



The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



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NOVEMBER 2017

Faces Of Gratitude

By: Sarita Villafranca Richmond, Editor



Have you ever thought of the difference between gratitude and thanksgiving? Gratitude is a feeling, where thanksgiving is more of an action. If someone does something for another person they can feel grateful. Thanksgiving is gratitude in action. With the month of November and the holiday season approaching, we are reminded of our gifts, both tangible and intangible. As a community that is recovering and rebuilding from Hurricane Harvey, more than ever before people are feeling grateful and reflecting on the many blessings in their lives.

I began to think about gratitude versus thanksgiving and decided to talk to people and see what they thought. The following responses came from the many conversations with different people; they were younger, older, Catholic and non Catholic. These "faces of gratitude" had responses that were amazingly similar. They were grateful and thankful for their lives, health, family, and for the good people

See Faces of Gratitude, pg. 20





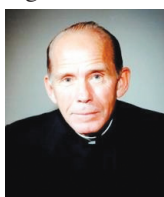
Bishop Brendan Cahill

A Shepherd's Message

A Month of Remembrance and Prayer

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

A few years ago Msgr. Charlie Elmer delivered a homily during the Saturday morning Mass at St. Mary's Seminary, on the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. Many people still remember Msgr. Elmer as a beloved pastor at Texas A & M and St. Theresa's in Austin—I remember him as a spiritual guide and friend during my time of studies in Rome, and at St. Mary's Seminary in



Msgr. Charlie Elmer

Houston. On that day in front of our seminarians, faculty, and guests he recalled an event in his life that occurred on the fields of Normandy, France.

Msgr. Elmer had grown up in northern Michigan and joined the Army at a young age to enter World War II. Along with many other young men he landed in Europe the day after D-Day – June 7, 1944. In the intensity of the battle he noticed that many of the roads in France had religious shrines at the crossroads, many of them dedicated to Mary, our Blessed Mother. At one point during one of the days he noticed that a sol-

dier had crawled into one of the shrines and died at the foot of our Blessed Mother. The soldier was a German soldier. Sixty years later Msgr. Elmer remembered that soldier and prayed that he could be embraced by the Blessed Mother in our heavenly homeland. Msgr. Elmer died a few years after that homily – on September 4, 2011. During this month of November I pray that with the forgiveness and healing that God offers, Msgr. Elmer is embraced by the Blessed Mother in our heavenly homeland.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church # 1032 affirms the ancient Christian tradition of remembering and praying for the dead, quoting St. John Chrysostom (he died in 407):

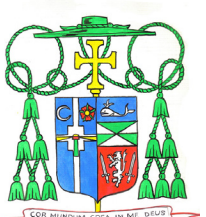

Let us help and commemorate them. If Job's sons were purified by their father's sacrifice, why would we doubt that our offerings for the dead bring them some consolation? Let us not hesitate to help those who have died and to offer our prayers for them.

In many ways November is a month of remembrance and prayer. On the Catholic calendar we begin with All Saints and All

Souls. November 11 marks the day on which as Americans we honor and pray for all the Veterans (including those who are still living), who answered the call to protect and defend our nation, since our founding over 200 years ago. The fourth Thursday of November is the day chosen by Congress many years ago, in which we remember the blessings that have come from God and pray for us as a nation, to be faithful to God's will.

On page 18 you will be able to read the words of the original declaration of a day of Thanksgiving, from President Lincoln in 1863. As we remember and pray during this month, let us remain committed to pray especially 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

Obispo Brendan Cahill

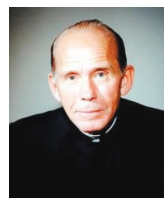
Mensaje del Pastor

Un Mes de Recuerdo y de la Oración

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas,

Hace unos años, Mons. Charlie Elmer dio una homilía en la Misa del sábado en el Seminario de Santa María, en la fiesta de la Virgen de los Dolores. Mucha gente todavía recuerda Mons. Elmer como pastor amado en Texas A & M y Santa Teresa en Austin - Lo recuerdo como una guía espiritual y amigo durante mi tiempo de estudios en Roma y en el Seminario de Santa María en Houston. En ese día enfrente de nuestros seminaristas, profesores e invitados, recordó un evento en su vida que ocurrió en los campos de Normandía, Francia.

Mons. Elmer había crecido en el norte



Mons. Charlie Elmer

de Michigan y se unió al ejército en una edad joven para entrar en la Segunda Guerra Mundial. Junto con muchos otros jóvenes, aterrizó en Europa el día después del Día D - 7 de junio de 1944. En la intensidad de la batalla se dio cuenta de que muchas de las carreteras en Francia tenían santuarios religiosos en los cruces, muchos de ellos dedicados a María, nuestra Santa Madre. En un momento durante uno de los días se dio cuenta de que un soldado se había metido en uno de los santuarios y se murió a los pies de la Santísima Madre. El soldado era un soldado alemán. Sesenta años más tarde, Mons. Elmer recuerda el soldado y rezó que él pudiera ser aceptado por la Santísima Madre en la patria celestial. Mons. Elmer murió pocos años después que dio la homilía - el 4 de

septiembre de 2011. Durante este mes de noviembre rezo que con el perdón y la sanación que Dios ofrece, Mons. Elmer sea abrazado por la Santísima Madre en la patria celestial.

El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica # 1032 afirma la antigua tradición cristiana de recordar y orar por los muertos, citando a San John Chrysostom (murió en 407):

Vamos a ayudarlos y recordarlos. Si los hijos de Job fueron purificados por el sacrificio de su padre, ¿por qué habríamos de dudar de que nuestras ofrendas por los muertos les lleven un cierto consuelo? No dudemos para ayudar a aquellos que han partido y en ofrecer nuestras oraciones por ellos.

En muchos sentidos noviembre es un mes de recuerdo y la oración. El calendario católico comenzamos con Todos los Santos y de los Difuntos. 11 noviembre marca la fecha en que los estadounidenses honramos y oramos por todos los veteranos (incluyendo aquellos que todavía viven), que respondieron al llamado para proteger y defender a nuestra nación, desde su fundación hace más de 200 años. Hace muchos años el cuarto jueves de noviembre es el día elegido por el Congreso en el que recordamos las bendiciones que han venido de Dios y oramos por nosotros, como nación, para ser fiel a la voluntad de Dios.

En la página 16 usted puede leer las

palabras de la declaración original, del día de Acción de Gracias, del Presidente Lincoln en 1863. Mientras que recordamos y oramos durante este mes, permanezcamos comprometidos a orar especialmente el Rosario por el don de la paz en el mundo y para la familia. Como San Juan Pablo II nos invita a orar con fidelidad, creo que podemos mantener nuestra confianza en el poder de esta oración - más de lo que sabemos! Que Dios los bendiga y a sus familias, vamos a mantener entre sí en la oración.

+ Brendan





Bishop Brendan's Schedule

November

- 1** 8:00 a.m. School Mass and visit at Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
- 3** Irish Gala, Houston
- 4** 5:00 p.m. Installation Mass for Fr. Jasper at St. Michael, Cuero
- 5** 8:45 a.m. Mass and CCD visit at Sts. Peter & Paul, Frelsburg
- 6-7** Catholic Rural Life Board Meeting, Minneapolis
- 8** 10:00 a.m. Presbyteral Council meeting, Chancery
- 9** 10:30 a.m. Pension Board meeting, Chancery
- 10** Noon Mass with Homeschool students at St. Mary, Victoria
- 11** 50th Anniversary of Presidio, Goliad
- 12-16** USCCB Fall Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland
- 17** Visit Port of Baltimore
- 26** 9:00 a.m. Mass at Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
- 27** Noon Mass with Missionary Catechists, Victoria
- 29** 5:30 p.m. Visit with Youth Group at St. Anthony, Columbus

30

8:10 a.m. School Mass and visit at St. Rose of Lima, Schulenburg

6:30 p.m. Knights of St. Gregory Christmas Party, Victoria

December

1

11:30 a.m. Serra Club meeting, Victoria

1-3

KC Mid-Year Meeting, San Marcos

3

Legion of Mary – Immaculate Heart of Mary Curia, Bay City

5-6

TCCAC Meeting, Austin

8

8:10 a.m. Mass & School Visit at Nazareth Academy, Victoria

5:30 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of Victory, Victoria



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

Official Announcements

Rev. David Berger is on a leave of absence from active ministry.

Effective August 1, 2017 **Rev. Antonio Perez** was appointed parochial administrator to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Wharton, Texas.

Effective October 4, 2017 **Rev. Tommy Chen** was appointed as an Apostleship of the Sea Port Chaplain for the Diocese of Victoria. As port chaplain, Fr. Tommy will attend to the pastoral care of the people of the sea.

