



The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

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December 2018



Night photo of Chapel by Edward Speed

Renewal Center Celebrates 30 Years

For 30 years, the Spiritual Renewal Center (SRC), located on approximately 40 of 200 rolling acres, and nestled along the banks of the San Antonio River, has been a place of prayer, reflection, and spiritual nourishment for thousands of people. The physical location and design of the Spiritual Renewal Center were chosen by the Most Rev. Charles V. Grahmann, the first Bishop of The Diocese of Victoria. The early roots of the SRC date back to the 1800's. The land was originally owned by Don Carlos De la Garza, who received it from a Spanish land grant.

This land, now owned by the Diocese of Victoria, was acquired from Our Lady of Lourdes. Our Lady of Lourdes acquired the land through a bequest from the late G.A. "Gussie" Schmidt. When Bishop Grahmann saw the character and beauty of the land, he instantly knew he wanted the future Spiritual Renewal Center built on that picturesque

land. He envisioned a rustic modern log cabin village. After four and a half years of planning with the Diocesan Building Board, architect, Jerome Kutach, and contractor, Dwight Nance, president of Texas Cedar Products Inc., of Smithville, construction began in April of 1987. The plan was to build a church, an office, a dining hall, six resident lodges, a residence for staff, and a private guesthouse. His vision joyfully became a reality, and the new Spiritual Renewal Center was dedicated on November 20, 1988. Bishop Grahmann said in a letter to the faithful of the diocese, "We rejoice on this day of dedication and acknowledge that this is the work of the Lord, with whom we are willing partners. Our thanks on this day of dedication has that forward look of a widespread use of the renewal center."



When the SRC opened Bishop Grahmann had two Franciscan Friars who would staff the center. Friar Benet Fonck, O.F.M., was

the first director of the SRC, assisted by Friar Clarence Korgie, O.F.M. The current director of the SRC is Deacon Joe Duplan.

Thousands have been blessed by the center over the past 30 years. Retreats of many types including: Marriage Encounter, Engaged Encounter, ACTS, seminars and other events have been held at the SRC. Many inter-faith events have also taken place there. Three decades have brought about change. Administration has changed, as three different bishops have been the shepherd of the Diocese of Victoria. The harsh humidity of the Texas climate and insects have not been kind to the buildings over the years, causing wood rot and termite infestations. With the growth in the number of individuals using the center and the condition of the

See Renewal Center Celebrates, pgs. 8 and 9



Bishop Brendan Cahill

A Shepherd's Message

The Geography of the Heart

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Last month I went to visit the CCD classes at Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Shiner. As I got out of my car in the parking lot I was greeted by a group of parishioners who had just returned from the border. These members of our diocese had gone to the border to learn about the situation and volunteer their time helping out our brothers and sisters who are in great need. The beautiful witness they gave to me called to mind words from

a homily by Pope Benedict for Christmas 2007. Pope Benedict said back then:

“In the stable at Bethlehem, Heaven and Earth meet. Heaven has come down to Earth. For this reason, a light shines from the stable for all times; for this reason joy is enkindled there; for this reason song is born there. At the end of our Christmas meditation I should like to quote a remarkable passage from Saint Augustine. Interpreting the invocation in the Lord’s Prayer: “Our



Father who art in Heaven”, he asks: what is this – Heaven? And where is Heaven? Then comes a surprising response: “... who art in Heaven – that means: in the saints and in the just. Yes, the heavens are the highest bodies in the universe, but they are still bodies, which cannot exist except in a given location. Yet if we believe that God is located in the heavens, meaning in the highest parts of the world, then the birds would be more fortunate than we, since they would live closer to God. Yet it is not written: ‘The Lord is close to those who dwell on the heights or on the mountains’, but rather: ‘the Lord is close to the brokenhearted’ (Ps 34:18[33:19]), an expression which refers to humility. Just as the sinner is called ‘Earth’, so by contrast the just man can be called ‘Heaven’” (Sermo in monte II 5, 17). Heaven does not belong to the geography of space, but to the geography of the heart. And the heart of God, during the Holy Night, stooped down to the stable: the humility of God is Heaven. And if we approach this humility, then we touch Heaven.

Then the Earth too is made new. With the humility of the shepherds, let us set out, during this Holy Night, towards the Child in the stable! Let us touch God’s humility, God’s heart! Then his joy will touch us and will make the world more radiant. Amen.”

What a beautiful image – heaven belongs to “the geography of the heart.” Heaven doesn’t exist far away in a distant future, but in the heart that opens up to the simple love of God revealed in the stable at Bethlehem. No wonder the angels sing, earth rejoices and Christmas seems to bring out the best in us. As we look at the manger scene with Mary, Joseph and the Child Jesus each of us receives the special invitation - to bring Heaven to Earth.

