernest Berger, Jr. and his wife, Stacy of Shiner, James Berger and his wife, Mi-

chele of Victoria, Father David Berger of Shiner, Thomas Berger and his wife, Sara of Shiner; six daughters, Nancy Ellis and her husband, Bryan of Victoria, Jane Crosslin and her husband, Todd of Sasche, Patricia Svetlik and her husband, Greg of Dripping Springs, Jeannette Shimek and her husband, Chris of Hallettsville, Anna Mukalel and her husband, Doyle of Rosenberg, Laura Srubar and her husband, Slate of El Campo, twenty-four grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, one son, and five brothers.

The family request memorials to: Sts. Cyril and Methodius / 306 S. Ave. F / Shiner, TX 77984, or Hospice of South Texas / 1206 N. Texana / Hallettsville, TX 77964.

PARISH OF THE NATIVITY

Roman Catholic Church of Victoria Diocese
545 S. Austin Rd - Eagle Lake, TX
Pavilion Across from the Hospital

Annual Fall Festival

Sunday, October 15th, 2017
Eucharist

308 N Stevenson St.
Spanish 8:00 am English 10:00 am

MEAL

BBQ Chicken & Sausage,
Buttered Potatoes & Green Beans

\$10.00 per plate

Serving from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm

CURB SERVICE WILL BE AVAILABLE

Live Auction 1:00 pm

RAFFLE DRAWING (AFTER THE AUCTION)

FIRST PRIZE \$4,600.00 GIFT CARD

Booths & Games

Food Booths, Cake & Plant Walk, Country Store,
Kids Games, Soccer Tournament

Come Enjoy the Day!
Something for Everyone!

POSTERS DONATED BY EAGLE LAKE FUNERAL HOME



Grandparents
Day
Celebrated



GRANDPARENTS ARE SPECIAL — Catholic schools throughout the Diocese of Victoria celebrated their grandparents with Masses and special receptions. God bless our grandparents!



department at the school. Making the presentation, left-right, George Wenzel, Bob Sobczak, grand knight for the Knights of Columbus #9088; Sister Evelyn Korenek, principal of Nazareth Academy; Fred Kubesch, and Gary Moses.

KC'S SUPPORT NA — Holy Family Knights of Columbus #9088 donated \$70,000 to Nazareth Academy from the proceeds of their 15th Annual Fishing Tournament held August 4-5 in Port O'Connor. Over the last 15 years, Holy Family Knights of Columbus has donated over \$750,000 to Nazareth Academy. The proceeds will help pay for upgrades to the technology

The Diocese of Victoria Welcomes
New Catholic School Teachers

GOALS OF OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS:

- ~To integrate Catholic, Christian teachings and values into every aspect of the learning process and experience of school so that young people's journey into adulthood will also be a journey of faith and a growing internalization of these teachings and values.
- ~To provide an excellent academic education to help young people reach their God-given potential and be responsible, productive citizens.
- ~To assist parents, who are their children's primary educators, in the education and religious formation of their children.



Sally Ohrt Lein
Our Lady
of Victory
Victoria



Edward Ousley
Our Lady
of Victory
Victoria



Janis Pfeffer
St. Anthony
Columbus



Joan Trojacek
St. Anthony
Columbus



Katie Schafer
St. Michael
Cuero



Melissa McAnnally
Holy Cross
Bay City



Laura Beauchamp
St. Anthony
Columbus



Amy Malik
St. Joseph
Yoakum



Debbie Michaelson
St. Philip
El Campo



Brittney Herzik
St. Michael
Weimar



Brad Wright
Sacred Heart
Hallettsville



Anthony Harper
St. Joseph
Yoakum



Jordan Schott
St. Joseph
Victoria



Megan Schott
St. Joseph
Victoria



Lydia Palmer
St. Joseph
Victoria



Sr. Cecilia Vu, OP
Our Lady of
the Gulf
Port Lavaca



Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Associates Take Mini-Pilgrimage

**By Sister Emiliana Grafe, IWBS
Associate Program Director**

During an Incarnate Word Associates' Lenten Retreat, some of those in the formation group, were inspired to take a "Road Trip" to Groom, Texas, to personally see the huge Cross shown in a power point presentation. Ten of them, including me, their director, decided to go.

The excited travelers left from Incarnate Word Convent, early July 28, to make the ten hour drive. They decided to make it a pilgrimage, praying the Liturgy of the Hours, Morning and Evening Praise and the Rosary together each day, and chanting the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at the Groom Cross. Along the way, we also visited Jacob's Dream Sculpture, (Genesis 28:11-13), located at Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas.

We arrived in the evening and set out early Saturday for the last 30 miles to the

Cross. The morning was cool and comfortable as we prayed the life size Way of the Cross and spent time reflecting on all that the site offered. Of course, the "Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ" as it is officially called, was the main attraction, rising 190 feet toward heaven, high above anything else in the area. The Stations of the Cross form a large circle around it culminating with stairs up a hill to the three crosses. Coming down, we found the 13th Station and wound our way to the back to the empty tomb. It is inviting to sit inside with the angel and reflect for a while.

Sidewalks lead off to many other places of interest: a room with a replica of the Shroud, a monument of the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes, and one to the unborn with a life size Jesus kneeling, holding an embryo in his hand. The center, off to another side, features a grotto with Jesus standing in front of a waterfall. Sur-

rounding this open air attraction is a series of rooms inviting one in to explore. There is a beautiful theater which gives a short presentation of the Cross and the Stations. A large reception room with tables, is another good place for rest and/or reflection.

The walls are lined with large paintings of all the Apostles, Jesus, and St. Paul. The artist wrote a story about how he chose the model for each one, what characteristics he was looking for in each and why. This story on each plaque provides the reader with a different perspectives on each Apostle.

There is a gift shop which is their only source of income for their Cross Ministries.

It was a Catholic family who had the idea and had the cross built, but they keep a very low profile, providing service to all people. One family member is the president of Cross Ministries and offers counseling in a beautiful setting.

We attended Mass Saturday evening at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Groom which is a small town of approximately 600 people. The 90 Catholic families have a very active parish.

A wonderfully spiritual time was had by all, arriving home Sunday evening, tired, but grateful, and happy, feeling so blessed.

SISTERLY THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



A Direct Connection

Recently I heard someone walking behind me and catching up with me. As he came near, I heard him say, "Hello". In response, I turned to him and returned his greeting, only to discover that he was answering a call on his cell phone.

I began to think of how cell phones and other electronic means of communication have rapidly changed our way of relating with one another. It seems that many of us, especially young folks, have cell phones and use them extensively. Now these all-present phones are most valuable in business and in making family connections. Some people, especially the elderly or those who live alone, like the assurance of knowing that they can call for help in case of need.

While I use and appreciate the advantages of having a phone with me, I fear that overuse of phones can stymie the development of deep personal relationships including our relationship with God. There is the danger that some individuals seem to get wedded to their phones, being attentive to them 24 hours a day while ignoring family and friends about them. When this happens even God can get left out.

So let us make an effort to keep connected to God through our direct line - no phone or electronic equipment needed. In addition to formal prayers, let us raise little aspirations to God like arrows pierc-

ing the heavens; let us put our electronic devices down long enough to see and hear God through creation and those about us. Then our response to God's voice will be an enhancing feature in the development of our relationship to God, to others, and to all Creation. May the balanced use of our phones become part of our praise of our God and our appreciation of one another as companions journeying together to bring about the Reign of God.

Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Associates are pictured at the base of the 19 story "Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ", in Groom, Texas, left to right are Robin Hayter, Sarita Gutierrez, Joyce Strauss, Kathy Martinez, Donna Flores, Sister Emiliana Grafe, IWBS, Gilda Miller, Dorothy Bujnoch and Lillian Cooper. Not pictured: Donald Strauss.



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KJZT #101 Presents Scholarships



SCHOLARSHIPS PRESENTED—The KJZT Society #101 awarded \$250 scholarships to four students. Pictured left, Melanie Hermes, pictured right is Justin Mueller both with Carolyn Nevlud, society secretary. Michael Hill and Katherine Motley also received scholarships (not pictured).



NEW YEAR FOR YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING (YLT)—Youth from around the diocese met on September 17 at St. Michael, Cuero for the first meeting of YLT. The meeting was getting to know each member through ice breakers and other activities. Many of these skills will be used to help facilitate retreats for other youth of the diocese.



COLUMBIAN SQUIRES AWARDS FIRST SCHOLARSHIP—Congratulations to Jacob Wiebelhaus, the first recipient of a \$500 scholarship from Columbian Squires Victoria, Circle 2366. Jacob will attend college at Southwest University where he will play football, major in kinesiology and minor in business. Some of his service hours included helping with engraved brick project at St. Mary's, KC chicken BBQ's, church festivals, Warriors Weekend, Family Outdoor Expo, Titan baseball youth camps, Victoria Youth Football League, cutting lawns for Tiny Texas Homes and Little League baseball. Pictured left to right, Matthew Aguayo, Tyler White, Father Dominic Antwi-Boasiako, the Columbian Squires Pryor; Jacob Wiebelhaus, Ben Wiebelhaus, Luke Hernandez, Chief Squire; Colby White, Jason Hernandez, and Scott Olsovsky.



Pictured above, left-right, Tom Maj, principal of St. Joseph High School, Victoria; Kelsey Ellett, Commended Student in the National Merit Scholarship Program; Jordan Pyatt, National Merit Semifinalist; and Logan Rivera, National Merit Semifinalist and National Hispanic Recognition Scholar.

St. Joseph High School Seniors Recognized in National Merit Competition

St. Joseph High School (STJ), Victoria seniors, Jordan Pyatt and Logan Rivera have been named National Merit Semifinalists. Kelsey Ellett has been named Commended Student in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Logan was also named a National Hispanic Recognition Scholar. STJ recently presented awards to these scholastically talented seniors. About 1.6 million juniors in more than 22,000 high schools entered the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2016 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/MNSQT), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. Jordan and Logan, National Merit Semifinalists, are two of approximately 16,000 students nationwide to receive the award from NMSC.