Effective October 6, 2017 **Rev. Eliecer Patiño Hurtado** was appointed as parochial vicar of Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Victoria. Father Eliecer was ordained a priest on December 1, 2007 in the Catholic Diocese of Malaga – Soata in Columbia.

Prayer for Our Priests

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests. Help our priests to be strong in their vocation. Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

DSA update

2017 Diocesan Services Appeal

Diocesan Goal: \$ 1,994,298.00
Parish Pledge Totals: \$ 925,264.38
Parish Contribution Totals: \$ 863,428.88
Number of Parish Families Participating: 2,929
Updated October 25, 2017

Please remember in prayer the priests of the Diocese of Victoria,

Prayer from St. Augustine

*Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy.
Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy.
Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit that I love but what is holy.
Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is Holy.
Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. Amen.*

*Please remember in prayer the priests who served in the Diocese of Victoria,
who died during the month of November:*

Rev. Msgr. Benton Thurmond	11/07/2009
Rev. Godfrey F. Kuratko	11/18/1983
Rev. Peter Higgins	11/20/2012
Rev. Msgr. Anthony Matula	11/26/1994
Rev. Gregory O'Connor	11/26/1986
Rev. Raphael Baidoo, O.Ss.T.	11/30/2016

"May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace"



PRISON MINISTRY — The Kolbe Prison Ministry thanks Bishop Emeritus David Fellhauer, Bishop Brenden Cahill and Father Jasper Liggio, for their service, support, and prayers for the Kolbe Prison Retreat held recently. Thanks also to Father Jacob Mendoza and Deacon Ed Molina who are pictured with Bishop Cahill.



**The Chancery will
be closed for the
Thanksgiving holidays,
November 23-24.**



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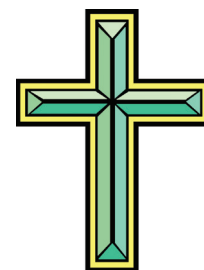
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DEADLINE IS THE 15th OF THE PRECEDING MONTH

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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 >.

October 24, 2017

• **Rev. Msgr. Edward C. Bartsch**
Seminary Burse

Lector

In memory of Frank Michalak by:
Gary and Denise Greive
Georgie Cerny and Stazy Hajek

Acolyte

In honor of our 35th Wedding Anniversary
by Gary and Denise Greive
In memory of Frank Michalak by
Allan and Cyndi Stryk
Special Intention by
Allan and Cyndi Stryk

• **Rev. Timothy Kosler Seminary Burse**
Lector

In memory of Josephine Anders by
Alvin J. Anders
In memory of Frances Anderle by
Alvin J. Anders

• **Rev. Kristopher L. Fuchs Seminary Burse**

Acolyte

In honor and celebration of Magdalene
Steffek's 100th birthday by
Paul and Helen Flessner

• **Rev. Scott Hill Seminary Burse**
Acolyte

In memory of Richard Brown by
Daryl and Joan Hill

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

In memory of Sir Knight Emile Fortune

• **Rev. Joseph Koebel Seminary Burse**
Acolyte

In memory of Rev. Joseph Koebel by

CDA Court Our Lady of the Rosary
#1595

• **Rev. Joe Vrana Seminary Burse, In
Honor of his Golden Jubilee Year**
Acolyte

In memory of Rev. Joe Vrana by
CDA Court Our Lady of the Rosary
#1595

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

Lector

In honor of Frank Bludau's 90th Birthday
by Milton and Diane Holub

Acolyte

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

• **CDA Court of St. Ann #369 Seminary
Burse #2**

Lector

In memory of James E. Potcinske by
CDA Court St. Ann #369

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



STANDING UP FOR LIFE—People joined together and stood quietly along Navarro Street in Victoria on Sunday, October 1st for National Life Chain Sunday. 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".

In Memory of ... Sister Annunciata Shumbera, IWBS

Sister Annunciata Shumbera, 98, passed away October 18, 2017. She was born September 25, 1919, in Weimar, to late John Shumbera and Francis Macha Shumbera. She was the sixth of six children - four girls and two boys. Sister Annunciata completed her grammar grades at Bois D'Arc School and St. Michael School in Weimar and graduated from Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio. On August 30, 1936, she entered Blessed Sacrament Convent in San Antonio and made her first profession of vows on June 11, 1938.



Sister Annunciata received a BA degree with a major in English and a minor in Social Sciences from Incarnate Word College and an MA degree with a major in Education and minor in library science from Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio. During her years of active ministry, Sister Annunciata ministered at Sacred Heart in Hallettsville, St. Leo School, St. Agnes School and Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio, Nazareth Academy in Victoria, St. Michael School in Cuero, Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in Selma, Assumption of BVM in Ganado, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School in Houston and Holy Cross in Bay City. She also served as Principal and Librarian in some of the schools and later assisted the Diocese of Victoria by volunteering in the library.

In 2009 Sister Annunciata came to In-

carne Word Convent and began sharing her gifts by assisting in the archives of the congregation. In 2012 she moved to the IWC Healthcare Center and entered into her Apostolate of Prayer and Suffering. Her kind, loving, gentle and peaceful spirit was a constant inspiration.

She is preceded in death by her parents; sisters, Annie, Mary, Gabriella; brothers, Emil and William Shumbera.

She is survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews.

On Tuesday, October 24, 2017, the Mass of Christian Burial was held at Incarnate Word Convent with Bishop Brendan Cahill as the presider and Father Phi Nguyen as homilist. Burial followed at Catholic Cemetery No. 3.

Thomas Flaherty, Matthew Lane, Scott Lane, Mike Sharp, David Shumbera and Mark Shumbera served as pallbearers. Memorials may be made to Incarnate Word Convent, Hospice of South Texas, or donor's choice.

Happy Birthday to Our Seminarians



Ryan Kapavik is in his IV year of college at St. Joseph Seminary College. His birthday is November 14. Write to Ryan at: St. Joseph Seminary College, 75376 River Rd., St. Benedict LA 70457.



Aaron Padilla is in his IV year of college at St. Joseph Seminary College. His birthday is November 15. Write to Aaron at: St. Joseph Seminary College, 75376 River Rd., St. Benedict LA 70457.



Scott Dornak is in Pre-Theology I at St. Joseph Seminary College. His birthday is November 23. Write to Scott at: St. Joseph Seminary College, 75376 River Rd., St. Benedict, LA 70457.

*"Follow me and I will
make you fishers of men."*

Matthew 4:18-22



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PREPARING FOR FESTIVAL—Very Reverend Charles Otsiwah, parochial administrator for Immaculate Conception, Goliad and Seminarian John Le assist in preparing for the Annual Parish Fall Festival. John is from Houston and will doing his pastoral year at Immaculate Conception parish this school year. The festival was a success, with more than 870 combination brisket/sausage plates sold and over 100 auction items donated.



ADULTS RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION—Adult Catholics from the Victoria Deanery attended a five-week course in preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Confirmation Mass was held on Wednesday, October, 18 at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, with Bishop Brendan Cahill presiding and Reverend Kristopher Fuchs assisting as MC. The course is designed to prepare adults Catholic who have received their sacraments of Baptism and first Holy Communion, and for whatever reason, were unable to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at the usual time. Bishop Cahill is pictured with Chris Kallus, OLV Catechist, left; are left-right, Sam Garcia, Angelina Vincent, Hector Hermosillo, Lucas Hernandez, James Hrabovsky, Jalena Ibarra, Eric Del Bosque, Sandra De La Torre, Richard Flores, Jr., and Jessica Adams. Classes are offered during the spring and fall. Watch the OLV bulletin for information on the next offering of courses or contact Jennifer Vincent at jvincent@olvcathedral.org to sign up.



ALTAR SOCIETY HELPS HURRICANE VICTIMS—The Altar Society of Holy Family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus Church, Victoria, donated \$2,500 from their recent bake sale to Victoria Christian Assistance Ministry (VCAM) to help those affected by Hurricane Harvey. Presenting the check to Marc Hinojosa is Kathy Motley, president of the Altar Society.



PARISH HELPING NEIGHBORS AT FESTIVAL—St. Patrick's Church, Bloomington, held their Annual Fall Festival this year at Holy Family Catholic Church in Victoria because of the hurricane damage to their parish hall. Parishioners and pastor, Father Samuel were very grateful to those at Holy Family who helped make this possible. Pictured left are Graciela Perez and Melissa Mendez, parishioners of St. Patrick's.



SISTERLY THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



Enhanced Thanksgiving

Often it seems that Thanksgiving is almost forgotten and gets lost between Halloween and Christmas. Hopefully this year more attention might be given to honoring the spirit of gratitude to God for protection. Hurricanes, floods, fires and earthquakes have jolted us into realizing our powerlessness in the face of violent natural disasters of the magnitude that many have experienced.