You have been a light bringing Heaven to Earth for me in many ways not only during the Christmas season, but throughout the year. Once again I ask that we 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

La Geografía del Corazón

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas,

El mes pasado fui a visitar las clases de CCD en Sts. Cirilo y Metodio en Shiner. Cuando salí de mi coche en el aparcamiento me recibió un grupo de feligreses que acababa de regresar de la frontera. Estos miembros de nuestra diócesis habían ido a la frontera para aprender acerca de la situación y voluntar su tiempo ayudando a nuestros hermanos y hermanas que están en gran necesidad.

El hermoso testimonio que me dieron me llamó a la mente palabras de una homilía del Papa Benedicto para la Navidad 2007. El Papa Benedicto dijo en aquel entonces:

“En el establo de Belén el cielo y la tierra se tocan. El cielo vino a la tierra. Por eso, de allí se difunde una luz para todos los tiempos; por eso, de allí brota la alegría y nace el canto. Al final de nuestra meditación navideña quisiera citar una palabra extraordinaria de san Agustín. Interpretando la invocación de la oración del Señor: “Padre nuestro que estás en los cielos”, él se pregunta: ¿qué es esto del cielo? Y ¿dónde está el cielo? Sigue una respuesta sorprendente: Que estás en los cielos significa: en los santos y en los justos. «En verdad, Dios no se encierra en lugar al-

guno. Los cielos son ciertamente los cuerpos más excelentes del mundo, pero, no obstante, son cuerpos, y no pueden ellos existir sino en algún espacio; mas, si uno se imagina que el lugar de Dios está en los cielos, como en regiones superiores del mundo, podrá decirse que las aves son de mejor condición que nosotros, porque viven más próximas a Dios. Por otra parte, no está escrito que Dios está cerca de los hombres elevados, o sea de aquellos que habitan en los montes, sino que fue escrito en el Salmo: “El Señor está cerca de los que tienen el corazón atribulado” (Sal 34 [33], 19), y la tribulación propiamente pertenece a la humildad. Mas así como el pecador fue llamado “tierra”, así, por el contrario, el justo puede llamarse “cielo”» (Serm. in monte II 5,17). El cielo no pertenece a la geografía del espacio, sino a la geografía del corazón. Y el corazón de Dios, en la Noche santa, ha descendido hasta un establo: la humildad de Dios es el cielo. Y si salimos al encuentro de esta humildad, entonces tocamos el cielo. Entonces, se renueva también la tierra. Con la humildad de los pastores, pongámonos en camino, en esta Noche santa, hacia el Niño en el establo. Toquemos la humildad de Dios,



el corazón de Dios. Entonces su alegría nos alcanzará y hará más luminoso el mundo. Amén.”

Qué hermosa imagen – el cielo pertenece a “la geografía del corazón”. El cielo no existe lejos en un futuro lejano pero en el corazón que se abre al amor de Dios, revelado en el establo de Belén. No es sorprendente por qué los ángeles cantan, la tierra se alegra y parece que la Navidad saca el mejor en nosotros. Mientras miramos la escena del pesebre con María, José y el niño Jesús cada uno de nosotros recibe la invitación especial-para traer el cielo a la tierra.

Ustedes han sido una luz trayendo el Cielo a la Tierra para mí de muchas maneras, no sólo durante la temporada de Navidad, sino durante todo el año. Una vez más les pido que seguimos 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 invitó a orar esto fielmente, creo que podemos mantener nuestra confianza en el poder de esta oración – más que sabemos! Que Dios los bendiga a ustedes y a sus familias, que nos mantengamos en oración.

+ Brendan

Death Notice



Deacon Milburn Kram passed away on Sunday, November 18, 2016. He served St. Joseph Church in Moulton.

There will be more information on Deacon Kram in the January 2019 issue of the *Catholic Lighthouse*.

*The Chancery will be closed
for the Christmas and
New Year Holidays
11:30 a.m., Dec. 21 - Jan. 1,
and will reopen
Jan. 2, at 8:30 a.m.*