The nationwide pool of Semifinalists,

representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state. They will have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth about \$32 million that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a National Merit Scholarship award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition.

Kelsey, a National Merit Commended Student, is among 34,000 students throughout the nation who are being recognized for the exceptional academic promise. Rivera, also received the National Hispanic Recognition Scholar designation. Each year the National Hispanic Recognition Program recognizes 5,000 of the 250,000 Hispanic/Latino juniors who take the test.

The celebration
of *Holy Mass*
is as valuable
as the
death of Jesus
on the cross.

REVERENCE BACK

10.20.17

Youth Spectacular postponed due to Hurricane Harvey.
Watch for more information!

The Cathedral Center
3102 N. Laurent St. Victoria, TX



DIOCESAN AGGIES ATTEND MASS WITH BISHOP—Bishop Brendan Cahill celebrated Mass at St. Mary's in College Station on September 24. Diocese of Victoria Aggie Catholic students and Alumni Alyson Klimichek, pictured left, attended the Mass and a reception.



PALACIOS VIETNAMESE VILLAGE DEDICATES NEW CHURCH—Hundreds flocked to the dedication Mass of the newly built Our Lady of the Assumption Chapel in the Vietnamese Village (Palacios), strategically planned only three days prior to the Holy Day, the Feast of the Assumption, when Mary was “assumed body and soul into heavenly glory” several years after her son, Jesus, ascended into heaven. Pastor of St. Anthony of Padua, Palacios, Father Dominic Nguyen; associate pastor Father Francis Nguyen III and the Vietnamese Apostolate with profound gratitude to Almighty God, the Lady of Assumption and Saint Joseph, joyfully welcomed Bishop Brendan J. Cahill to celebrate the dedication Mass. A delicious feast and celebration followed. Also present was Bishop Emeritus David E. Fellhauer. It was mentioned during the celebration that ‘time, talent and treasure’ along with generous donations from the parishioners enabled this three year project, a beautifully adorned church specifically for the Vietnamese to maintain cultural religious norms, to come to fruition.



AGGIE CATHOLIC



ST. MICHAEL KC 4TH DEGREE ELECT OFFICERS—The Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree, Our Lady of Guadalupe Province District 6, St. Michael Assembly #1527 of Flatonia, Schulenburg, and Weimar installed new officers for the fraternal year 2017-2018 at the KC Hall in Columbus. Front row, left-right, District Marshal-Raymond Sykowski, Three-Year Trustee-Andrew Bockholt, Faithful Scribe-David Wanjura, Faithful Friar- Msgr. John C. Bily, District Marshal-Joe Soto, Faithful Pilot-Charles Herzik; back left-right, Faithful Captain-Thomas Bargas, Faithful Navigator-Raymond Prihoda, Faithful Inner Sentinel-Richard Schacherl, Faithful Outer Sentinel-Dennis Olsovsky, Faithful Admiral-Tim Leihardt, and Faithful Comptroller-Martin Luchak. Not pictured Faithful Purser-Francis Janacek, One-Year Trustee-Teddy Bratton, and Two Year Trustee-Jimmie Bertsch.



HOLY CROSS PARISH

BAZAAR

Riverside Hall - East Bernard

Sunday, October 8, 2017

Meal Served at 11:00 a.m. ~ BAR-B-QUE BEEF • CHICKEN • SAUSAGE
WITH “HOMEMADE DRESSING” & ALL THE TRIMMINGS
Hamburgers Served at 3:00 P.M.

Plenty of Czech Pastries, Refreshments & Country Store Items

****GAMES****

11:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Grand AUCTION - 12:30 P.M.

ENTERTAINMENT

The Dujka Brothers (Noon to 3:00 P.M.)

Al Sulak & The Country Sounds (3:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.)

Raffle Drawing at 7:30 P.M.

Mass Schedule – Holy Cross Church
Sunday, October 8 - 8:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M.

EVERYONE INVITED!



FIRST PERMANENT DEACON CLASS WELCOMES NEW CANDIDATES—On August 15, the solemnity of the Assumption, the Diocese of Victoria celebrated 30 years of service from the first class of permanent deacons. The candidates and their spouses gathered at St. Mary Church, St. Mary (outside of Hallettsville) for Mass with Bishop Brendan Cahill. The nineteen new candidates were formally admitted into the formation program for the next class of permanent deacons. The tentative ordination date is November 2020. They include: Adrian Canales, Andy Nunmaker, Bruce Turner, Chris Barnhill, Tim Kozelsky, Dusty Leopold, Jerome Kotzur, Eugene Menchaca, Frank Aguilar, Frank Tilley, John Glueck, Kevin Knox, Kevin Petrash, Matthew Schaefer, Michael Morkovsky, Nazario Hernandez, Richard Evans, Rusty Theut, and Terry Robinson.

In Memory of Deacon Ken Ryan



GEORGETOWN—Deacon Kenneth (Ken) William Ryan of Georgetown, Texas (formally of Port Lavaca) passed away from brain cancer on September 13, 2017. Ken was born January 24, 1950 in Postville, Iowa.

He married Lianne Johnson on May 19, 1973 at St. Patrick's Church in Waukon, Allamakee County, Iowa. Ken and Lianne then moved to Texas where Ken was employed at Aluminum Company of America (Point Comfort, Texas) for 30 years.

Ken and Lianne attended theology training through St. Thomas University in Houston where he obtained a Master's Degree and was ordained a Deacon for the Diocese of Victoria in Texas in July of 2001. He served the parish of Our Lady of the Gulf in Port Lavaca, for 10 years before moving to Sun City in Georgetown, Texas following retirement. He served St. Pat-

rick's Church in Hutto, and most recently Santa Rosa Parish in Andice, Texas.

Services were held on September 24 at Santa Rosa de Lima Catholic Church in Andice, Texas.

Ken is survived by his beloved wife, Lianne Ryan; son, Nicholas Ryan and wife Sarah; daughters: Wendy Kettler and husband Matt, and Katie Ryan and Brad Hartz; grandchildren: Claire, Corinne, Elise, and Ethan; mother-in-law, Lolita Engelhardt of Iowa; two sisters and two brothers. He was predeceased by a brother.

In lieu of flowers, you may send donations in memory of Ken to:

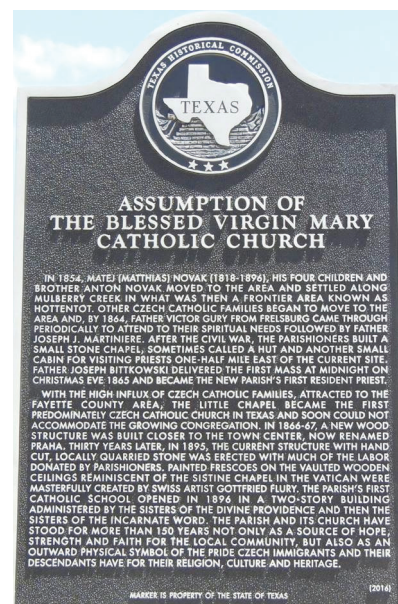
- Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church (415 W. Austin, Port Lavaca, TX 77979)
- Dr. Marnie Rose Foundation, in support of brain cancer research at MD Anderson <https://drmarnierosefoundation.racepartner.com/donate-today>

Gun Raffle Benefitting Cuero Knights of Columbus Was Huge Success

CUERO—The Cuero Knights of Columbus recently raffled off 12 guns for one of their annual fundraising events. The drawing was held on Monday, August 14, 2017. The gun raffle fundraising event is held to help build funds for the Cuero Knights of Columbus scholarship program and special projects for St. Michael's Catholic Church and School. The Cuero Knights of Columbus want to thank all who purchased gun raffle tickets, as the fundraising event was a huge success. The Knights especially want to thank the gun raffle donors, as their financial sponsorship

enabled the committee to purchase all 12 guns! The following individuals and businesses were gun sponsors:

Mrs. Billy Mitchell (in memory of Billy Mitchell); Bill Braden and Ken Klimitchek; Dr. Sage and Mike Manning; Jim Brzozowski, Bryan Haun, and Kirk Laging; Dustin Braden and Father David Berger; O. and G. Rocks; Crain and Shepard Attorneys; Lloyd and Connie Boedeker; Johnny and Laurie Pokluda; Rafter 17 Ranch – David and Patsy Warzecha; and Dennis Jemelka and Bart Goebel.



TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATED—Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (St. Mary) Church in Praha celebrated the Feast of the Assumption on Tuesday, August 15 with a Mass officiated by Bishop Brendan Cahill. Diocesan priests and a priest from the Czech Republic concelebrated. Following the Mass a Texas Historical Marker was dedicated outside the church and a new sign for St. Mary with Mass times was unveiled.

St. Theresa, La Salle Annual Picnic

Sunday, October 15

Turkey and Dressing Dinner ~ 11:00 a.m. ~ \$9 p/p
Catered by Robert Werner of Shiner
Dine-in or Drive-thru Plates-To-Go Available

Live Auction @ 12:30 p.m.
Country Store • Cakewalk • Children's Games and More

CATHEDRAL RECEIVES FUNDING—The KJZT Society #101 presented Father Gary Janak, pastor of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory \$2,000 to help fund the TV Masses that are broadcast weekly on KAVU Channel 25. He also



received \$300 for St. Vincent de Paul Society. St. Vincent de Paul Society helps many families each week with food and other needs. Presenting the check to Father Gary are, left, Evelyn Dierlam, KJZT president and Carolyn Nevlud, KJZT secretary.