As a consequence, I can see different kinds of celebrations this year.



Some Thanksgiving dinner tables may be surrounded by those who are guests because they don't have a kitchen to prepare the meal for their families. Their kitchens, along with their homes and businesses, may have been torn up by wind, damaged due to leaking roofs or broken windows, covered by dangerous mold due to excessive moisture, or even completely obliterated by flood or fire. These folks often express gratitude that they and their loved ones have sur-

vived the tragedy in spite of the knowledge that they have a long road ahead in the restoration of their homes and businesses.

Those of us who are living in our undestroyed homes are grateful that we have been spared of the worst that Harvey or other natural disasters could have given us. We often express this gratitude by reaching out and giving hope to those who have lost much and are frustrated by the seemingly slow pace of recovery.

We have seen the best in people in the midst of these disasters. We have seen people who have left their families and

safety to rescue others, to provide food, time and aid for those who have weathered the worst of the tragedies that have taken place. Let us all show our gratitude to God through our continuing efforts to promote a climate of help and respect to all who are struggling to recover.

And, finally, let us all think of all the blessings that we have and are receiving as we prepare to celebrate this national holiday. Wishing a blessed Thanksgiving to all our readers.

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (DRE) RETIRES —

Carol Lehnert was given a quilt signed by family, friends, CCD teachers, and staff of Holy Family Church, Victoria, in appreciation for her 35 years of dedicated service to Holy Family. The handwork was done by quilting committee members of the Altar Society and presented to her at the October meeting. Carol has a total of 47 years teaching religious education. She taught at Our Lady of Victory starting in 1970. When Holy Family opened in 1981 she began teaching and was the DRE. Carol is pictured, fourth from left.



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Longtime CFO to Retire

By Sarita Villafranca Richmond, Editor

A man with many stories to tell, great faith, and a humble spirit will be missed come January of 2018, as he retires to spend much anticipated time traveling with his wife and visits to see his children and grandchildren.

Michael J. Brown was born and raised in Victoria, Texas. His family has a long history in the Victoria area. James Moody, his great-great grandfather served as the 1st Post Master for Victoria from 1832-1865. His grandfather, Dr. Joe Hopkins, was a well-known and respected General Practitioner from 1912-1962. His parents, Ron and Celeste Brown raised 2 boys and a girl. He and his siblings attended Catholic school. Mike graduated from St. Joseph High School in 1968 and graduated from St. Edwards University in Austin in 1974.

Mike and Pam, his wife of 42 years lived in San Antonio 14 years while he worked in public accounting and the financial services industry. They then moved to Oklahoma for 4 years before moving to Victoria in 1992 to work for South Texas Savings Bank. The Browns have 2 children who were both born in San Antonio. Catherine is married with 2 children and lives with her husband in Fort Collins, Colorado. David is an Attorney and lives in Dallas. Both attended Nazareth Academy and St. Joseph High School in Victoria for their education.

Mike worked in banking and financial services since 1975 and was looking for something different. He explained that working in loan servicing was difficult and not very rewarding. After 30 years in the corporate world he began to seek nonprofit opportunities and decided to apply for the CFO opening at the Diocese of Victoria. He was hired by Bishop David E. Fellhauer and started March 1, 2005. He shares, "I wanted to feel fulfilled personally, like I was doing something of value to help, and not just making money for a corporation, not just collecting a check."

Once he started his job at the diocese people immediately noticed a difference in him. Many would tell him, 'wow, you look happy'. He shared, "It was because I felt appreciated; to me it has been more like a vocation to be able to go to work each day

and know I am helping the mission of the church, as the steward of the finances of the diocese." One of Mike's fortes is his attention to business detail. He brought



Mike Brown is pictured above with Bishop David E. Fellhauer a short time after starting at the Diocese of Victoria. He is pictured below with his wife, Pam and to the right top with his secretary of 12 years, Jeri Joseph.



a business discipline to the office and felt he was a great resource for the priests, for those with Human Resource questions, property, real estate, and business questions. He shares, "I always told my wife Pam that in her job as a Pediatric Speech and Language Pathologist she was shown a lot of gratitude. She worked with kids and could see the fruits of her work." It wasn't until he came to work for the diocese that he would experience the same gratitude and sense of service. He explained that the church has a pastoral and a business side. He shares, "It is about the people and the

mission of the church. You have to wear both hats to minimize the business risk but at the same time achieve the pastoral goal."

Mike and his family have been parishioners of Holy Family Victoria since they moved to Victoria. Spiritually, perpetual adoration is very important to him. He has been doing it for 2 years. He shares, "It gives me a sense of peace; it is just Jesus and me. I make time for it and I look forward to it." He also ex-



plained that one of his favorite prayers, that he has prayed daily since 1987, is anonymous and one he found in a prayer book. It has been a source of reminding him what is really important in life. He shares, "During times of difficulty when things seemed to be crumbling around me I would meditate on it. It reminds me that life isn't about being powerful or having riches. I remember that I am swimming with the Lord and not against the Lord." (See prayer in box below.)

Over the years he has been involved at Holy Family in: Core Team for ACTS for 2 years, Eucharistic minister, Knights of Columbus 9088 member, and 4th Degree Member of Assembly 1126. He has served on various boards including: The Nazareth Academy Advisory Board, The American Red Cross, local chair of Relay for Life, State Board for Relay for Life, selected to attend 1st Relay on the Hill in Washington DC, Serra Club and Reta Trust Board (9 years-current).

Mike may be retiring from his CFO position but he has plans for his future. He is looking forward to playing more golf and traveling in his new RV that they named "Bella's Vista". He and Pam have a trip planned to go see their grandkids in Fort Collins. Other



Mike Brown is pictured with the Bishop Fellhauer Invitational Golf Tournament committee members.

See Longtime CFO to Retire, pg. 11

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve....
I was made weak, that I might humbly learn to obey.
I asked for health, that I might do greater things...
I was given infirmity, that I might do better things...
I asked for riches, that I might be happy...
I was given poverty, that I might be wise.
I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men...
I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.
I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life...
I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.
I got nothing that I asked for, but everything I hoped for.
Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.
I am among all mankind, most richly blessed!



STUDENTS INDUCTED INTO NJHS—St. Philip proudly introduces their 8th grade students who were inducted recently into the St. Philip Catholic School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS). This is one of the highest academic honors that can be awarded to a student. Membership is based on five criteria (pillars): Citizenship, Service, Leadership, Scholarship and Character. Pictured, left to right front, row Kolin Cerny, Jacob Shilhab, Meredith Radley, Riki Nardiello, Darby Lutrick, Janice Lin, Blaine Kight, Brooklyn Dixon, Haley Tupa; back row, Hannah Sutton, Carson Whittington, Lucas Pfeil, Ella Jenkins, Carter Hlavinka, Jack Dorotik, Braden Amestoy, Reid Williams.



STJ BIBLE MASS—Each freshman and transfer student from St. Joseph High School, Victoria, received a copy of The Holy Bible to guide them through their high school journey at the annual Bible Mass. Father Stephen Vacek celebrated Mass and blessed the Bibles.



SCHOOL GROWS FRESH VEGETABLES FOR WELLNESS PROGRAM

—St. Philip School, El Campo is utilizing a tower garden that is in its second year to grow fresh vegetables for their cafeteria, as a part of their campus Wellness Program. It also serves as classroom support to science lessons across the grade levels. They are SO EXCITED to report that after 2.5 weeks of growing, their tower garden is ready to harvest its' first round of lettuce! Their wonderful cafeteria staff helped harvest the lettuce and will be preparing it for use on the lunch trays.



REMEMBERING THE SAINTS—Mrs. Frazier's 5th graders at Our Lady of Victory School, Victoria, dressed up as saints and did a presentation on their saint.



STUDENTS LEARNING ABOUT THE ROSARY—During the month of The Holy Rosary 4th graders, at Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville, worked hard to make this beautiful Rosary for the hallway. Pictured is Mrs. Jennifer Noska and some of her 4th grade students.



SCHOOL VISIT BY BISHOP— Bishop Brendan Cahill celebrated Mass with the students and community at St. Joseph Catholic School in Yoakum. It was a beautiful celebration! He also blessed the new statue of St. Jose Sanchez that will be placed in the school chapel.



Blessing of Animals



BLESSINGS OF THE ANIMALS—Students from around the diocese and parishes celebrated the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi with Blessing of the Pets Prayer Services. Bishop Cahill was able to attend a few of these blessings.