**Merry Christmas and
A Blessed New Year**





Bishop Cahill's Schedule

December

1	Mass for Carmelites, Meyersville 2:00 p.m. 51st Annual Presidio la Bahia Awards Program, Our Lady of Loreto Chapel, Goliad	15	6:00 p.m. Holy Sepulchre Christmas gathering, Victoria Country Club Mass for Carmelites, Meyersville
2	8:30 a.m. CCD Visit and Mass at St. John Bosco, Vanderbilt		5:00 p.m. Installation Mass for Fr. Dominic at Queen of Peace, Sweet Home
3-4	Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops - Education Department Meeting	17	Noon lunch with IWBS Sisters, Victoria
5	6:00 p.m. Meet with youth and hear confessions, St. Anthony, Columbus	18	6:30 a.m. Relevant Radio Morning Show 6:00 p.m. Christmas Party KC's & Catholic Daughters, KC Hall, Victoria
7	Noon Serra Club Meeting, Colony Creek Country Club, Victoria	19	2:30 p.m. Finance Board Meeting at the Chancery, Victoria
8	Mass for Carmelites, Meyersville 10:00 a.m. Mass for Immaculate Conception, The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria 5:00 p.m. Bishop's Dinner, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria		6:00 p.m. Mass & 7:00 p.m. Pure Love Ceremony, Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Shiner
9	2:00 p.m. Legion of Mary Curia, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Bay City	21 – 1/1	Chancery Closed for the Christmas Holidays
10	2:30 p.m. Interfaith meeting	22	Mass for Carmelites, Meyersville
11	5:30 a.m. Mass with Missionary Catechists 6:30 p.m. Gabriel Project Christmas Party	24	4:00 p.m. Christmas Mass for IWBS Healthcare Sisters at IWBS Convent, Victoria
12	5:00 a.m. Mañanitas, 6:00 a.m. Mass for Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day, Our Lady of Sorrows, Victoria 8:30 a.m. Mass for St. Joseph High School at Holy Family Church, Victoria – School visit after 5:30 p.m. CCD Visit at St. Michael, Cuero	25	Midnight Christmas Mass, The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
		28	11:00 a.m. Mass of the Innocents at Raphael's Refuge, Flatonia 6:00 p.m. Serra Mass and Dinner, Holy Family Church, Victoria
		29	Mass for Carmelites, Meyersville
		January	
		1	10:00 a.m. New Year's Mass, The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
13	Noon Mass and then blessing/rededication of Chapel, St. Mary, Victoria	2-8	Bishop's Retreat at Mundelein Seminary, Illinois

January

1	10:00 a.m. New Year's Mass, The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
2-8	Bishop's Retreat at Mundelein Seminary, Illinois



BISHOPS MEET IN BALTIMORE—Bishop Brendan Cahill and other prelates at the Fall General Assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore, pray before the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel, during a day of prayer November 12. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)

DSA Update

2018 Diocesan Services Appeal

Diocesan Goal:	\$ 2,054,129.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$ 945,777.35
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 890,355.85
Number of Parish Families Participating:	2,730

Updated November 16, 2018

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

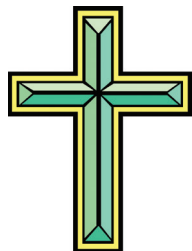
Rev. Eliecer Patiño Hurtado	12/01/2007	Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Victoria
Rev. Gabriel Oduro Tawiah	12/06/1997	St. John Nepomucene Church, New Taiton

“Let us pray for more vocations to the priesthood.”

Here I am Lord, standing at the crossroads of my life, The time has come for me to choose the road that leads to you. I hesitate for fear of what lies ahead of me, for I am much afraid of the unknown. Take my hand in yours and walk with me, for the road is long, And there are no short cuts. I place myself into your hands. You know the way, You are the way. Amen.

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

Rev. Msgr. C.J. Martin	12/01/1989
Rev. Msgr. Henry S. Herbst	12/07/1994
Rev. Joseph A. Koebel	12/12/2005
Rev. Msgr. Alex Kraus	12/19/1992
Rev. Msgr. Eustace A. Hermes	12/23/2016
Rev. Msgr. Lawrence Matula	12/25/2017
Rev. Joseph Leyva	12/31/1983



Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”
(John 11:25-26)



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DEADLINE IS THE 15th OF THE PRECEDING MONTH

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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 and Andrea Morales
Joe and Rose Pena
in Memory of Fr. Dan Morales

George and Carol Alexander
Hardy and Joann McCullough
Ed Kandler
Alvin Ray and Claudia Schoener
Donald and Doris Rohan
in Memory of Minnie Bochat

Acolyte

Sidney and Jean Bochat
Sharon & Victor Keefe
in Memory of Minnie Bochat

Candidate

Martin and Mary Luchak
in Memory of Irene Flagg

Transitional Deacon

~
Priest
~

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

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 layperson, 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 >.