Hurricane Harvey Recovery Throughout Diocese, Neighbors to South and East



THE CATHOLIC LIGHTHOUSE / DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS ~ SPECIAL ~ OCTOBER 2017



HURRICANE HARVEY HITS CROSSROADS—A condominium complex is reduced to rubble August 26 after Hurricane Harvey struck in Rockport, Texas. (CNS photo/Rick Wilking, Reuters)





-Our Lady of Prompt Succor- Patroness of Louisiana and Protector Against Hurricanes

Many miracles have been attributed to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title of Our Lady of Prompt Succor. Two historical events are especially associated with the Virgin. The first occurred in 1788 during the eruption of a great fire in New Orleans devastating the Vieux Carré. The Ursuline convent was facing imminent destruction as the winds blew the terrible fire toward the Plaza de Armas. An order was given to evacuate the convent, however at that moment, a nun named Sr. St. Anthony (Marthe Delatre, daughter of Antoine Delatre) placed a small statue of Our Lady of Prompt Succor on a window seat and Mother St. Michel began to pray aloud, "Our Lady of Prompt Succor, we are lost unless you hasten to our aid!" Immediately, the wind shifted direction, blowing the flames away from the convent allowing for the fire to be extinguished. The Ursuline convent was one of the few buildings spared from destruction.

The second major miracle occurred in 1815, twenty-seven years after the disastrous fire. General Andrew Jackson's

6,000 American troops faced 15,000 British soldiers on the plains of Chalmette. On the eve of the Battle of New Orleans, New Orleans residents joined the Ursuline sisters at their convent in the French Quarter to pray throughout the night, imploring the help of Our Lady of Prompt Succor. On the morning of January 8, the Very Rev. William Dubourg, Vicar General, offered Mass at the altar on which the statue of Our Lady of Prompt Succor had been placed. Cannon fire could be heard from the chapel. The Prioress of the Ursuline convent, Mother Ste. Marie Olivier de Vezin, made a vow to have a Mass of Thanksgiving sung annually should the American forces win. At the very moment of communion, a courier ran into the chapel to inform all those present that the British had been defeated. They had become confused by a fog and wandered into a swamp. The Mass ended with the singing of the Te Deum. An annual Mass of Thanksgiving has been held January 8 ever since. The 200 anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans occurred in 2015, and commemorative events were held.

In the Path of the Storm

By Sarita V. Richmond, Editor

As Hurricane Harvey approached the Gulf Coast on the morning of Friday, August 25, those in the path of the storm scurried about getting prepared for one of the largest hurricanes since Hurricane Carla. Unsure of what to expect people prepared by stocking up on water, batteries, non-perishable food, and supplies. Windows were boarded up and anything that could fly was secured or put away. A mandatory evacuation was put in place Friday afternoon and many people decided to leave to escape the danger of the upgraded Category 4 hurricane. Those who stayed prepared for the worst.

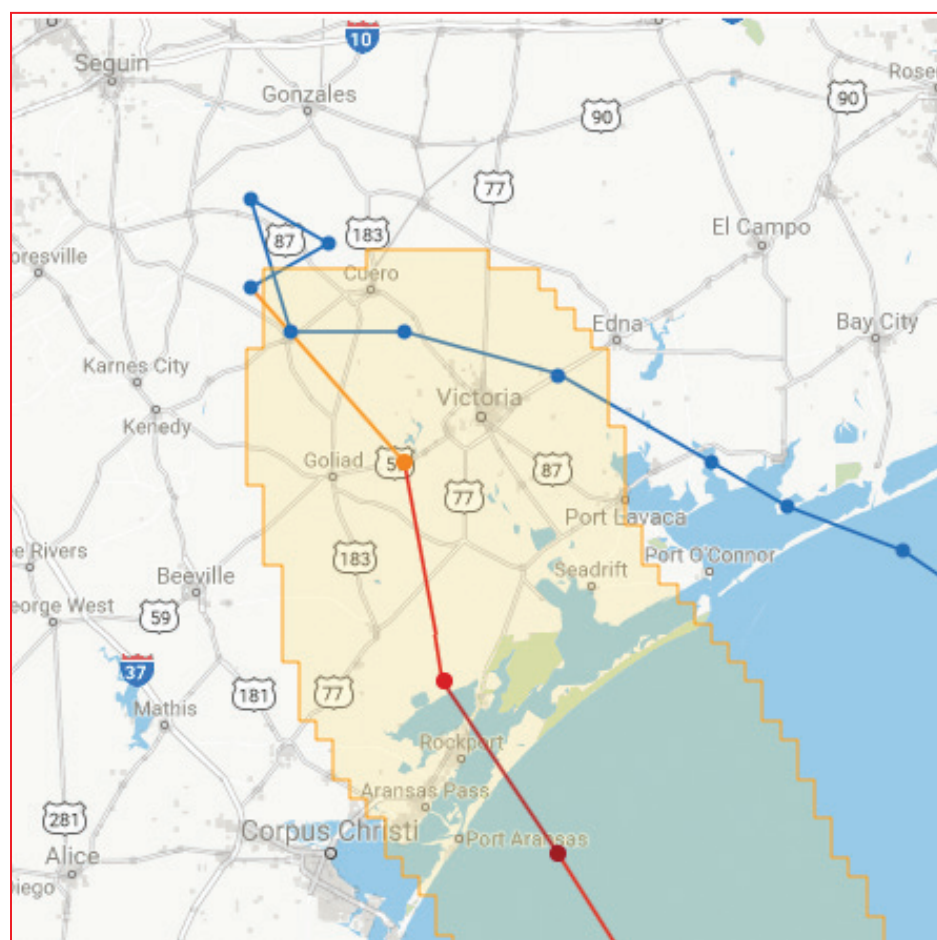
With preparations all finished, faith and prayer for protection was all that could be done. Bishop Brendan Cahill and those of the Diocese of Victoria prayed through the intercession of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, the Patroness of Louisiana and protection against hurricanes, that she keep the people of the Diocese of Victoria safe from harm.

Hurricane Harvey blew directly over Rockport Friday night destroying almost everything in its path. It continued moving northwest to Victoria Friday night and Saturday morning uprooting trees,

peeling roofs off of homes and buildings, and downing electrical lines. The storm ravaged most of the city and left thousands without electricity or drinking water. After the storm Bishop Cahill shared, "I am grateful to God for keeping people safe during the storm." As if the hurricane did not cause enough destruction, the rivers throughout Texas began to flood filling homes with up to 8 feet of water.

People instinctively reached out to help their brothers and sisters in need. Bishop Cahill shared, "In the midst of the darkest storm the sacrificial love of the human heart stood out as a bright light." For the next weeks concrete actions of service to one another would be witnessed over and over again as neighbors and strangers reached out to help one another clean up from the devastation of the storm and flooding. Countless groups reached out to bring immediate aid to the area. Bishop Brendan shared, "We are now faced with an overwhelming sense of loss and of suffering in our communities." Recovery and rebuilding will take months and possibly years before life can get normal again. We thank God for our many blessings as we keep one another in prayer.

"Pray for Us Our Lady of Prompt Succor"





The Spiritual Renewal Center experienced extensive damage to multiple structures and water damage due to roofs that were blown off. They also lost many trees due to the high winds. Pictured is a shed that was destroyed by the hurricane and a dormitory that lost part of its roof.



The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory suffered roof leaks that caused damage to the wooden rafters in the church. The church is currently being repaired and Mass will be held in the Our Lady of Victory School Gym until further notice.



Community Coming Together



The community of Bloomington came together right after the storm to provide water, cleaning supplies and food to those whose homes had been destroyed by the storm.

Catholic Charities USA, Catholic Charities of Corpus Christi, The Diocese of Victoria and Inter Faith groups from the Victoria area (Son Valley Distribution Center) collaborated to provide much needed cleaning supplies, toiletries, and supplies to families in the Victoria area. Thank you to the volunteers from Knights of Columbus #1329 and #9088 who helped unload and distribute items.



Good samaritans helped all over town on the days that followed the hurricane. Pictured are staff and volunteers at the Chancery removing a huge palm tree from the grounds. Also pictured is Alex A., a freshman at St. Joseph who helped neighbors cut and haul trees that had fallen. The last picture is a group of students who came to St. Joseph High School to help clean up debris and tree limbs.



Community Coming Together



Senator Eddie Lucio came to Victoria with his staff and brought water, supplies and two food trucks to feed those in need after the hurricane. He is from the Brownsville area and District 27. They served from the parking lot of Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church for two days before leaving to serve in Rockport.



Volunteers sort relief goods Sept. 8 at Holy Family Parish in Wharton, Texas, in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Harvey. The parish is in the Diocese of Victoria. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)



Volunteers from Phoenix, Arizona brought supplies and helped at the Life Center. Their t-shirts say, "Arizona Loves Texas"!



A disaster relief distribution center was set up at the Holy Family Catholic Church Life Center to assist those affected by the hurricane in the Wharton area. Thanks to the volunteers from Catholic Charities of Texas.



EL CAMPO KC'S SERVE A MEAL TO NATIONAL GUARD—Members of Knights of Columbus Council #2490 from El Campo, Texas cooked for and served members of the National Guard that were deployed to protect and assist persons that were affected by Category 4 Hurricane Harvey. Hurricane Harvey affected the Gulf Coast Area all the way from Corpus Christi to South Louisiana. Also pictured is Father Michael Rother, pastor of St. Philip's Apostolic Church, El Campo.



Franciscan Father John Tran Nguyen, pastor of St. Peter Church in Rockport, Texas, stands inside his destroyed church September 8 in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. The parish is home to mainly Vietnamese-American Catholics. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)

Water's rise and fall: Harvey's wrath still felt across Gulf Coast

By James Ramos
Texas Catholic Herald

HOUSTON — Hurricane Harvey took a wayward path through the Western Gulf Coast. Starting in Corpus Christi and Victoria, then slowly through Houston, and back into the Gulf of Mexico. Next to Beaumont and Port Arthur, and even Louisiana, the catastrophic storm left a deadly wake of historic rain and catastrophe.

Near Corpus Christi, the Category 4 storm made landfall August 25 and obliterated entire blocks in the coastal communities of Rockport and Fulton.