GIRL SCOUT EARNS GOLD AWARD—Rianna, a graduate from West High School recently earned the Girl Scout Gold Award. She designed and built a rosary prayer garden. The garden is located at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, next to the Early Childhood Center. This award represents the highest achievement in Girl Scouts. To earn the award, each girl must complete two Senior or Ambassador journeys or complete one Senior or Ambassador journey and have earned a Girl Scout Silver Award. After completing either of these requirements, a minimum of 80 hours is suggested to complete the steps to earn the Girl Scout Gold Award.



HONORING SAINTS—In Honor of All Saints Day a Nazareth Academy sibling was dressed as Mother Theresa.

Pathways
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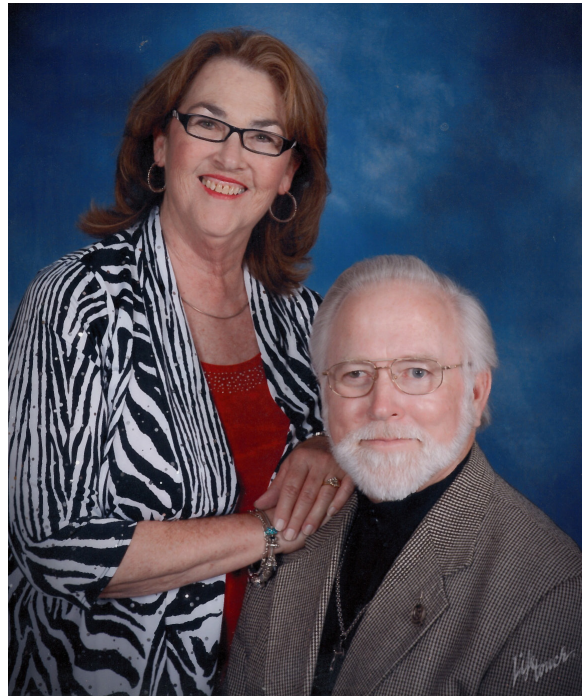
Deacon Steve Borowicz was born in Fort Hood, Texas on April 6, 1948, to Steve and Helen (Przyborski) Borowicz. When he was a child they moved a lot depending on where his father was stationed. Some of the places they lived included Kansas, Wisconsin, and San Antonio. His family spent 4 years in Fort Riley, Kansas, where it snowed every winter. One summer they were stationed in Wisconsin and lived on a dairy farm.

His home base was Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, where they were stationed 3 different times. After his father retired from the Army in 1963 he got a job as the unit aide for the Army Reserves in Victoria. His family had relocated 12 times before they moved to Victoria. Deacon Steve's family moved so much when he was young, that he knew early on that he wanted to raise his children in one place. He shares, "Once my family moved to Victoria I haven't moved since."

While stationed in different cities his parents sent him and his two brothers to Catholic School, if there was one where they were stationed. Some of the Catholic Schools they attended were St. Francis Xavier in Junction City, Kansas, St. Gregory's in San Antonio, and Holy Cross High School in San Antonio. In 1966, Deacon Steve graduated from St. Joseph High School, Victoria, with a full-tuition academic scholarship to St. Mary's University.

He attended St. Mary's for a year and a half. He shares, "This was the 60's and I did not need 'the man' telling me what to do, so after a year and a half of college I went to work in the construction industry as an insulator. I did this for 38 years! How smart was that?"

He worked for Goodman Insulation for 15 years then started his own company after



Chuck Goodman, the owner passed away. Twenty-three years later he decided it was time and he closed his insulation business. He was employed by Hospice of South Texas as a Chaplain for 5 years. After working as a Chaplain, he spent 2 years as the Business Manager at Holy Family in Victoria, where he currently works part-time 3 days a week.

Deacon Steve met his wife Su Lin Snow and in 1969 they were married at Our Lady of Victory. They met on a blind

date when Su worked as a carhop at Land's Drive-in. They are blessed with 3 daughters, Shannon, Anissa, and Heather, as well as 9 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. Important advice he has shared with his children and grandchildren is that life is easier with Jesus than without Jesus. He tells them, "Keep your priorities straight and things will work out."

He first thought about becoming a deacon while attending a Pastoral Institute class at Holy Family in Victoria. Father Don Ruppert discussed the Diaconate Program with him. He shares, "One of the deciding factors for me to enter the Diaconate Program was the encouragement I received from my grandmother Mary. She always encouraged me to be a

priest as did some of the nuns." While attending St. Joseph High School he even thought about joining the Brothers of Mary, who taught at St. Joseph.

His deacon class met in El Campo on Tuesday nights for five years. There were ten candidates who were ordained on November 19, 1994, by Bishop David E. Fellhauer.

Holy Family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus is his home parish. Deacon Steve is ac-

tive in the RCIA program, he works with lecturers, with Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Altar Server Training, and was formerly in Prison Ministry at the Victoria County Jail and the Stevenson Unit in Cuero.

Some of the most rewarding moments during his Diaconate Ministry have been working with the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Program every year. Deacon Steve explains that during the RCIA Program, he is sharing the faith with those who want to learn about Catholicism. He shares, "Watching them grow in their love of the Lord helps me grow closer to Jesus."

He has traveled three times with the Coram Deo Group from Holy Family to the orphanages in Guatemala. These trips to serve the people of Guatemala have been instrumental in his love for Christ and others. He also shared that while working with the dying as the Chaplain for Hospice of South Texas, he saw first hand what the journey of life was really about. He shares, "As we go through life we have all kinds of dreams and plans. Most of them don't work out like we planned. Just keep following the Lord and take the next right step on the journey."

For men who think they may be called by the Lord to the Diaconate, his advice is to go to the discernment process which lasts about a year and see if God is calling you. Deacon Steve's path to the Diaconate is unique, but exactly how God intended it to be. The following bible verse is how he views his Diaconate and life journey: "All things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purposes." Romans 8:28

The Diocese of Victoria 11th Annual Catholic Knowledge Bowl

Sunday, February 25, 2018

St. Mary Church, Victoria • 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.



The Catholic Knowledge Bowl (CKB) has become an annual diocesan event. Participants from throughout the diocese come to compete in a friendly contest among peers to test their knowledge of the Catholic faith. The CKB consists of three rounds of competition. Teams are tested on 35 multiple choice questions per round.

For more information contact Office of Catechetical Ministry (361) 573-0828 or e-mail Christella Alvarez at calvarez@victoriadiocese.org.

Can you answer this question?

In the Bible angels are mainly_____.

Choose one correct answer.

- a. non-created beings
- b. messengers of God
- c. evil spirits
- d. imaginary creatures

Answer on pg. 12

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Long Time CFO to Retire

Continued from pg. 7

trips on the agenda include the leaf change on the East coast and visiting all 48 states including Canada. He also feels called to start a nonprofit to provide produce to the poor. His Grandfather, Dr. Joe inspired him from a young age to be charitable. Mike shares, "When I was 5 years old he would take me to the Rosebud Games. He taught me to accept others as they were; I learned to be giving and not selfish." He feels that the scripture from John 21:17 really speaks to him: *He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was distressed that he had said to him a*

third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

Mike describes the last 12 years at the diocese as "WOW-what a privilege"! He shares, "I feel blessed that I have been able to finish my career serving the church and that I had 2 bishops who took me into their confidence, sought my advice, and many times followed it. I have been very blessed to have been chosen to serve the church in this capacity and to have worked for 2 very humble men."

"Mike has been a great mentor, friend, and a true example of a strong Christian."

Jeri Joseph

Mike's secretary of 12 years

"I have worked with Mike for more than 12 years, he not only took care of the finances of the diocese, he tried to look after the spiritual needs and well-being of those working for the Church. Spiritually, he encouraged many to take the opportunity of attending classes offered by the Pastoral Institute. Several years ago, Mike helped the Chancery staff become more aware of the benefits of walking 10,000 steps everyday. He started by giving us a pedometer and a challenge to "walk" 10,000 steps every day. Since then, the fitbit is on our wrist, waist, or pocket, and for many, we are much more aware of the benefits of trying to live a healthier lifestyle."

Christella Alvarez

Director of Catechetical Ministry

"I have worked for the diocese for 3 years, Mike believed in me from the very start. I have a degree in Public Health, not Journalism, but he knew I would thrive where I was planted. I appreciate him being open to my crazy ideas and leading by example."

Sarita Richmond

Director of Communications

"I have worked at the Chancery for over 30 years and have enjoyed working with Mike since he started with the diocese. He has implemented programs to benefit the employees of the diocese including a Chancery Staff family day. I will miss hearing about his adventures and his golf stories."

Regina Janak

"I work in the Office of Business and Finance with Mike; we have worked 9 years together and it has been a true blessing to have worked with him. He has been an asset to the diocese. He cares about his daily duties and is always available to talk to if a problem occurs. Mike will truly be missed here at the chancery. God Bless and enjoy your retirement Mike!"