November 13, 2018

• **Rev. Msgr. John C. Bily Seminary Burse #2**

Candidate

In appreciation of Rev. John C. Bily's 60 years of service as Priest and 41 years as our Chaplain by St. Michael K of C 4th Degree, Assembly #1527 of Flatonia, Schulenburg and Weimar

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

Lector

In memory of Lucy Polasek by
CDA Court St. Ann #369

Acolyte

In memory of Lena Spath by
CDA Court St. Ann #369

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

Lector

In memory of Irene Flagg by Elbert and Joan Brune

In memory of Irene Flagg by:
Robert and Carol Schertz
Victor and Gail Dvorak
Darry and Barbara Meyer

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

Lector

In memory of Harold Kuntschik by
Paul and Helen Flessner

• **Nicholas and Annie Grahmann Seminary Burse #3**

Lector

In memory of Delores Leopold by
Jack and Sandy Zaruba

• **Rev. Scott Hill Seminary Burse**

Lector

In honor of Rev. Scott Hill's birthday celebration by Victor and Gail Dvorak

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

Acolyte

In memory of Weldon Rother by
K of C Victoria Council #1329
In memory of Most Rev. Charles Grahmann by K of C Victoria Council #1329

In memory of Joseph Holub by
K of C Victoria Council #1329

New KJZT President Appointed

AUSTIN—The Board of Directors of Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas - KJZT announced the appointment of Pam Strickland as President/CEO, effective October 23, 2018. Pam served as Vice President/Insurance Services for over 10 years.

Loretta Stahl, President/CEO, retired March 31, 2018, and Pam was appointed as Interim President/CEO.

Pam began her career with KJZT in March 1996 as the Assistant to the State Financial Secretary. She grew with the company, holding essential positions within the State Office, including Assistant State Financial Secretary, and State Financial Secretary.

Pam holds a General lines Agent license with the Texas Department of Insurance and has earned a Fraternal Insurance Counselor designation. She, along with her husband, Scott, and their daughters Briana and Allyssa are 100 percent family members of Society No. 5, Shiner.

She is excited to take this next step in leading the Fraternal, and she is looking forward to taking on the responsibility of honoring the KJZT legacy.

Happy Birthday to Our Seminarian



Joseph "Joey" Sablatura is in Pre-Theology I this year at Holy Apostles Seminary, in Cromwell, Connecticut. His birthday is December 31. Joey's home parish is Assumption of the BVM in

Ganado. Write to Joey at: Holy Apostles Seminary, 33 Prospect Hill Rd., Cromwell, CT 06416.

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

Matthew 4:18-22

• **Rev. Msgr. Lawrence J. Matula Seminary Burse #2**

Lector

In memory of Rev. Msgr. Lawrence Matula by Lambert and Carol Brune

In memory of Irene Flagg by:

Lambert and Carol Brune
Bill and Carolyn Schuette

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

Lector

In memory of Mary Jane Roe by Leo and Joyce Janda

• **Our Lady of Victory Altar Society Seminary Burse**

Lector

In memory of Lena Garcia Spath by
Grace E. Rigamonti

• **Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #8**

Lector

In memory of Alfred Chovanetz by
Willie Barborak

In memory of Charles Jansky by:
Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters
Deacon Joey and Mary Targac
Mathilda Melnar

In memory of Magdalene Steffek by
Richard and Wilma Schaefer

In memory of Doloris Leopold by
Deacon Joey and Mary Targac

In memory of Anita Hobbs by
Dan and Mathilda Melnar

In honor of Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters' 70th Birthday Celebration by:
Roman and Gertie Shimek, John and

Frances Bock, Mark and Karen Janak, Mary Ann Pavliska, Harvey and Betty Woytek, John and Charlene Pillow, Ricky and Barbara Steffek, Joyce Hermes

In memory of Willie Barborak by Ralph and Bonnie Besetzny, Perry and Roxanne Deem, Verlene A. Kuntschik, Andy Besetzny, Lillian Besetzny, Louise N. Zimmerman, Leo and Joyce Janda, Margaret Steffek, I.J. & Margaret Pavlicek, Anonymous, Glenn and Evelyn Jansky, Hilbert Henke, Robert and Margaret Klekar, Willie May Rohan, Alphonse Besetzny, Mr and Mrs Carl Henke, Donald Cinadr, David and Kathy Orsak, Clem and Gloria Cernosek, Jessie and Barbara Mendel

Acolyte

In honor of Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters' 70th Birthday Celebration by
Geraldyn and Charles Klimitchek