In Rockport, Harvey slammed into the Our Lady of Schoenstatt Shrine. Walls and tall trees fell around its renown “Little Chapel,” an exact replica of a German chapel. Nearby winds reaching 125 mph battered the small sanctuary — later found still standing, despite severe roof damage — and also rocked Victoria Bishop Brendan J. Cahill’s rectory. Sixty miles away in Victoria, the bishop kept vigil praying to the Blessed Mother under the two Marian devotions: Mary, Star of the Sea and Our Lady of Prompt Succor.

“When the eye of the storm comes, all you can do is pray,” he said. But soon, he “surrendered” the future to God, and went to bed. The next day, without power, Bishop Cahill listened to the radio as Harvey stalled over his 10-county diocese.

Then, Bishop Cahill emerged from his home to find an “incredible amount

of damage.”

“We had no idea what happened,” he said. Harvey was “stronger than we could imagine.”

Earlier prayers for protection turned to prayers for courage to live with the virtues of charity and great patience, he said. Despite the suffering and deep sadness as residents began to see the wreckage, Bishop Cahill saw the heroism of helping.

“The resolve to help one block, one parish at a time continues to be strong,” he said. In the Church, we “accompany and be with people.” Victoria Catholic schools, some that welcomed Katrina evacuees in 2005, now find themselves taking in other students from schools much closer to home, according to Theresa Dent, principal of Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School in Port Lavaca.

Then, in Galveston-Houston where Harvey idled and pouring 10 to 49 inches rain, Father J. Phong Nguyen answered a desperate call for help. The parochial vicar at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Houston drove through the rain to a north-west Houston neighborhood flooding to “the tops of the garage.”

On a rescue mission, Father Nguyen commandeered a boat after finding water too high to drive through and sped through the neighborhood. After bringing a family to safety with other rescuers, he heard more screams for help as they passed by more homes. For at least three or four hours — Father Nguyen said he’s unsure how long

he helped because he made so many trips — the priest helped pull stranded families from their second floor windows and homes.

The priest said the water was two feet when he began, but when he noticed the boat going over unusual bumps, unlike before, he realized that six to seven feet of water rose, hiding once-visible cars and stop signs. He was hitting the tops of cars.

“It was all gone,” he said.

Despite not knowing how to swim, and filled with fear, the priest felt called “the love for the people; I cannot leave the people there,” knocking on houses they passed to checking for anyone trapped.

“Before I started, I prayed to Mary,” he said, begging her to be with him. “My heart broke in two. It was too much. The water just kept rising and rising.”

Ordained in 2011, the Vietnamese-born priest said he had seen floods before, but had never seen such high water in his life. City officials said at least 70 percent of Harris County was covered in at least 1.5 feet of water.

While bayous and rivers still recede and rise in both Victoria and Houston, Harvey’s outer bands reached into East Texas, smothering Beaumont and Port Arthur with rain. Shortly offshore and downgraded to a tropical storm, Harvey made a second landfall Aug. 30 with more rain, drenching the already soaked region.

Drainage pumps failed as entire interstates became miles-long extensions of the Gulf of Mexico and the Neches River.

In Beaumont the next day, rising waters cut off the city’s water supply. The chancery offices remained closed, and a nearby hospital evacuated, another on water conservation.

In Port Arthur: a disaster. On Facebook Live, the city mayor video streamed his house knee-deep in water.

“Our whole city is under water,” he said.

Rescue calls swamped 911 call centers as flash floods east of Houston prompted mandatory evacuations. Floodwaters invaded a shelter. Much of Port Arthur’s many water rescues mirrored air rescues and calamity Father Nguyen saw first-hand

in Houston.

Parishes and schools throughout the Beaumont diocese saw some damage, some disastrous.

At least one parish remained unsafe to visit by the afternoon on Aug. 31. Then, parishes shared plans to host other congregations affected by Harvey. Beaumont Bishop Curtis J. Guillory dispensed Sunday Mass obligations for the Labor Day weekend for those who could not yet travel, “otherwise, all are welcome,” a post on the diocesan Facebook page stated.

In a statement, Bishop Guillory said, “not only have I witnessed the devastation, I have also witnessed your courage, your compassion, and your willingness to help each other.

“It is this compassion that binds us together as a community. It is this compassion that sustained us through Hurricanes Ike and Rita and will do so again.”

Next door in Louisiana, Harvey caused parochial and public school closures Aug. 30 and 31 as far down south as Terrebonne Parish to east in Tangipahoa Parish, north of New Orleans, La. Shelters also opened in Lake Charles and Alexandria to house Texas evacuees.

Across the sodden region, Harvey claimed at least 44 lives, leaving tens of thousands displaced into churches, convention and community centers. Some experts estimate total losses from Hurricane Harvey would reach \$190 billion, equal to Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy’s total combined costs.

Now Tropical Depression Harvey heads further inland, leaving a wake of mayhem that changed the lives of millions, including the 310 Catholic parishes along the Texas Gulf Coast. After visiting Corpus Christi and Austin with state officials August 28, President Donald Trump is expected to visit a still-flooded Houston on September 1.

Throughout the Gulf Coast, from Victoria to Houston and Beaumont, rising rivers continue to threaten. But as in Corpus Christi, Victoria and Houston, Port Arthur and Beaumont both begin the recovery process as the waters begin to fall.



A woman is rescued from Tropical Storm Harvey floodwaters by a U.S. Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 7 crew in Beaumont, Texas, in a still image from video Aug. 30. (CNS photo/U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Ernest Scott handout via Reuters)



Rebuilding



Texas Catholic Charities Receive \$2 Million, Emergency Support Vehicle for Hurricane Harvey Relief

SAN ANTONIO—The president and CEO of Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) on Tuesday hand-delivered checks worth more than \$2 million to assist the organization's Texas chapters in immediate and long-term disaster response efforts to Hurricane Harvey.

Sister Donna Markham presented the funds, raised by donors across the country, to officials at San Antonio Catholic Charities' offices just north of downtown. A new Mobile Response Center vehicle, provided

by CCUSA and filled with emergency supplies, also was on site during Tuesday's presentation.

The vehicle was delivered to CCUSA's headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia, less than three weeks ago. Markham said her staff immediately loaded it up with \$25,000 worth of supplies and drove it to San Antonio for further deployment to impacted areas in Texas. This marks the first time the vehicle is being used, and it will remain in Texas as long as it's needed.



The St. Vincent de Paul National Disaster Recovery Team was in Victoria at The Cathedral Center from September 18-23, 2017. They met with families to determine their needs after the hurricane. Some were registered with FEMA and other state agency benefits as well as the House in a Box Program. Hundreds of families were assisted over the 5 days that they were in town. Below are volunteers with a pallet of donations.



Hurricane Harvey Relief

Thousands of families in the Diocese of Victoria were hit especially hard by the devastating effects of Hurricane Harvey. We thank Catholic Charities USA, Catholic Charities of San Antonio, and Catholic Charities of Central Texas, the St. Vincent de Paul National Recovery Team and all who have donated items or assisted monetarily. The Diocese of Victoria will continue supporting the affected areas and those in need. Please check the <https://www.victoriadiocese.org/hurricane-planning> website for updates to Hurricane Relief planning efforts. We offer continued prayers for survivors of the hurricane impacted areas. For additional questions please contact Tony Martinez, incoming CFO/Hurricane Relief Coordinator at (361) 573-0828 or email at tmartinez@victoriadiocese.org.

WHAT TO DO NOW

- Donate to the Diocese of Victoria Harvey Relief Gift Card Program. Purchase Amazon gift cards or card network gift cards (Visa, Amex, etc.) in whatever amount you are comfortable in giving. Please write the gift card value directly on the gift card or envelope in order to expedite distribution to relief organizations. Mail to: Hurricane Harvey Relief, PO Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903

- Monetary online donations: www.victoriadiocese.org/donate-hurricane-relief

NEED HELP?

- St. Vincent de Paul National Disaster Recovery at 1-877-368-6494

Prayer in Time of Natural Disasters

Compassionate Lord, we pray for those who have been devastated by recent natural disasters. We remember those who have lost their lives so suddenly. We hold in our hearts the families forever changed by grief and loss. Bring them consolation and comfort. Surround them with our prayers for strength. Bless those who have survived and heal their memories of trauma and devastation. May they have the courage to face the long road of rebuilding ahead.

We ask your blessing on all those who have lost their homes, their livelihoods, their security and their hope. Bless the work of relief agencies and those providing emergency assistance. May their work be guided by the grace and strength that comes from You alone.

Help us to respond with generosity in prayer, in assistance, in aid to the best of our abilities. Keep our hearts focused on the needs of those affected, even after the crisis is over. We ask this in Jesus' name,

Amen.



NEW DATE! Saturday, January 27, 2018 30th Annual Catholic Conference Holy Family Church, Wharton



"Catholic social teaching is a central and essential element of our faith. Its roots are in the Hebrew prophets who announced God's special love for the poor and called God's people to a covenant of love and justice. It is a teaching founded on the life and words of Jesus Christ, who came "to bring glad tidings to the poor . . . liberty to captives . . . recovery of sight to the blind"(Lk 4:18-19), and who identified himself with "the least of these," the hungry and the stranger (cf. Mt 25:45). Catholic social teaching is built on a commitment to the poor. This commitment arises from our experiences of Christ in the Eucharist." (Taken from USCCB .org Social Justice homepage)

Pastoral Institute Extended Classes Offered This Fall

A Look at the Gospel of Mark will be taught by Sister Digna Vela, IWBS beginning October 24 – November 14 on Tuesdays from 7:00 – 9:15 p.m., or Thursdays beginning October 26 – November 16 from 9:15 – 11:30 a.m. Both will be held at the Chancery Office, Victoria and via distant learning at Sacred Heart, Hallettsville. The Tuesday class is also available via distant learning at St. Philip, El Campo and the Thursday class is available at St. Robert, El Campo.

Advent begins Sunday, December 3.

This marks the start of a new liturgical year (Cycle B) for the Catholic church. Therefore, many of the Sunday gospels will be from the gospel according to Mark.