Rene Garcia



PREPARING FOR ALL SOULS DAY—Sts. Peter and Paul CCD students placed flowers on the graves of those buried in the parish church cemetery, that no longer have anybody to place flowers, and also on the graves of their deceased priests. The flowers were generously donated by Catholic Life Insurance, Frelsburg Branch.



PRAYING THE ROSARY—Sts. Peter and Paul, Frelsburg, CCD students and teachers led the parish in praying the Holy Rosary. The Rosary, constructed of helium balloons, was released from the open field in front of the church, celebrating October as the month of the Holy Rosary.

Journeys of Faith with Ceci

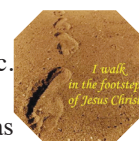
2017 AND 2018 TRIPS TO HOLY LAND AND MORE!

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

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Faith of the Irish Pilgrimage with Rev. Bob Knippenberg

May 1 - 11, 2018 ~Space is limited!

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\$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!

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You can follow Journeys of Faith with Ceci on Facebook!



Sunday Readings from November 5 - December 10

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

November 12 – Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 6:12-16
Psalms 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

November 19 – Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31
Psalms 128:1-2, 3, 4-5
1 Thessalonians 5:1-6
Matthew 25:14-30

November 23 – Thanksgiving Day

Sirach 50:22-24
Psalms 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Luke 17:11-19

November 26 – The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17
Psalms 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6
1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28
Matthew 25:31-46

December 3 – First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 63:16B-17, 19B; 64:2-7
Psalms 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:33-37

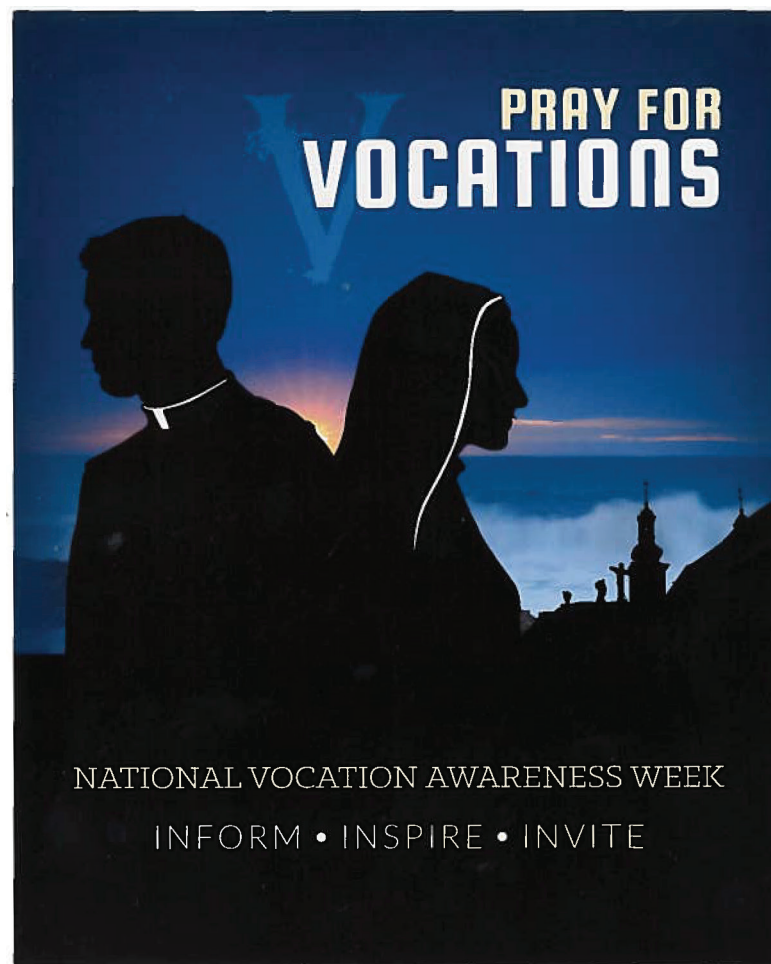
December 10 – Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
Psalms 85:9-10-11-12, 13-14
2 Peter 3:8-14
Mark 1:1-8

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



Vocation Awareness Week ~ November 5-11

Prayer for Vocations

God our Father, You made each of us to use our gifts in the Body of Christ.

We ask that you inspire young people whom you call to priesthood and consecrated life to courageously follow Your will.

Send workers into Your great harvest so that the Gospel is preached, the poor are served with love, the suffering are comforted, and Your people are strengthened by the sacraments.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please personally encourage young people to consider a vocation to the priesthood or religious life.

Discernment 101

The First Step is Being Truly Open to God's Call

- Find good information.
- Seek guidance.
- Pray consistently.



Advent Begins Sunday, December 3.



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CKB Answer

b) The English word “angel” comes from the Greek angelos, which means ‘messenger’.

St. Augustine says: “‘Angel’ is the name of their office, not of their nature.” With their whole beings the angels are servants and messengers of God. CCC 329





Serving God and County

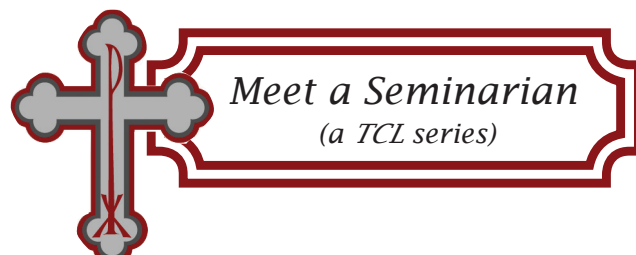
By Sarita Villafranca Richmond, Editor

James Dvorak, a seminarian from the Diocese of Victoria is from Frelsburg, Texas. Frelsburg is located north of Columbus and is the farthest point of the diocese. James has one older brother, David who lives in Lone Oak, Texas with his wife Jessica. They have one daughter and a child on the way. His parents Victor Jr. and Gail Dvorak live in Frelsburg and are very supportive of James and his vocation to the priesthood. The Dvorak family are parishioners at Sts. Peter and Paul. As a young boy James altar served and participated in CCD events at the parish. It was during his 8th-grade year that he considers the first “spark” of interest to the priesthood. As part of the religious education classes, they would go out and serve the community

to be a part of it somehow.”

James had been in contact with Father Dan Morales who was the Vocations Director at the time for The Diocese of Victoria. He shared, “It was then that Father Dan told me I could do both; I had never thought of

who are now ordained priests, to travel to Spain for a spiritual pilgrimage. He, Father Philip Brune, Father Scott Hill and Father Jacob Koether hiked the five hundred miles of El Camino de Santiago in Spain for almost five weeks.



being a Military Chaplain and a priest!” In the Fall of 2011, after he graduated from high school, James entered Holy Trinity Seminary in Dallas. He was there for 4 years and while there he decided to look into Military Chaplaincy, but the timing was not right. He patiently and faithfully let the idea of Military Chaplaincy go at that time and continued with the next phase of the seminary, which would be in Houston, at St. Mary’s Seminary.

James first trip out of the country was when he traveled with Father Dan to Guatemala. He shared, “It was

a whole new world opening up for me. I only knew my little world in Frelsburg. The work we did in Guatemala was not just us helping them; they were helping us too. The intense spirituality of the people despite their state of poverty and how they live with such faith and joy was inspiring to me.” He learned that reaching out beyond himself to serve others was what really gave him joy in life. James continued to visit Guatemala for five consecutive years with Father Dan and a diocesan mission group. Also during this time, James was invited by some of his seminarian brothers,

The seed planted by Father Dan six years before to serve the Church and his country at the same time would still remain in his heart. James decided to pursue the idea of

Military Chaplaincy again. This time, the timing was right and he was accepted into the program. He was open to all branches of the military but chose the Navy. He said, “I would have been fine with whichever branch but it came down to need. I do like that with the Navy there are more diverse options like flying, ships and being on carriers.”

One year ago, on October 17, he swore the Oath of Office and became a Direct Commission Officer for the U.S. Navy. The Navy Chaplain Corps has a special program called the Chaplain Candidate Program, for seminarians who are discerning to serve in the Navy as a chaplain, but who are not yet ordained ministers. This program allows chaplain candidates to begin annual training and experience what it is like to serve as a chaplain in the Navy. In September James had the opportunity to report to his first set of orders: Annual Training at Officer Training Command in Newport, Rhode Island. For the duration of two weeks, he along with forty-one other direct commissioned officers of various specialties including physicians, nurses, engineers, and others participated in this training course. He shares, “Words cannot

adequately encompass a description of the two weeks of training that our class underwent. I was amazed at how fast a class can come together. Waking up at 4 in the morning, marching everywhere, standing at attention, uniform inspections, room inspections, physical training, and countless classes only give us a glimpse of what the recruits and candidates endure in their eight to twelve weeks of basic training.” This was his first taste of what it will be like to live life in the military and his first “hands-on” experience to what military chaplaincy will look like.