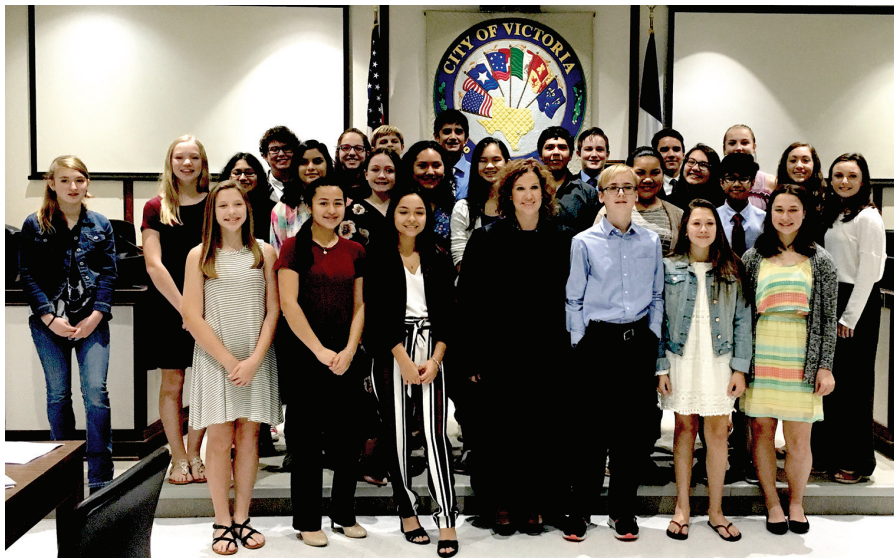
• **Rev. Jerome J. Stryk Seminary Burse #2**

Acolyte

In memory of deceased members of Frank J. and Albina Stryk Family and Frank and Marie Lev Family by Dan Stryk

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



NAZARETH STUDENTS GO ON TRIAL—In celebrating Municipal Court Week, the 8th grade students of Nazareth Academy, Victoria, participated, for the first time, in a mock trial. Judge Vanessa Heinold worked with the students to get them ready to present their cases addressing the issue of texting and driving. The mock trial was held on November 6, at the Municipal Court. The students did a wonderful job and it was a great educational experience for them. Thank you to Judge Heinold for allowing them this opportunity!



VETERANS HONORED—Students at Holy Cross School, Bay City, honored Veterans on November 9, with a “Program in Recognition of Our American Heroes.”



Melissa and Ricardo Salinas are pictured after Mass at St. Mary, Victoria, with their son, who dressed as San Juan Diego for All Saints Day.



Students from St. Michael, Cuero, dressed as San Juan Diego and St. Francis for All Saints Day.



Sr. Mary Jean Bludau, a teacher at Nazareth Academy, Victoria, is pictured with a child dressed as a nun for All Saints Day.



RENOVATED GYM BLESSED—After Mass, on Friday, November 9, Bishop Brendan Cahill blessed the newly renovated Sacred Heart Gymnasium, in Hallettsville. The gym renovations were completed just prior to the start of the school year. Bishop Cahill spent the rest of the morning visiting classrooms to talk with the students and answer any questions they might have. Servers for the blessing included Ty H., Will H., Carlos B., Darren S., and Quade H. The bishop was assisted by Sacred Heart priests, Father Max Landman, parochial vicar, and Msgr. John Peters, pastor.



VOCATION AWARENESS—National Vocation Awareness Week was celebrated November 4-10. It is an annual week-long celebration of the Catholic Church in the U.S. dedicated to promote vocations to ordained ministry and consecrated life. The Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters

hosted “Vocation Days” for the 5th graders of the Diocese of Victoria. Top picture is a group of students from Shiner and Our Lady of Victory, with Sr. Maryanne Hoang, OP; Sr. Rosario Resendez, IWBS, and Sr. Mildred Truchard, IWBS. A group from Our Lady of the Gulf is pictured bottom right, with Sr. Immaculata Nguyen, sitting in the shape of a cross on the grounds of Incarnate Word Convent.





SISTERLY THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



All are Called to Discipleship

As I write this, we are in the midst of the annual National Vocation Awareness Week. The past two days have been filled with the excitement of the fifth-graders of the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Victoria, as they came to Incarnate Word Convent. They all seemed quite happy: was it perhaps because they were able to get out of school? I'd like to think that they were showing their enthusiasm of learning about different ways of being disciples of Jesus.

The history of National Vocation Awareness Week can be found on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' website. National Vocation Awareness Week is an annual week-long celebration of the Catholic Church in the United States dedicated to promote vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life through prayer and education, and to renew our prayers and support for those who are considering one of these particular vocations. National Vocation Awareness Week began in 1976 when the U. S. bishops designated the 28th Sunday of the year for National Vocation Awareness Week. Then in 1997, this celebration was moved to coincide with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord in January. Beginning in 2014, National Vocation Awareness Week was moved to the first full week of November, which was November 4-10 this year. As a result of the change, the Fifth Grade Vocation Days was held at Incarnate Word

Convent on November 6 and 7.