You are invited to attend this short four-week course on the gospel of Mark so that you will be better prepared to hear and understand the Sunday gospels as they are proclaimed each week at Mass.

Online registration is available at www.victoriadiocese.org. Cost is \$20. For more information call (361) 573-0828.

The Diocese of Victoria 11th Annual Catholic Knowledge

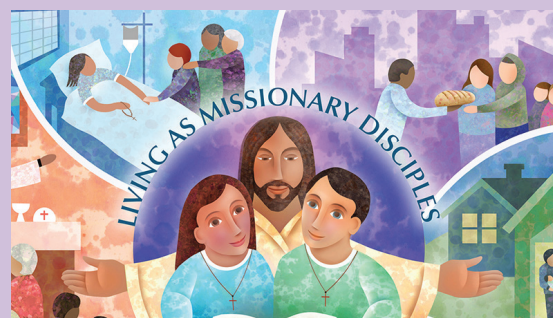
Sunday, February 25, 2018

Can you answer this question?

What are the two distinct modes to transmit God's Revelation?

- a. The writings of the Church Fathers and Church customs
- b. Scripture and Tradition
- c. Tradition and the witness of the saints
- d. The example of Jesus and the authority of the Pope

Answer on pg. 21



Retiring soon? Changing jobs? Want a better return on your IRA?

Roll your 401(k) or IRA into a Catholic Life Insurance Annuity.



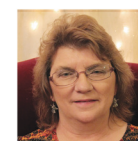
Case Hollub
GENERAL AGENT
(979) 725-1111



WEIMAR
Mike Scardino, FIC
(979) 725-8860



HALLETTSVILLE
Wendy Janak, FIC
(361) 798-4311



WEIMAR
Karen Kutac, FIC
(979) 725-8919



SHINER
Patrick Klozik, FIC
(361) 594-8160



EL CAMPO/Nada
Dianne Shimek Cerny
(979) 541-6346



NADA/GARWOOD
Chris Merta, FIC
(979) 543-1059



YOAKUM/PORT LAVACA
Bert Kenna, FIC
(361) 293-9657



HALLETTSVILLE
Charles Leopold, FIC
(361) 798-4311



VICTORIA
Eugene Rehak, FIC
(361) 575-4982



VICTORIA
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(361) 578-2957



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Royce Shimek, FIC
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EL CAMPO
Calvin Pfeil, FIC
(979) 541-6520



EAST BERNARD
Albert Smaistrila, FIC
(979) 335-4473

CATHOLIC LIFE INSURANCE

*Interest rates are subject to change. Minimum guaranteed rate is 1.50%.
Home Office: San Antonio, Texas. #A-SU 10.17



RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY

“Behold, I am with you always,
until the end of the age.”
Matthew 28:20

Respect Life Month

On Sunday, October 1, 2017 Victoria residents stood together to show solidarity and unity to defend human life from the cradle to the grave. Annually on the first Sunday in October National Life Chain Sunday is celebrated. Life Chain is a peaceful and prayerful public witness of pro-life individuals standing for our nation and for an end to abortion. It is a visual statement of solidarity by the Christian community that, “abortion kills children, and hurts families”. Life Chain invites individuals and all churches to stand together on designated local sidewalks and pray for an end to abortion.



The 40 Days for Life campaign is firmly rooted on a foundation of prayer and fasting. Prayer is at the center of 40 Days for Life. Prayer keeps us rooted in the fact that it is our desire to carry out God’s will.

People of faith are also invited to fast throughout 40 Days for Life. Christ said there are demons that can only be driven out by prayer and fasting. A fast is not a Christian diet; it is a powerful means of drawing closer to God by blocking out distractions. Fast from certain foods. Fast from television. Fast from apathy and indifference. Fast from whatever it is that separates you from God.



The Respect Life Program, sponsored by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, started in 1972 and begins anew each October—the month set aside by the U.S. bishops as “Respect Life Month.”

The program promotes respect for human life in light of our intrinsic dignity as having been created in God’s image and likeness and called to an eternal destiny with him.

Upcoming Events:

The rosary will be prayed October 26, 2017 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. outside of the Houston Planned Parenthood.

40 Days for Life began

September 27 and continues through November 5

Let us pray, for all people:
May God grant us courage to embrace his precious gift of life,
even in the most difficult of circumstances;
We pray to the Lord:

Victoria Gabriel Project to Host Workshop and Training

The Victoria Gabriel Project will host a Workshop & Training! along with fellowship, learning, and discerning on Saturday, October 7, at the Gabriel Project Office (101 W. Convent St., Victoria), from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. A light breakfast and lunch will be served. All materials will be provided at no charge.

The Gabriel Project is a “Good Samaritan” approach toward helping women in a crisis pregnancy. The parish community responds in a loving, unconditional and nonjudgmental manner to the women. This love is a witness to the community of the

infinite and healing love of God. Through the Gabriel Project the mother can receive love, care and the spiritual, material, and emotional support she needs.

A few things one can do to help with the Gabriel Project: Become a Gabriel Angel and accompany a woman throughout her pregnancy; Work the Telephone Hotline; or Pray for the moms and volunteers of the Gabriel Project.

For more information contact Cathy Rojas at lottogal77@yahoo.com; call (361) 412-7037; or Stacey Ontai at staceyontai@hotmail.com; call (361) 703-2268.

Let us pray,
God our loving Father,
grant wisdom to those who
govern us, compassion and courage
to those who work to defend
human life, and safety and care to
every human being.
For you alone who formed us
in our mothers’ wombs,
and who call us home to heaven,
are God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

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I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or sanctions (including civil penalties).



Pregnant? Need Help?

Confidential and caring assistance available for the following needs:
• emotional • material • spiritual • educational •
Providing immediate and practical help.
We have a special concern for you and your unborn child.

Gabriel Project
Toll Free 1-866-MARY AID
1-866-627-9243



BISHOP ATTENDS MARITIME CONFERENCE—Bishop Brendan Cahill attended the North American Maritime Ministry Association (NAMMA) conference in New Orleans. The 2017 NAMMA conference was one of this year's largest and most diverse gathering of seafarers' welfare providers in the world. With participation by members from a variety of backgrounds and diverse experience, this conference encouraged further work and equipped for better work. The theme of this year's conference focused on care of seafarers. Bishop Cahill was appointed the Apostleship of the Sea Bishop Promoter in the United States on July 1, 2017.



BISHOP VISITS ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN CUERO—Bishop Brendan Cahill celebrated Mass with the St. Michael Catholic School community. He spent time in each classroom and read to the children.



BISHOP TOURS SHINER CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN NEW SCHOOL YEAR—Bishop Brendan Cahill said Mass and visited St. Ludmila Academy and St. Paul High School in Shiner on August 18. As the new school year begins it is his tradition to visit each and every Catholic school in the Diocese of Victoria at least once to celebrate Mass and visit with the students and faculty.



Barbeque Turkey with Dressing Dinner

**St. Peter's Parish Hall -- Blessing
Sunday, October 29**

Dine-In or Drive-Thru -- 11:00 a.m.

\$10.00 per plate *Mass at 9:30 A.M.*

Live Auction -- 12:00 Noon

Country Store – Raffle





NURSING HOME RESIDENTS HONORED BY KC'S—At the monthly kolache and coffee visit to Parkview Manor Nursing Home, the Weimar Knights of Columbus (KC) Council No. 2153 made the residents who were not KC members honorary members of the KC's by presenting the men with blue KC caps. Seated left to right: residents Francie Kasper, Bernard Michalski, and member and resident-Steve Luchak, who has been member the longest, with 70 years' service, and resident-Bernard Perrard. Back row left to right: KC members Martin Luchak and Jonnie Kasper; residents-David Dennis and Mark Janacek; KC members Eugene Rosenauer and Tim Liehardt; resident-Lee Garcia; KC member Frank Janacek, KC member and resident-Leo Guenther (at age 94 is the oldest member of the KC), and KC member David Wanjura.

Incarnate Word Convent Health Care Seeking LVN



The Incarnate and Blessed Sacrament Convent Health Care, Victoria is seeking an LVN to work from 2:00 -10:00 p.m. Anyone interested may apply at 1101 NE Water Street, Victoria or call (361) 578-1967. Ask for Estela Perez, BSN, RN.

Public Square Rosary Crusades Throughout Diocese

Please join people across the United States who will participate in over 20,000 rallies. The Public Square Rosary is sponsored by America Needs Fatima. The following Rosary Crusades will take place in the Diocese of Victoria on Saturday, October 14. Please bring a chair, if needed.

- Hallettsville - at 12:00 p.m. in the Sacred Heart Church parking lot at the corner of Texana and East 4th Street.
- Victoria - at 12:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. For more information call (361) 575-4741.
- Schulenburg - at 10:00 a.m. at the Gazebo downtown.
- Yorktown - at 12:00 p.m. at the Yorktown Library (under the oak tree), 103 W. Main Street. For more information call Gloris Seifert at (361) 564-3886 or (361) 648-9742.

Procession to be Held in Honor of the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima

Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Mary's in Victoria will honor the 100th Anniversary of the appearance of Our Lady of Fatima on Sunday, October 15. Bishop Brendan Cahill has graciously transferred the final Fatima indulgences from October 13 to Sunday, October 15, to make it more accessible for everyone in the diocese to be able to attend the final celebration. It will begin at 3:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows with a Holy Hour and Confessions. At 4:00 p.m. there will be a Marian Procession with a Rosary and prayers of indulgence. The procession will begin at Our Lady of Sorrows and conclude at St. Mary's, followed by Sunday Mass at 4:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served at St. Mary's Activity Center following the Mass.



OUR LADY OF FATIMA ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED—On the first night of Religious Education classes at St. Mary's in Victoria, Bishop Brendan Cahill joined Father Dominic Antwi-Boasiako and Father Stephen Vacek for the 100th Anniversary of the appearance of Our Lady of Fatima.