Immediately after the Annual Training in Rhode Island, he returned to Texas to begin the next phase of his formation, his Pastoral Year. He is at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory for a year then will return to St. Mary’s Seminary in Houston for two more years of formation before being ordained to the priesthood. James will serve as a priest in the Diocese of Victoria for at least three years, then report to the Navy for Active Duty. The length of his service in the military is at the discretion of the

current diocesan bishop. James shares, “Bishop Cahill has given full support to me and my co-sponsorship with the Archdiocese for Military Services. When my time as a Military Chaplain

is finished, I will make my long-awaited return to the Diocese of Victoria in Texas. I am humbled and honored to serve in the Navy with our nation’s finest sailors. I thank you for all your prayers and support and ask that you continue to pray for our country, those serving in our nation’s armed forces, and most especially for peace.” The following bible verse is one that keeps James attentive to every trial in life and reminds him how he is ordered to live for Christ and how he will only find life through his death.



James Dvorak pictured a year ago as he was commissioned as an Ensign in the United States Navy.

and do service projects. It was the service to others and living out that service that had James interested in devoting his life to others through the priesthood. In high school he attended vocation camps and visited seminaries. He shares, “It was gradual growth each year that brought me to consider becoming a priest.” As graduation from high school approached he began to consider the options for his future. He was torn between the military and the priesthood. James shared, “Growing up I liked what the military stood for, like the discipline and the structure; I had a desire



Group picture of Navy chaplain candidates at annual training in Rhode Island.

2 Cor. 4: 7-10 “But we hold this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing power may be of God and not from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body. For we who live are constantly being given up to death for the sake of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh.”



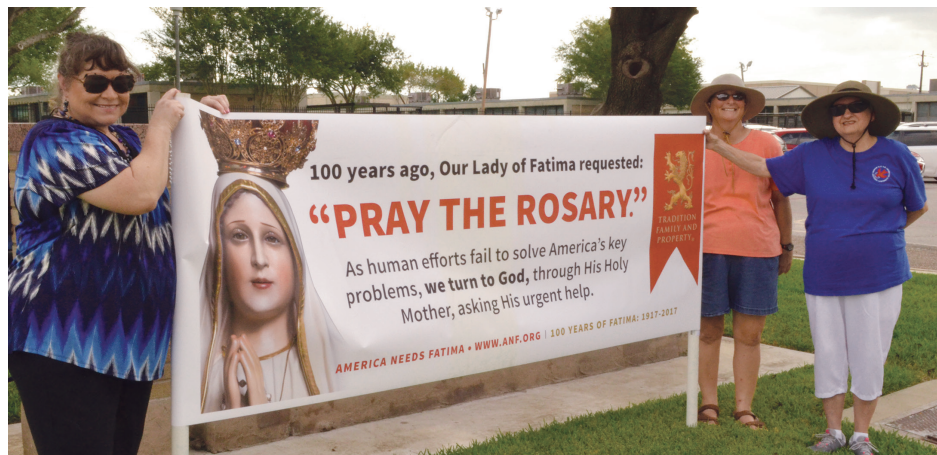
FATIMA PRAYER CRUSADE—St. Ann and St. Joseph Society 100th Anniversary the Apparition of Our Lady of Fatima was held Saturday, October 14, at the Schulenburg Railroad Park Gazebo, on Main Street. Approximately seventy-five people came out to pray together joining over 20,000 other America Needs Fatima Prayer Crusades being held.



HONORING FATIMA—Sacred Heart Church, Hallettsville celebrated the 100th year Anniversary of the Apparition of Our Lady Of Fatima, on Friday, October 13. A prayer service with beautiful music was held and adults and children participated in leading the rosary. The service was led by Msgr. John Peters, Father Max Landman, and Deacon Mike Tankersley.



HONORING FATIMA—A beautiful Holy Hour, Procession, and Mass were held Sunday, October 15, to honor the 100th Anniversary of the Appearance of Our Lady of Fatima. The Holy Hour began at Our Lady of Sorrows, Victoria, then the group processed to St. Mary's.



RALLY ORGANIZED—An Annual Rosary Rally organized by Pat Hessler is held each year on the steps of The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory. Pictured holding the banner are Katherine Haas, Jennifer Hessler and Pat Hessler.

PRAYING TOGETHER—Parishioners from St. Patrick's in Bloomington gathered to pray the rosary on Saturday, October 14 for the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima.



BEING THANKFUL—For the Month of the Rosary, OLV kindergarten students made a rosary. Each bead had a prayer intention and drawing by each child.



The Diocese of Victoria 30th Annual Catholic Conference *Putting Faith Into Action: Catholic Social Teachings*

Due to the effects of Hurricane Harvey the 30th Annual Catholic Conference has been rescheduled for Saturday, January 27, 2018, at Holy Family Church in Wharton. The conference is for all adults in the Diocese of Victoria. The conference will focus on the social teachings of the Catholic Church. Mr. Jack Jezreel, founder of JustFaith Ministries, will deliver the English keynote address and Sister Miriam Perez, MCSH, of Vic-



Bishop Brendan Cahill

toria, Texas, will deliver the Spanish keynote address. Each one will speak about

the social teachings of the Church as a blueprint for how we are to respond to the invitation to be a vessel of God's love in the world. Their presentations will highlight doctrine developed by the Catholic Church on matters involving



Jack Jezreel

issues of poverty and wealth, care for the poor and the environment, the dignity of

the human person, solidarity and the rights and responsibilities of all. The Most Reverend Bishop Brendan Cahill will speak specifically about some of the social issues, which are affecting people in the Victoria area.



Sister Miriam Perez,
MCSH

Twenty-two presenters will be offering 32 workshops throughout the day. Registration for the conference is \$35 per person (no refunds), which includes a meal served by Mikeska's BBQ.

For more information about the presenters, workshops and the schedule go to www.victoriadiocese.org. To have information mailed directly to you, call the Office of Catechetical Ministry at (361) 573-0828.



Conference Schedule

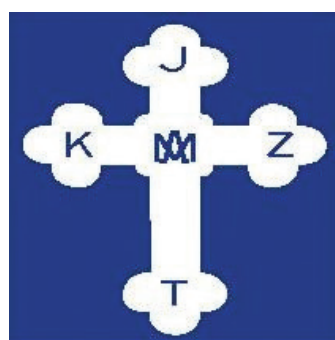
- 8:00 a.m. Registration and Exhibits Open
- 9:00 Opening Prayer
- 9:45 Keynote Presentations
- 11:30 Round A Workshops
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch and Exhibits Open
- 1:45 Round B Workshops
- 2:45 Last Chance to visit Exhibits
- 3:15 Round C Workshops
- 4:30 Closing Liturgy:
Bishop Cahill presiding



Three Ways to Register for the 30th Annual Catholic Conference

1. Register online at:
www.victoriadiocese.org
2. Fill out and send in the registration form
3. Sign up with others from your parish, as a group

Deadline to register is Thursday, January 18, 2018. **There is limited space, so please register as soon as possible.**



CATHOLIC Family Fraternal OF TEXAS

~ JOB DESCRIPTION ~

The State Office is seeking a full-time Fraternal Events Coordinator to travel around the great state of Texas to create and develop an outward Fraternal Program to encourage and attract new members and families to Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas – K.J.Z.T. by promoting family, values and the Catholic religion. The Fraternal Events Coordinator will consult with Societies to determine objectives and requirements for events, such as meetings, district dinner dances, contests, silent auctions, blood drives etc. and other special statewide Fraternal activities. The Fraternal Events Coordinator will coordinate services for events, such as accommodation and transportation for participants, facilities, catering, signage, displays, special needs requirements, printing and event security. Must be able to travel in the field Thursdays through Sundays.

~ EXPERIENCE ~

The ideal candidate will have a Bachelor's degree or 5 years related experience or 5 years fraternal experience. Requires experience in special events management, promotion, and knowledge of media production, communication, and dissemination techniques and methods. Must have a demonstrated ability to handle multiple projects and details simultaneously with an analytical ability to gather and summarize data for reports, find solutions to various administrative problems, and prioritize work.

~ BENEFITS AND CONTACT INFORMATION ~

KJZT offers an excellent salary and benefits. Generous benefits includes company car, cell phone, health, vision and dental insurance, paid time off, company paid retirement plan and paid holidays.

Please e-mail resume to btaylor@kjzt.org or fax to 512-326-4394. Check out our website at www.kjzt.org. EOE

Now Hiring Fraternal Events Coordinator



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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Heritage Libertad

Aplicación de Teléfono Enseña Bendiciones, Cómo orar a Personas Sordas

Por Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Cuando la hermana Kathleen Schipani descubrió que ella casi siempre era la primera persona en enseñar a los niños sordos a rezar, pensó que tenía que haber una aplicación de teléfono para arreglar esa situación.