We are all aware that by our Baptism we are all called to be disciples of Jesus; many of us fulfill this role as faith-filled committed single lay persons or through the mutual Christ-centered love of spouses through the Sacrament of Matrimony. Perhaps we are not as familiar with the ordained and consecrated paths of following Jesus. However, we probably are aware of the spiritual leadership of our bishop, priests, and deacons in our diocese, so I will let their actions speak to you. However, you may not have direct contact with the variety of consecrated men and women who share their charisms (gifts to the Church) through their lives and the ministries of their religious orders. Worldwide, there are many groups of consecrated men and women who enrich the Church through their particular prayer, presence, and ministry.

So let us dedicate ourselves to promoting vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life through prayer and encouragement, and to renewing our prayers and support for those, whom God might be calling to one of these particular vocations. Perhaps you know a young person who may need your encouragement to take the first step.

May God bless us as we follow Jesus during this Advent season in which we prepare for His birthday. May each of you experience a fruitful Advent and a blessed Christmas.



BISHOP BLESSES NEW ORGAN—Bishop Brendan Cahill of the Diocese of Victoria officiated at the 8:05 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart Church on Friday, November 9. Bishop Cahill blessed the new organ that is used for services in the church. Assisting the bishop for the blessing was Msgr. John Peters, pastor, and Carlos B. as altar server.

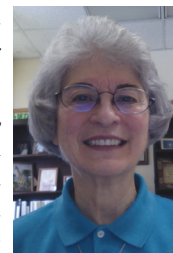


Participants pictured attending a Pastoral Institute class at the Chancery, in Victoria, with Sister Digna Vela, IWBS, as the instructor.

Pastoral Institute

Discipleship Formation Program Continues

Join the Pastoral Institute for a six-week course on the Historic and Prophetic books of the Bible, and be prepared for an adventure of a lifetime! Sr. Digna Vela, IWBS, will lead participants on an exploration of the 12 historical books of the Old Testament covering the Hebrew people from the occupation of Canaan through the rise and fall of the northern and southern kingdoms, and the return and rebuilding of Jerusalem in the Persian period.



Sr. Digna Vela, IWBS

Participants will have the opportunity to attend *Psalms and Wisdom*, February 26 - April 2, 2019. This class will take a look at the Book of Psalms, Israel's prayer book, and the Wisdom literature of Israel, which includes the Book of Job, Proverbs, Wisdom, Ecclesiastes, Sirach, and the Song of Songs.

Classes begin Tuesday mornings (9:15-11:30 a.m.) January 15, 2019, and Thursday evenings (7:00-9:15 p.m.) January 17, 2019, at the chancery in Victoria. All adults who are interested in learning more about the Scriptures from the Catholic perspective may now register. Cost for each course is \$30. Online registration is available at www.victoriadiocese.org or call (361) 573-0828,

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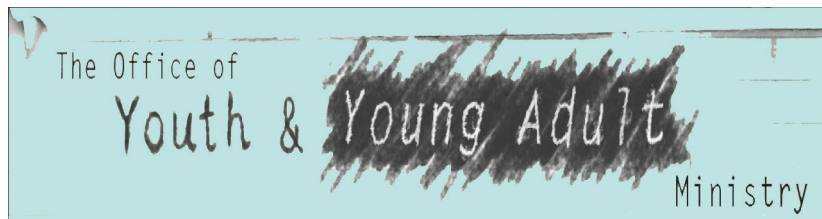
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Upcoming Events

~ Campus Ministry: Events at Victoria College

Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet - Every Tuesday at 1:15 p.m. on the Student Center Patio
Mass & Lunch - November 13 at 12:15 p.m. in the Student Center
Confession - December 5 from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the Student Center



~ **March for Life 2019 trip** in Washington, DC, January 16-19, is full.



MISSION WEEK—During the week of October 22 - 26, students of St. Michael School, Weimar, celebrated their mission - To Be Friendly, Respectful, Responsible and Christ-like. The theme of Mission Week was “We Are Missionaries.” Throughout the week, students were busy with projects and activities to help them realize that we are all called to be missionaries through service to others. On Tuesday, students each wrote a message of peace on strips to form a World Mission Rosary Prayer Chain which represented all the continents of the world.

Honoring the Holy Innocents

FLATONIA—The 12th Annual Mass for the Feast Day of the Holy Innocents at Raphael’s Refuge will be celebrated December 28, by Bishop Cahill, along with Father Tommy Chen and some seminarians. Rosary will begin at 10:00 a.m. followed by Christmas carols, and Mass to start at 11:00 a.m. Refreshments will be served after Mass. For more information contact Midge at (361) 258-1514 or visit raphaelsrefuge.org.



www.nazarethacademy.com

Save the Date!