Holy Family Catholic Church

Fall Festival

**Turkey & Dressing
with Trimmings**
Serving inside 11 - 2pm
Drive Thru 11 - 1pm
\$10

LIVE Auction begins at Noon
COUNTRY STORE
Cakewalk
Silent Auction
LOTS of Children's Activities!
2009 Briar Lane | Wharton, TX

OCTOBER 15th, 2017

Child and Vulnerable Adult Abuse Reporting Procedures



If you witness, suspect, or know of child and/or vulnerable adult abuse, **you must file a report within 48 hours** by contacting the Civil Authorities: Department of Family and Protective Services at 1-800-252-5400 or www.txabusehotline.org. **If the person is in immediate danger, call 911.**

If Church Personnel Is Involved In Alleged Abuse:

Step One: Contact Civil Authorities, if individual is a minor.

Step Two: Contact one of the following:

- Call Bishop or Chancellor of the Diocese of Victoria at (361) 573-0828. *Written Allegations Should Be Sent To: Office of the Bishop, P. O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903, Mark as "Personal and Confidential"*
- Call Vicki L. Pyatt, LMSW, Pastoral Care and Outreach, at (361) 827-7186 or email: pastoralcare@victoriadiocese.org

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. For further assistance please contact Vicki L. Pyatt.



FINAL VOWS PROFESSED—Congratulations to Sister Patricia Marie Lohre who made her Final Profession as a Sister of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament and took Perpetual Vows on Saturday, August 19. Sister Patricia Marie pronounced vows of Chastity, Poverty, and Obedience for life. Perpetual Vows are usually preceded by five years of Annual Vows. At her perpetual profession, she received a ring as a symbol of her commitment to the Incarnate Word.

IWBS Amor Meus Center Invites All to Prayer Service and Retreat

Amor Meus Spirituality Center Taizé Prayer Service: Tuesday, October 10, from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Taizé Prayer is a meditative Christian experience of prayer that includes sung and chanted prayers, meditation, and periods of silence, reflection and liturgical readings. The service will take place in the Amor Meus Prayer room. Please park in the back.

Amor Meus Silent Guided Day Retreat will be October 28 from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Retreat theme: "New Beginnings: Gifts of Each New Day," given by Sister Frances Cabrini Janvier, IWBS. The retreat will include two presentations: Liturgy of Eucharist or prayer service with ample time for private prayer, walking and reflecting. Spiritual Direction is offered during retreats and throughout the year at Amor Meus Spirituality Center. Contact: Sister Emilie Eilers (361) 575-7111 for more information. A \$5 box lunch will be available or you may bring your own. The suggested donation for the retreat is \$25 or a love offering. Please park in the front parking lot.

Catholic Knowledge Bowl Answer

b) "Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture, then, are bound closely together and communicate one with the other. For both of them, flowing out from the same divine well-spring, come together in some fashion to form one thing and move towards the same goal.' Each of them makes present and fruitful in the Church the mystery of Christ, who promised to remain with his one 'always, to the close of the age.' 'Sacred Scripture is the speech of God as it is put down in writing... And [Holy] Tradition transmits in its entirety the Word of God which has been entrusted to the apostles by Christ the Lord and Holy Spirit.'" CCC 80-81



Sunday Readings from October 8 - November 5

October 8 – Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalms 80:9, 12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20
Philippians 4:6-9
Matthew 21:33-43

October 15 – Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 25:6-10A
Psalms 23:1-3A, 3B-4, 5, 6
Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20
Matthew 22:1-14

October 22 – Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 45:1, 4-6
Psalms 96:1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10
1 Thessalonians 1:1-5B
Matthew 22:15-21

October 29 – Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 22:20-26
Psalms 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51
1 Thessalonians 1:5C-10
Matthew 22:34-40

November 1 – Solemnity of All Saints

Revelations 7:2-4, 9-14
Psalms 24:1BC-2, 3-4AB, 5-6
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12A

November 5 – Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Malachi 1:14B-2:2B, 8-10
Psalms 131:1, 2, 3
1 Thessalonians 2:7B-9, 13
Matthew 23:1-12

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



53rd Annual

The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory Fall Festival

Sunday, October 8

Victoria Community Center
Doors Open 11:00 a.m.

Barbecue Beef & Sausage Dinner
with all the trimmings

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Dine-In and Plates-to-Go \$9.00

Games, Raffle, Silent Auction and much
More!

LIVE AUCTION 12:30 p.m.

Fun for the Entire Family!



TERREMOTO AFECTA A MÉXICO — Mujeres se abrazan mientras están paradas en frente de una casa destruida tras un terremoto de magnitud 8.1 en Union Hidalgo, México. Los líderes de la iglesia oraron por los mexicanos y guatemaltecos afectados por el terremoto del 7 de septiembre que golpeó la costa del Pacífico. (Foto CNS/Jorge Luis Plata, Reuters)

Irma se debilita, pero deja camino de destrucción

Por Catholic News Service

MIAMI (CNS) — El huracán Irma se debilitó el 11 de septiembre a tormenta tropical pero destruyó porciones sureñas del estado de Florida e islas caribeñas, inundando ciudades, interrumpiendo el servicio eléctrico de millones de personas, destruyendo casas y negocios y llevando la vida de más de 20 personas.

Se pronosticaba que el masivo huracán se disolviera en los estados del sur más tarde en la semana. Oficiales en la Florida y en todo el Caribe, mientras tanto, comenzaban a evaluar el desastre que dejó Irma. La fuerza y el tamaño de Irma, con vientos de

más de 120 millas por hora se extendieron 70 millas desde su núcleo. Irma arrasó las islas orientes del caribe, quebró grúas de construcción en el centro urbano de Miami y llevó un nivel de inundaciones que no se habían visto nunca en la costa norte de Cuba.

“El huracán ha causado daños serios en pueblos, villas y granjas de la costa norte de nuestra isla, desde Camagüey hasta La Habana”, dijo Maritza Sánchez, directora de Caritas Cuba. “La inundación fue causada por vientos y lluvia con fuerza de huracán desde Camagüey hasta Santa Clara en el centro del país, alcanzando tan lejos como Matanzas y La Habana en la costa noroeste”.



DAÑOS CAUSADOS POR EL HURACÁN MARÍA EN PUERTO RICO — El viento poderoso del huracán María dobló esta cruz de hierro el 20 de septiembre en la entrada del Colegio Jesuita San Ignacio de Loyola en San Juan, Puerto Rico. El huracán azotó a Puerto Rico el 20 de septiembre con vientos de hasta 155 millas por hora. (Foto CNS-Cortesía del padre jesuita Flavio Bravo) Nota del editor: Para uso web solamente.



El Senador Lucio y su personal vinieron a Victoria y trajeron agua, comida y suministros para los necesitados. Él es de Brownsville y representa el Distrito 27. Sirvieron de Nuestra Señora de los Dolores y luego fueron a servir a los necesitados en Rockport.

St. Robert Bellarmine Church

Annual Fall Festival

Sunday, October 15, 2017

El Campo, Texas
Columbus Club Hall
(Formerly KC Hall)

Festival begins at 11a.m. Live Auction begins at 1p.m.

BBQ Brisket & Sausage
Buttered Potatoes, Beans and all the trimmings
Dine In, To Go Plates, or Drive Thru - \$9.00 Each
Serving Begins at 11a.m.

LOTS OF FUN FOR EVERYONE!

Gorditas

Hamburgers

Salchichas

Hot Dogs

Frito Pies

Pizza

Paletas

Aguas Frecas

Candy Apples

Cake Walk

Plant Walk

Lots of Games

Moonwalk

50/50 Raffle

Face Painting

Live Music

Live Auction

Vehicle Raffle

Miles de familias en la Diócesis de Victoria fueron afectadas por el huracán. Gracias a todos los que han donado artículos o han asistido a los necesitados. Consulte el sitio web en <https://www.victoriadiocese.org/hurricane-planning> para ver las actualizaciones de los esfuerzos de planificación. Ofrecemos oraciones continuadas para los sobrevivientes de las áreas impactadas por el huracán.

Que puede hacer ahora?

Donar tarjetas de regalo. Por favor escriba el valor de la tarjeta de regalo en la tarjeta. Se pueden enviar por correo a PO Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903.

Necesita Ayuda?

Llama a St. Vincent de Paul National Disaster Recovery en 1-877-368-6494





Caridades Católicas USA dona \$2 millones para ayudar víctimas de huracán

Por Catholic News Service

SAN ANTONIO (CNS) — Caridades Católicas USA entregó un cheque de \$2 millones el 4 de septiembre representando las donaciones recibidas del público para ayuda inmediata de emergencia dirigida a las personas afectadas por el huracán Harvey y sus inundaciones.

Todos los fondos recaudados irán directamente a esfuerzos de recuperación inmediata y a otros proyectos a largo plazo.

Haciendo la entrega estuvo la hermana dominica Donna Markham, presidenta y principal oficial ejecutiva de Caridades Católicas USA, acompañada por el arzobispo Gustavo García-Siller de San Antonio; el obispo Brendan J. Cahill, de la vecina Diócesis de Victoria; J. Antonio Fernández, presidente y principal oficial ejecutivo de Caridades Católicas de la Arquidiócesis de San Antonio; y monseñor J. Brian Bransfield, secretario general de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos.

Un vehículo de Caridades Católicas USA salió lleno de provisiones de emergencia desde la sede de Caridades Católicas en Alexandria, Virginia, hacia Texas y se quedará allí para ayudar a las agencias de Caridades Católicas en sus esfuerzos.

Las agencias diocesanas de Caridades Católicas han estado trabajando arduamente en esfuerzos de recuperación intentando atender las dificultades según surgen.

En Houston, que ha recibido la mayor parte de la atención, han surgido problemas enormes para encontrar vivienda temporal. Muchos apartamentos están inundados y hoteles no están aceptando pagos de la Agencia Federal de Manejo de Emergencias (conocida como FEMA). Además, el gobierno municipal se está preparando para cerrar los lugares de refugio.