Las personas aprenden a rezar generalmente en la familia, cuando un padre o pariente reza antes de las comidas, o pide bendiciones o solicita orientación o protección, dijo la hermana Kathleen, quien pertenece a la orden religiosa de las Hermanas del Corazón Inmaculado de María. Pero cuando un niño nace sordo en una familia que escucha, esos niños no deberían de dejar de aprender oraciones católicas o términos religiosos mientras aprenden el lenguaje de signos, dijo la hermana.

La hermana Schipani, directora de la oficina para personas con discapacidades quien trabaja en el apostolado de los sordos para la Arquidiócesis de Filadelfia, estuvo en Roma como parte de una conferencia patrocinada por el Consejo Pontificio para la Promoción de la Nueva Evangelización. La reunión, del 20 al 22 de octubre, estuvo dedicada a compartir las mejores prácticas para involucrar y catequizar a las personas que viven con discapacidades.

Existen muchas aplicaciones en el teléfono celular para aprender el lenguaje de signos (conocido en Estados Unidos como

ASL), dijo la hermana, pero no hay nada dedicado a términos religiosos, devociones diarias, ni oraciones de bendición, amor, agradecimiento y alabanza. La aplicación para ayudar a llenar ese vacío se llama “Señales religiosas para las familias” (Religious signs for families) y estará disponible en el iTunes App Store y Google Play a principios de noviembre.

El lugar donde se aprende la fe es en la familia, por lo tanto, la aplicación es una manera para ayudar a las familias a que incluyan la oración en el hogar y que formen el vínculo entre ellos y Dios mientras rezan en el lenguaje de signos, dijo la hermana Schipani. También le puede ayudar a los maestros que quieren enseñar a los estudiantes de primaria a orar usando el lenguaje de signos.

“Personas sordas tienen experiencias profundas de oración”, dijo la hermana Schipani, particularmente porque para ellos implica orar con “todo su cuerpo”, con los signos y la visualización.

“Personas sordas nunca han escuchado el idioma en el que hablamos, así que no escuchan la pequeña voz (en su mente) como nosotros”, dijo. En cambio, algunas personas dicen que rezan visualmente con imágenes o que ven (en su mente) manos que hace los signos.

Y aunque la música sagrada no tiene la misma capacidad para atraer a las personas sordas a la oración, el arte sagrado sí lo hace, dijo.

RELIGIOUS SIGNS FOR FAMILIES

¡Una nueva aplicación de lenguaje de señas disponible para Apple iOS y Android saldrá el 1 de noviembre!

Available on the App Store GET IT ON Google Play

Aprenda a orar en lenguaje americano de señas, observando a los niños y los padres usar señas para las oraciones y palabras religiosas. Desarrollado para ayudar a familias con niños sordos a aprender el lenguaje religioso y a orar juntos en lenguaje americano de señas; esta aplicación puede ser utilizada por cualquiera que desee aprender y usar el lenguaje americano de señas para orar.

Cada palabra/oración está interpretada en el lenguaje americano de señas por un adulto y niño modelo. ¡La aplicación tiene subtítulos y es hablada en inglés y español!

Deaf Apostolate / Archdiocese of Philadelphia / www.DeafCatholicPhilly.org



La hermana Kathleen Schipani, directora de la Oficina para Personas con Discapacidades, quien trabaja en el apostolado de sordos para la Arquidiócesis de Filadelfia, conversa durante una entrevista en Roma el 20 de octubre. Su oficina está lanzando la aplicación “Señales religiosas para familias” para ayudar a que niños sordos y sus familiares aprendan oraciones en el lenguaje de signos, o señales, en Estados Unidos. La aplicación estará disponible a principios de noviembre en la App Store de Apple y Google Play. (Foto CNS-Paul Haring)



Church Can't be Blind, Deaf to People with Special Needs, Pope Says

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The Catholic Church must be welcoming and creative in finding ways to not let people's physical, psychological or intellectual limitations keep them from encountering God, Pope Francis said.

"The church cannot be 'mute' or 'tone deaf' when it comes to the defense and promotion of people with disabilities," he told differently abled individuals, their families and pastoral workers and professionals who work with them.

Words and gestures of outreach and welcoming must never be missing from any church community, so that everyone, particularly those whose journey in life is not easy, can encounter the risen Lord and find in that community "a source of hope and courage," he said Oct. 21.

The pope spoke during an audience with 450 people taking part in a conference sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization. The gathering Oct. 20-22 was dedicated to sharing best practices in engaging and catechizing persons living with disabilities -- a topic Pope Francis had specifically asked the council to look into, conference organizers told Catholic News Service.

Fortunately, the pope told the group, there has been progress over the past decades in recognizing the rights and dignity of all people, especially those who are more vulnerable, leading to "courageous positions on inclusion" so that "no one feels like a stranger."

However, attitudes that are often "narcissistic and utilitarian" still abound, marginalizing people with disabilities and overlooking their human and spiritual gifts, he said.

Also still too pervasive is an attitude of refusal of any potentially debilitating condition, believing it would be an obstacle to happiness or the full realization of oneself, he said.

It's an attitude, the pope said, that is seen in today's "eugenic tendencies to kill unborn children who display some form of imperfection."

But "in reality, all of us know many people who, even with their serious frailties, have found -- even with difficulty -- the path of a good life, rich in meaning," he said, and "we know people who are outwardly perfect" yet full of despair.

"It's a dangerous deception to believe in being invulnerable," he said, since vulnerability is part of the essence of being

human.

Two participants from the United States, who were part of the conference organizing committee, and a father of a young woman with Down syndrome told CNS that the usual approach of "special programs" for people with particular needs should change because they can become a form of segregation.

For example, Sister Kathleen Schipani recalled how dark and lonely it was going to an empty school late every Wednesday night for a parish program meant for children with disabilities.

Sister Schipani, who leads the office for persons with disabilities and the deaf apostolate at the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, said the model they are pursuing is to have one parish religious education program for everyone, but with options for smaller breakout groups, one-on-one instruction or other methods that can address individuals' particular needs.

Janice Benton, executive director of the National Catholic Partnership on Disability based in Washington, D.C., said too much focus on providing special programs also has meant some people get turned away from their neighborhood parish because the church doesn't have a program accommodating a specific disability.

"The first thing is welcome the person," she said, and speak with them; the church is more than a collection of programs, it's about relationships with each other and with God. "It's not so much having the skills or having the professionals, it's knowing the person and then just an ordinary way of expressing how they belong to the church" in catechetical formation, participating in the liturgy in some way or parish activities, said Sister Schipani, a member of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

World War II chaplain receives military honors posthumously for heroism

OPELOUSAS, La. (CNS) — Father Joseph Verbis Lafleur, a World War II chaplain who gave his life while saving others on a Japanese prison ship, was honored posthumously with the Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart in a ceremony in Opelousas. Congressman Ralph Abraham, R-Louisiana, presented the two military medals to Father Lafleur's nephew and his wife, Richard and Carol Lafleur, at St. Landry Catholic Church, where Father Lafleur celebrated his first Mass following his ordination in 1938. Lafayette Bishop J. Douglas Deshotel also attended the Oct. 17 ceremony, along with Father James Brady, who is pastor at St. Landry, as well as other Catholics, a number of dignitaries and students from Opelousas Catholic junior high and high schools. Father Lafleur died Sept. 7, 1944, when a U.S. submarine torpedoed the Japanese ship he and more than 700 fellow prisoners of war were aboard in the Indian Ocean. The ship was not marked as carrying POWs, so the American submariners had no way of knowing they were aboard at the time of the attack.



RELIGIOUS SIGNS FOR FAMILIES

A new sign language app available for Apple iOS and Android
Coming November 1!

Available on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

Learn to pray in American Sign Language (ASL) watching children and parents sign religious words and prayers. Produced to assist families with young Deaf children to learn religious language and pray together in ASL, this app can be used by anyone wanting to learn and use ASL to pray.

Each word/prayer is signed by an adult and child model (Deaf or CODA). The app is captioned and voiced in English and Spanish!