Nazareth Academy Open House
for prospective students
Tuesday, January 22, 2019
6:30 p.m.



Sacred Heart Students Qualify For Duke University Talent Identification Program

HALLETTSVILLE—Six students at Sacred Heart Catholic School have been invited to join the prestigious 7th Grade Talent Search for gifted students sponsored by Duke University’s Talent Identification Program (Duke TIP). The students are: James C., son of Matthew and Elaine, Klayton C., son of Kevin and Kelly, Elena G., daughter of Michael and Paula, Kathryn I., daughter of Mark and Geraldine, Alexandra K., daughter of Trey and Jennifer, and Haley N., daughter of Mark and Lisa.

Each year, a select group of students in the United States are identified as academically gifted based on their exceptional standardized test scores in school and are invited to participate in the TIP program. Only students scoring in the 95th percentile or better on standardized tests qualify. Participants are then invited to take the above-grade level ACT or SAT tests designed for college-bound tenth and eleventh graders so that their academic abilities and potential can be more accurately evaluated. They also receive a variety of support services and gain access to research and other information

about using their academic abilities more effectively.

Duke TIP is a nonprofit organization that is recognized as a leader in identifying and serving the educational needs of academically gifted youth. Through identification, recognition, challenging educational programs, information, advocacy and research, Duke TIP provides resources to gifted students, their parents, educators, and schools to help gifted scholars reach their full academic potential.



Looking Forward to 2019

The new brochures have been mailed. If you did not receive yours or would like to be placed on the mailing list, please call.



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March 1987
Contract
Signed



November 1988
Dedication



Spring 2006
Pillars of the
Gospels
Placed



November 2009
Chapel
Renovated &
Rededicated



April 1987
Ground
Breaking



Fall 2009
Prayer Labyrinth
Placed



Renewal Center Celebrates 30 Years

Continued from pg. 1

buildings, it was decided that repair and expansion of the SRC was necessary. In 2005, Heimsath Architects were hired to help develop a master plan for the repairs and expansion. The *Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign* was planned to fund the construction of Phase I and other needs identified by Bishop David Fellhauer. Through the efforts of many generous donors, dedicated chancery staff, and a fundraising consultant, approximately \$13,500,000 was raised from the campaign, of which \$6,000,000 was

dedicated to the SRC. Included in these generous donations was a philanthropic gift made by Msgr. Eustace Hermes, and his benefactors from outside the Diocese of Victoria, towards the cost of constructing a multi-purpose building. Construction began on the new multi-purpose building, to be named *Hermes Hall*, and the reconstruction of the chapel, to be named the *Incarnate Word Chapel*, “In Loving Memory” of artist, Madeline F. O’Connor, from a donation by Thomas Marion O’Connor. Both projects,

Hermes Hall and Incarnate Word Chapel were completed in 2009.

The SRC has various resources for outdoor prayer. Some include: a Prayer Labyrinth, Pillars of the Gospels, and Stations of the Cross. The Prayer Labyrinth was completed in 2009. It is a geometrically designed walking path leading to and from a central point. The one at the SRC, sponsored by Spirit Wind Ministry, and dedicated to Rev. Msgr. Celestino Say and in memory of Justin Forrest Cox, was designed after the Labyrinth at the Notre Dame Cathedral in Chartres, France. The Pillars of the Gospels

were installed in the Spring of 2006 in conjunction with the Parents Grief retreat with Khrist Ford and Ken Druck and sponsored by Spirit Wind Ministry. Four pillars, one for each Gospel of the bible, are located throughout the SRC campus.

In 2011, a new, modern dorm was constructed with 16 rooms, sleeping a total of 48 people. This dorm replaced Galilee, which was a deteriorated and uninhabitable dorm. There are future plans for two more dorms that will mirror the one already built. The diocese is seeking a donor who will contribute \$250,000 towards the cost of the building,



November 2011
New Dorm & Meeting
Room Completed



November 2018
Youth Pavilion
Dedicated



November 2009
Hermes Hall
Dedicated



April 2010
Outdoor Stations
Installed by an
Eagle Scout



December
Every Year
Advent Dinner



for the right to name the dorm in honor of, or in memory of, a family or individual. In addition to naming the building, individual sleeping rooms may be dedicated in honor of, or in memory of, a family or individual for a donation of \$10,000. One room has been “named” to date.