En Victoria, Texas los esfuerzos de socorro están comenzando, ya que Caridades

Católicas está intentando convertir un edificio para que funcione como un centro de distribución. Todavía se necesitan artículos de limpieza para ayudar con los problemas que surgieron por las inundaciones.

Aunque la mayoría de los voluntarios quieren ir al sureste de Texas, que sufrió daños significativos, cinco condados en la Diócesis de Austin también fueron impactados por Harvey. Trabajadores de Caridades Católicas han ido casa por casa en los pueblos de Bryan y College Station intentando encontrar personas desplazadas y conectarlas con United Way, ya que los hoteles de la zona están llenos debido a la temporada de fútbol americano universitario. Algunos negocios están ofreciendo a sus empleados tiempo libre remunerado para que vayan a las zonas impactadas y ayuden como voluntarios.

Trabajadores de Caridades Católicas USA están presente en Corpus Christi con personas y recursos. Los mayores retos que enfrentan incluyen encontrar lugares para almacenar provisiones donadas y reubicar residentes donde no hay vivienda asequible.

Se necesitan camiones en Beaumont y San Antonio. Seis camiones articulados llegaron a Beaumont totalmente cargados con donaciones y unos 100 voluntarios se quedaron hasta las 2 a.m. del 5 de septiembre para descargarlos.

Provisiones de agua en Beaumont no han sido suficientes desde la tormenta. El servicio de agua no ha sido restaurado en todas las zonas y los que tienen agua primero tienen que hervirla. La inundación continúa siendo un problema todavía, las rutas de abastecimiento cambian diariamente y Caridades Católicas enfrenta el reto de llevar las donaciones a lugares apropiados. También están montando servicio de comida para los voluntarios y los sobrevivientes y buscando vehículos para entregar donaciones en zonas lejanas.

8 de octubre 2017

XXVII Domingo Ordinario
Segunda lectura

Filipenses 4, 6-9

Lectura de la **carta** del **apóstol** san **Pablo** a los **filipenses**: Hermanos: No se **inquieten** por **nada**; más bien **presenten** en toda ocasión sus **peticiones** a Dios en la **oración** y la **súplica**, llenos de **gratitud**. Y que la **paz** de Dios, que **sobrepasa** toda inteligencia, custodie sus **corazones** y sus **pensamientos** en **Cristo Jesús**. ¶ Por lo **demás**, hermanos, **aprecien** todo lo que es verdadero y **noble**, cuanto **hay** de justo y **puro**, todo lo que es **amable** y honroso, **todo** lo que **sea** virtud y **merezca** elogio. **Pongan** por **obra** cuanto han aprendido y **recibido** de mí, todo lo **que** yo he **dicho** y me **han** visto **hacer**; y el **Dios** de la paz **estará** con **ustedes**.

U	N	E	T	N	E	S	E	R	P	E	U	Q	C	P
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C	F	I	L	I	P	E	N	S	E	S	N	A	A	S
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Parish: _____

Age, if 18 or under: _____

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There will be a drawing from those who send the above entry 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.

We will be publishing a puzzle quarterly in English and Spanish.



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30 YEARS OF SERVICE—Regina Janak celebrated 30 years of service on September 2, to the Diocese of Victoria. She has worked in different roles over the years at the Chancery. Her dedication to her job and hard work are evident by the positive and gratitude filled comments from her coworkers. She shared, “I have worked with 3 bishops and seen technology change a lot, especially in the *Lighthouse* department.” Regina said, “I was so grateful to work right next door to where my daughter, Taylor, went to school. I could watch her play on the playground without her knowing. I have also met so many amazing people throughout the years at the diocese and look forward to meeting many more.”

Journeys of Faith with Ceci

2017 AND 2018 TRIPS TO HOLY LAND AND MORE!

Begin Advent in the Holy Land • November 28 - December 7, 2017

Four seats left on the Houston flight! \$2,995 includes airfare, hotels, etc.

Spiritual Director: Father Peter Jankowski

You have the option of singing with the Sing for Him Choir at the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony in Bethlehem and Nazareth with Anna Nuzzo, Christian recording artist and TV host on Shalom World.



Faith of the Irish Pilgrimage with Rev. Bob Knippenberg

May 1 - 11, 2018 ~Space is limited!

Visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Knock, the Lourdes of Ireland, St. Patrick's Mountain, Dublin, Connemara, Galway, Cliffs of Moher, Cashel, Kilkenny, and more!

\$3,895 includes airfare, hotels, Irish meals, etc.

Holy Land & Jordan with Rev. Michael Rother

June 6 - 16, 2018 ~ Experience the land of Our Lord and see the Gospels come to life! Then...stay for the Jordan extension and visit Mt. Nebo, Madaba, and the beautiful ancient city of Petra! \$3,595 for Holy Land only.....plus \$795 for Jordan extension! includes airfare, hotels, etc.

2018 Fall Trips in the Works!

Watch for a Spain Pilgrimage and a Danube River Cruise Pilgrimage!

Ceci Triska • (979) 543-8575 (leave message)

ceci.triska@gmail.com • www.selectinternationaltours.com

You can follow Journeys of Faith with Ceci on Facebook!

Cathedral Center Dedicated



The Cathedral Center, Victoria was dedicated and blessed by Bishop Brendan Cahill on September 17. Different phases of the construction project are pictured.



Cathedral Center Floods Post Dedication

Please read message below from Father Gary Janak regarding the flooding of the Cathedral Center. The Diocese of Victoria asks for your prayers for Father Gary Janak, Father Kristopher Fuchs, the staff and parishioners of Our Lady of Victory Parish as they begin to rebuild.

On Sunday, September 24 it rained and, as a result of a malfunctioning internal drain pipe, our newly dedicated Cathedral Center was flooded. Thousands of gallons of water did its damage to the complex, but crews are working hard to restore it. I recognize it is difficult to be displaced from the church and now The Cathedral Center. Yet, we know that God's grace will prevail. As I have stated so often since our city was struck by Hurricane Harvey, a parish is not a cluster of buildings but a people of faith dedicated to the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. We live the message of hope and salvation of Christ and we know, regardless of the crosses we must carry, our Savior will guide us. Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support. Father Kristopher and I, along with the entire staff here at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, will do our best to serve you and to restore our facilities. Please pray for us, as we pray for you. May God's love be with you. Father Gary Janak



On September 15, the 5th graders prepared and led the Liturgy with Bishop Brendan Cahill. Following Mass Bishop Cahill blessed (literally) every corner of the new school building. Here's to the next 61 years at St. Anthony School! (Top left, building torn down to make room for new addition.)



St. Anthony Catholic School, Columbus Blesses New Addition

St. Anthony Church - Columbus
Sunday Mass at St. Anthony • 1602 Bowie • 8 & 10 a.m.

Fall Festival Sunday, October 8

KC Hall I-10 W Exit 692 (at Glidden Exit)

Pit BBQ Beef & Sausage
Adult Plate \$10 • Child Plate \$5
(meat to go at pit)

Drive Thru Line 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Dine-in Serving 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Kolache Breakfast, Mexican Food & Hamburgers

Music & Festivities All Day!
Country Auction 1:00 p.m.
A Super Raffle • Country Store • Silent Auction
Gift Card Walk • Plant Walk • Cakewalk
Lots of Things for the Kids to Enjoy
Booths For Everyone





Meals • Picnics and More

October

- Weimar**—St. Michael's School, Night on the Town Gala Oct. 7 at Veterans Hall. Dinner, dancing and more. Call the school for more details/tickets at (979) 725-8461.
- Columbus**—St. Anthony Fall Festival, Oct. 8, will be held at the KC Hall. See ad on pg. 25 for more information.
- East Bernard**—Holy Cross Bazaar, Oct. 8, will be held at Riverside Hall. See ad on pg. 9 for more details.
- Nada**—St. Mary's Parish Festival & Homecoming, Oct. 8 see ad on this page.
- Victoria**—The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory Festival, Oct. 8, at the Victoria Community Center. See ad on pg. 21 for all the information.
- Eagle Lake**—Parish of the Nativity Annual Fall Festival, Oct. 15 serving BBQ chicken and sausage, \$10 p/p. For more information see ad on pg. 5.
- El Campo**—St. Robert Annual Fall Festival, Oct. 15 serving a BBQ brisket and sausage dinner, \$9 p/p. For more information see ad on pg. 22.
- Goliad**—Immaculate Conception Festival, Oct. 15 on the parish grounds. A BBQ beef and sausage buffet style dinner or plates-to-go at \$10 p/p. There will be music and the Ballet Folklorico will perform.
- LaSalle**—St. Theresa Annual Picnic, Oct. 15 serving turkey and dressing dinner, \$9 p/p. For more information see ad on pg. 10.
- Wharton**—Holy Family Fall Festival, Oct. 15 serving turkey and dressing, \$10 p/p. For more information see ad on pg. 20.
- Hallettsville**—Sacred Heart Home & School Association is hosting their annual Apple Strudel Bake on Saturday, Oct. 21, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at SH Family Center. Unbaked strudels \$15 each or baked \$17 each, and will be available for pickup at the SH Family Center on the day of the event. To order, call Sharon Wagner (316) 576-2060 or Barbara Grahmann (361) 798-4167 or email shsstrudelbake@gmail.com. (Advance orders are required to guarantee order fulfillment.) In Victoria, pickup of frozen strudels will be available at the Hobby Lobby parking lot on Sunday, Oct. 22 between 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
- Seadrift**—St. Patrick Annual Fall Fundraiser Oct. 22. A turkey and dressing dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. for \$9 p/p. Bake sale, eggrolls, and rice will be sold.
- Blessing**—St. Peter's Parish Turkey Dinner Oct. 29 at the hall. See ad on pg. 19 for more information.

November

- Vanderbilt**—St. John Bosco Festival, Nov. 12 see ad on this page.
- Shiner**—Homemade Apple Strudel Sale, sponsored by Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, on Saturday, Nov. 11. Cost is \$15 - unbaked strudels. For order and delivery information, call the parish office at (361) 594-3836.