Deaf Apostolate / Archdiocese of Philadelphia / www.DeafCatholicPhilly.org

APP SIGN LANGUAGE PRAYERS—This is a publicity image for the "Religious Signs for Families" app to help deaf children and their family members learn prayers in American Sign Language. The app is an initiative of the Office for Persons with Disabilities and the Deaf Apostolate at the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. It will be available in early November in Apple's App Store and Google Play. (CNS photo/Deaf Apostolate of Archdiocese of Philadelphia)

Catholic schools in Puerto Rico begin reopening after hurricane

MIAMI (CNS) — Catholic school students in the Archdiocese of San Juan, Puerto Rico, and at least one other diocese on the island have resumed classes with limited water and almost no electricity service after Hurricane Maria devastated the region. Tom Burnford, president of the National Catholic Educational Association, spoke with Ana Cortes, superintendent of Catholic schools for the San Juan Archdiocese Oct. 19. He learned, over the course of dropped phone calls and crackly interference, that none of the archdiocese's more than 50 elementary and high schools was completely incapacitated by Hurricane Maria.



APP SIGN LANGUAGE PRAYERS — Sister Kathleen Schipani, director of the Office for Persons with Disabilities and the Deaf Apostolate at the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, is pictured

during an interview in Rome Oct. 20. Her office is launching the "Religious Signs for Families" app to help deaf children and their family members learn prayers in American Sign Language. It will be available in early November in Apple's App Store and Google Play. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

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Kenneth J. French, Sr.

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Edward Jones

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A Proclamation

By the President of the United States of America - Abraham Lincoln in 1863



The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union. Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defense, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle or the ship; the axe has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battlefield; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom. No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity and Union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this Third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the Eighty-eighth.

By the President: Abraham Lincoln

William H. Seward, Secretary of State



SEE YOU AT THE POLE—Students, parents, and faculty gathered to pray at the flag pole outside St. Philip School, El Campo. See You at the Pole is an annual gathering of thousands of Christian students at a flagpole in front of their local schools for prayer, scripture-reading and worship.



Incarnate Word & Blessed Sacrament Gift Shop



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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.



Meals • Picnics and More

November

Port Lavaca—Our Lady of the Gulf Altar Society Turkey Dinner catered by Werner's at the St. Jude Hall, Nov. 5 at \$8 p/p from 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Dine-in or plates-to-go available. Baked goods and raffle tickets will be available.

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.

Vanderbilt—St. John Bosco Festival, Nov. 12 at Trinity Family Center (5508 FM 616, Vanderbilt). A BBQ pork steak and sausage plates served 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at \$10 p/p. There will be a silent auction, cakewalk, country store, games, and more.

Victoria—Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Festival Nov. 12 at the Victoria Community Center. A turkey dinner serving begins at 11:00 a.m. at \$10 p/p. Live auction starts at 12:30 p.m. with a silent auction from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. There will be games, country store, and lots of fun.

December

Victoria—KJZT #101 and KJT#115 Christmas Party Dec. 3 at Our Lady of Victory Cafeteria starting at 2:00 p.m. Bring a covered dish, meat provided. The meal served at 4:30 p.m. RSVP by calling Irene at (361) 573-2669.

Amor Meus

Amor Meus Spirituality Center Taizé Prayer Service: Tuesday, November 14, from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Taizé Prayer is a meditative Christian experience of prayer that includes sung and chanted prayers, meditation, and periods of silence, reflection and liturgical readings. Amor Meus Prayer room. Incarnate Word Convent 1101 N.E. Water St. Victoria - (361) 575-7111. Please park in the back.

Advent Solemn Vespers: December 3, December 10, December 17. Solemn Vespers is the Liturgical Evening Prayer of the Church. It consists of praying the psalms, giving thanks for the day, and offering praise to God. Vespers concludes with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Incarnate Word Convent 1101 NE. Water Street Victoria. 5:00-5:45 p.m. in the Convent Chapel. For more information contact Sr. Emilie Eilers at (361) 575-7111. Open to the public.

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 December 9-10, at Incarnate Word Convent. Call (361) 575-7111, e-mail iwbsvoc@yahoo.com or visit www.iwbsvictoria.org for more information.

Edna—St. Agnes will sponsor a "Celebration of Life" program for all denominations, youth, parents, ministers, and the general public of Jackson and surrounding counties on Wednesday, January 24, 2018. It will be held at the Jackson County Services Building Auditorium (411 N. Wells St.) from 7:00-8:00 p.m. The program will show the need to safeguard the dignity and sanctity of every human person, the need for respect and justice for the unborn and all life, and the value of faith in today's families. Refreshments will be served and admission is free.

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 CREIGTON MODEL Fertility Care System (CrMS) featuring NaPro TECHNOLOGY™ contact Susanne Koch in Wharton at (505) 710-0903 or susannekoch614@gmail.com.

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

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

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Faces Of Gratitude

Continued from pg. 1

who helped during the hurricane. The innocence of the young children was evident when asked what they were thankful for, as they were often too shy to speak. Others were very passionate about the importance of “showing” gratitude through action and not just saying it.

As I spoke to each person I witnessed a moment of silence in each one as they processed in their heart what gave them the feeling of gratitude and what they were thankful for. Their faces lit up as they shared what they felt and I could see outward joy in each one. From the interviews, I personally was grateful to meet new people and learn new ways of having gratitude that I can work into my own life. As Psalm 136:1 reads, “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever.”

Maria B.

“Gracias por familia, la vida y por todo lo que nos da cada dia. ~ Thankful for life. I pray to God in thanksgiving for what he gives us.”

Mary Elizabeth R.

“Family. Thankful that we are alive, we survived the hurricane. We rode out the storm at the dome in Bloomington then went to Austin for 14 days.”

Theresa M.

“I am grateful that we survived the hurricane. I am thankful that we are still here and alive and for those who came together to help.”

Pamela P.

“I am grateful that my family and I lived through the hurricane. We had a lot of damages but we are grateful for the home we somewhat have left over. I am thankful for the community that came together, for friends and church family.”

Melbourn M.

“To me gratitude is being happy with your life and being thankful for what God gives you. I am thankful for my family. They support me and drive me 45 minutes to school each day so that I can attend St. Joseph High School.”

Linda P.

“Gratitude is a sense of calm and wonderment of everything I have been blessed with. I have a gratitude journal and record 5 things daily that I’m grateful for. I started a few years back when I saw the idea in a bookstore.”

Jen K.

“Family. Health. Being an Aggie. Gratitude means being thankful for everything you have been given and not taking anything for granted.”

Emiliano G.

“To me means being thankful for what you have and not coveting other people’s things. It is being happy with where you are in life.”

Joyce H. and Joe M.

“I am thankful for new relationships and as part of my gratitude want to give back by “caring” for others especially as a nurse. I decided to focus my time in Bloomington after the hurricane helping at the donation center at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church.”

Tom M.

“Showing gratitude is appreciation for what has been given, it is in the actions. You can say thank you, but it’s important to show an expression of thanks through actions.”

Wyatt W.

“Choo choo trains and dinosaurs.”

Sing G.

“Grateful for my education.”

Sister Rosario

“To have gratitude is to fully appreciate what is given to us by God and other people because everything comes from God.”

Michelle C.

“Gratitude is participating in the joy of human connection with God. When we are grateful and showing gratitude to others, you are fully experiencing human connection to its fullest.”

Taylor T.

Gratitude is being thankful for what you have and knowing how to support others when they most need it. It is giving off a positive attitude. I am thankful for the great life God has given me. I am thankful for the good and the bad; the bad so I can learn how to handle bigger things in life.”

Megan V.

“Gratitude is having appreciation for the people around you, family and those who have a positive impact on your life. I am thankful for family, friends, pets and everyone who’s been helpful during natural disasters and tragedies.”

Ruben V.

“I am grateful to have an amazing Father God who knows what I need before I need it. To supportive family, friends, and people here in Victoria who uplift me everyday!”

Brett H.

“I am grateful that in my job I get to spread the gospel message to my students. I am thankful for family, friends and good health.”

Hayden L.

“I am grateful that I can attend Catholic school where I can learn about religion.”

Jonah K.

“Thankful that God gives us food, he loves us and gives us water.”

Kathy C.

“I am thankful for my family, friends and health. I am thankful that my children can have a Catholic education.”

Blaise P.

“Gratitude begins when selfishness ends. We live in a society that is so obsessed with what other people think that it then turns into the obsession of want, which is all for ones self. It is not until you are free from the obsession of want that you are truly able to feel the experience of gratitude.”

John V.

“I am grateful for all of God’s blessings, my family, and our health!”

Kinley S.

“I am thankful for God...He died on the cross for us. I am thankful for the world and the way God gives us food.”

Sage T.

“I am thankful for animals and my dog, Bear and for flowers.”

Ryan L.

“I have a lot to be thankful for. I am thankful for the new life that my wife and I are expecting in December, family and friendships I have been able to nurture over the years.”

Bishop Cahill

“All I have been given is a gift from a loving God and is meant to give back to others.”

Landon G.

“I am thankful for my dog, Dolly.”

Pam B.

“I am thankful for many blessings, family, health, and friends. Truly feeling God in my life.”



His faithful love endures forever