Ministries • Ongoing Activities

- Catholic Family Services**—To find Catholic organizations which focus on family, visit the Catholic Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers at www.nacflm.org.
- Courage**—Ministers to persons with same-sex attractions and their loved ones. The ministry also has an outreach, EnCourage, which ministers to relatives, spouses, and friends of persons with same-sex attractions. It is a Roman Catholic Apostolate endorsed by the Pontifical Council for the Family. For more information, visit www.couragerc.net.
- Emmaus Center**—Offers individual, couple, family, adolescent and children's counseling as well as specialized support groups for men, women and those afflicted by grief. Spiritual direction is also available on request. The Appointments may be made by calling (361) 212-0830.

Conferences • Masses • Retreats

- Victoria**—Single Catholic women 18 to 50 years of age are invited to come meet nuns (Sisters) and examine their call to make Jesus, the Incarnate Word, known and loved. Explore your own call to follow Jesus through marriage, single state, or religious life on October 28-29, at Incarnate Word Convent. For information call (361) 575-7111; email iwbsvoc@yahoo.com, or visit www.iwbsvictoria.org.
- ACTS Retreats**—For information, visit www.actsmissions.org.
- 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.
- 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.

Engaged Encounter—2017 Dates: Nov. 17-19 registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Fee must accompany registration form. For 2018 dates and 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—An on-going Grief Group meets at Holy Family Church, Victoria in the Conference Room, 7:00 p.m., on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month. Every adult, who has experienced the death of a loved one, may attend (after three months has passed). Please call Sharon at (361) 578-7572 before attending.

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

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

Mothers of Grace—A new mothers' group at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. They meet every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Early Childhood Center. For more information contact Jennifer Ruiz at jenniferschobey.ruiz@yahoo.com.

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

Raphael's Refuge—RR's mission is to build and maintain a memorial in honor of babies, born and unborn. It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Flatonina. 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.

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Nada Festival & Homecoming

New Rescheduled Date October 8 In Our New Community Center
Barbecue Beef & Sausage Dinner • Served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Adults \$10 and Children under 12 \$5
Plates-to-go available.
Drive-thru line open 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
AUCTION at 1:00 p.m.

St. John Bosco's Catholic Church Annual Festival
NEW Rescheduled Date November 12

Trinity Family Center
5508 FM 616 ~ Vanderbilt, Texas Sunday Mass at 10:00 AM
BBQ Pork Steak and Sausage Plates
10:00 with all the Trimmings
DRIVE THRU OR DINE IN
Serving 11:00 AM — 1:30 PM
Silent Auction, Cake Walk, Country Store, Beer Garden, Drink Concession, Door Prizes, and Games for Kids!



Nazareth Academy
Fall Festival
Rescheduled
to February 18, 2018



Daily Mass – A Perfect Start to Each Day

Continued from pg. 1

Knippenberg (now Father Bob) and the principal, Sister Clare Jones. In August 1996, Father Dan and his staff opened the school with 43 students enrolled in Kindergarten to 6th grade. They added a grade each year and graduated their first group of 8th graders in 2000.

Sister Mary Ana Steele, one of the Franciscan Sisters who served at the school was assigned to OLG in August of 1998. She lived and taught in Port Lavaca for 6 years. She shares, “It was daunting to be transferred so far away from home. I was accustomed to teaching in the Amarillo diocesan schools. But how quickly I fell in love with the school, the parish, the people, the students, the WATER! I was from the high plains of Texas, and I was now a few blocks from the Bay!” As a teacher and eventual principal at OLG, she learned that small beginnings can blossom into amazing things with God’s grace and that, if God wants something, nothing can stop it. Sister Mary Ana also shared, “The things I learned as a Mariner at Our Lady of the Gulf are the standards I continue to live by today. It was a very special group of young people who showed me that I didn’t need to be afraid of the unknown. That very first group of students, many of whom I still keep track of, became my kids. Many of that group graduated as the very first eighth grade class.”

One may wonder how Father Bob Knippenberg, pastor of Holy Family Church in Wharton, was one of those at OLG who helped Father Dan open the school. Father Dan remembered that his friend from 1st year theology at St. Mary’s Seminary in Houston, Bob Knippenberg (from the Diocese of Dallas) had experience in Catholic education. Bob had chosen at the time not to continue in the seminary, so he called him and asked him to help open the school. He travelled to Port Lavaca and served as Administrator for one year before re-entering the seminary for the Diocese of Victoria. Father Bob now shares, “I learned that with God, despite all odds, all things are possible! I learned that God really wanted me to be a priest. Father Dan was certainly my model and mentor as a priest...I couldn’t have been more blessed!” He also shares, “The Sisters had a great deal of experience

in Catholic education and helped us with their expertise. They gave a very visible identity as a Catholic institution that I think was extremely important as we got started. I think daily Mass was a real hallmark of

years shares, “I was an engineer for 10 years at Union Carbide and had left to raise my family. I was teaching music part time at OLG when we found out the Sisters would be leaving that June. Father Dan

approached me and asked me if I would take on the role of principal. At first, I thought he wasn’t serious, but after a month of resisting, I finally gave into the Holy Spirit. I should have known I could not say “No” to Father Dan.” Mrs. Dent returned to school to get her masters in Educational Leadership and has carried on the mission of the school to provide “Growth in the Light of Christ.”

Father Dan’s greatest wish was to keep a religious presence in school through religious staffing and daily Mass.

Always thinking ahead, he had already invited the Vietnamese Dominican Sisters of Mary Immaculate Province of Houston to be a part of the OLG parish. Thus, in 2004 the Dominican Order stepped into

an educational role at the school and have been a vital part of the Mariner family ever

See Daily Mass, pg. 28



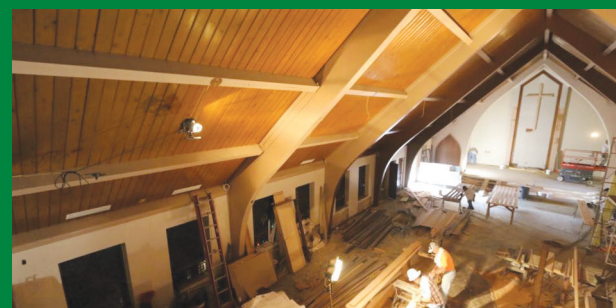
OLG; it was and still is the only school in the Diocese of Victoria that offers it.”

Fast forward 21 years, and Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School is thriving! Theresa Dent, principal for the past 13



Father Dan Morales is pictured in Port Lavaca during his years as Pastor of Our Lady of the Gulf.

Mass Continues in School Gym While Church Renovated





Principal, Theresa Dent and Coach McDonnough gathered with a group of 2nd and 3rd graders in Our Lady of the Gulf School Gym.

Daily Mass – A Perfect Start to Each Day

Continued from pg. 27

since. Their mission of “educating youth in the authentic Catholic spirit” helps ensure the Catholic Identity of the school is strong and vibrant and mixed with a healthy dose of joy and fun.

Daily Mass is celebrated each day from 8:05-8:40 a.m. with students serving, singing and reading. OLG is the only school in the Diocese of Victoria and in many dioceses around the country that still begin everyday with Mass. Mrs. Dent shares, “When I started this job as the first lay principal for the school, I was approached with people asking if I was going to do away with this daily practice. They told me it would grow the school if we weren’t quite so “religious” or “Catholic”. I told them that if that is what it took to grow the school, then we would just stay small and as long as I was principal, daily Mass for students would remain. As far as growing our school, it took a few years, but now we are one of the fastest growing schools

in the diocese for the past 7 years. I’m sure daily Mass is the primary key – not only because we pray together and give glory to God, but because people are starving for what the Mass has to offer. This world is starving for it.

When speaking to some of the students, they echoed Mrs. Dent’s feelings about Mass. One 8th grader, Emma shares, “We

get to start the day on a good note by going to Mass. If you feel bad you feel better when you get out.” Another 8th grade student, Arianna shares, “We are a small community, when something goes wrong everyone is there to pray for you. I was in the hospital and they started a 24 hour prayer chain for me-I felt blessed and could feel the prayers working.” The junior

high students are responsible each morning for taking the younger children to church and by example guiding them to participate and pray in Mass.

Father Tommy Chen, pastor of Our Lady of the Gulf, is passionate about teaching the students love for the Mass, prayer and service. He believes having daily Mass with the students is an extremely effective tool to evangelize the young people. Father Tommy makes sure to schedule himself for Mass Tuesday-Friday when school is in session. He says, “One of my first jobs as pastor of souls



A group of 8th grade girls are pictured with Sister Immaculata Nguyen, OP. Sister Immaculata is the middle school religion teacher at Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School.

is to teach the people about God. I see it as my teaching role as their pastor. He also shares, “Celebrating Mass with the students everyday is one of the highlights of my day. The students are joyful in their singing, and surprisingly they are attentive to the liturgical feasts and what I say in the homily.” Sometimes he checks how well the students have listened in Mass by going to lunch to quiz the students; he passes out candy when they give the right answers. Since the faculty also attends daily Mass, they continue to reinforce the Gospel message throughout the day. Together they are instilling the importance of the Mass.

Since that August day in 1996 the staff has expanded to include 18 lay and religious teachers with additional office and cafeteria support. Father Tommy Chen, Pastor, Father Scott Hill, Associate Pastor and Seminarian, Dalton Ervin, who is serving his Pastoral Year at Our Lady of the Gulf are currently serving the parish and school. Father Dan would be so proud of the legacy he has left behind. Father Bob chuckled and said, “Honestly, Our Lady of the Gulf is open today all due to Father Dan’s determination. It was going to happen and that was all there was to it!” The school now has 140 enrolled students as Father Dan envisioned and they cherish their tradition of daily Mass. As Pope Paul VI stated, “The Mass is the most perfect form of prayer!” The community at OLG lives by example as they begin each day with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