Another project planned for the Spiritual Renewal Center was a youth pavilion. For the past 20 years, hundreds of youth from around the diocese have attended Camp David each summer, and spent hours in the hot Texas heat. In 2016, through a bequest from Msgr. Michael Harrold, proceeds raised

through the Bishop David Fellhauer Invitational Golf Tournament, and other generous benefactors, the pavilion was constructed. In addition, a philanthropic gift from outside the Diocese of Victoria was given towards the cost of constructing the youth pavilion. The pavilion will be named the *Monsignor Harrold Youth Pavilion*. Msgr. Harrold was dedicated to the area of youth and education throughout his ministry in the diocese. The pavilion was dedicated November 26, 2018.

For generations to continue using and enjoying the SRC, future expansion will be necessary. Some of these hopefully

include: sleeping quarters, a black top entry road to the SRC, a grotto, athletic fields for the youth, and an outdoor barbeque area, as well as other projects. To assist in funding the center, each year the SRC hosts an Annual Advent Dinner with Bishop Cahill and Bishop Fellhauer. This event is the only fundraiser of the year for the SRC. Mass, dinner, entertainment, a silent auction, and fellowship with the bishops of Victoria are included with the purchase of a dinner ticket. Everyone is invited to attend this wonderful event. To reserve a ticket call (361) 572-0836.

During this 30th Anniversary Year, the Diocese of Victoria is full of gratitude for all who have been a part of making the Spiritual Renewal Center what it is today. A few projects to be completed this anniversary year include: the completion of the wall of thanksgiving, located outside of *Hermes Hall*, where plaques with donors names will be hung, as well as dedicating sleeping rooms that have been named. We are very blessed as a diocese to have such a beautiful center, where individuals may go seeking God more deeply in their lives, and we thank God for this gift.



Attending the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem meeting from the Diocese of Victoria are (left to right) Sir Richard A. Evans, KHS; Lady Karen E. Evans, LHS; Sir Kenneth E. Stavinocha, KHS-Investee; Most Reverend Brendan J. Cahill, KC*HS; Reverend Stephen P. Vacek, KHS-Investee; Lady Donna Vacek, LC*HS; Sir Thomas P. Vacek, KC*HS; Lady Joyce B. Morris, LGCHS, and Sir Joseph J. Morris Sr., KGCHS, section representatives for the Diocese of Victoria.

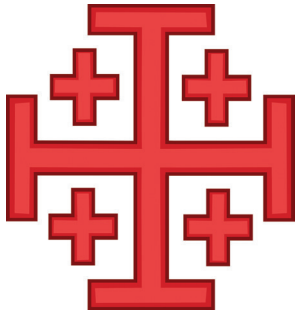
Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre Meeting and Investiture Held

SAN ANTONIO—The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem’s (EOHSJ) meeting and Investiture of the Southwestern Lieutenantcy was held in San Antonio, Texas, October 26-29, 2018. It was held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel.

The Memorial Mass, conferring of promotions and vigil service was held at St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church on Saturday, October 27, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. in San Antonio. The principal celebrant and homilist was the Most Reverend James A.



New investees with Most Reverend Brendan J. Cahill, KC*HS are Sir Kenneth E. Stavinocha, KHS-Investee and Reverend Stephen P. Vacek, KHS-Investee.



Reverend Stephen P. Vacek, KHS-Investee is pictured with his parents Lady Donna Vacek, LC*HS and Sir Thomas P. Vacek, KC*HS at the EOHSJ meeting. Their home parish is Holy Cross in East Bernard.

Tamayo, D.D, KC*HS, Bishop of Laredo. The Mass and ceremony of the Solemn Investiture was also held at St. Mark the Evangelist on Sunday, October 28, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. with the Most Reverend Gustavo Garcia-Siller, M.Sp.S., KC*HS, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of San Antonio.

The Grand Prior His Eminence Cardinal DiNardo, KGCHS, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston was unable to attend, as he was in Rome.

The new investees of 2018 were Sir Kenneth E. Stavinocha, KHS and Reverend Stephen P. Vacek, KHS for the Diocese of Victoria.

The 2019 Investiture and meeting of The

Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem of the Southwestern Lieutenantcy will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, October 25-28, 2019.

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Special Quilt Comes Full Circle for Family

The Flower Garden Quilt – A Personal Story of a Very Special Quilt

In 1992, our son Rick, who was diagnosed as HIV Positive, asked me if I would make him a quilt. The quilt he asked for is called The Flower Garden Quilt. Each flower on the quilt is sewn together by hand, stitching the octagon pieces together to make a flower and then the flowers are sewn together by hand!

So, I took on the project. For approximately two and a half years I carried the octagon pieces of fabric that I had cut out of different flowered fabric along with me everywhere I would go, (the doctor's office, to the hospital, on airplanes and any place I knew I would be sitting and waiting). When I had several of the flowers completed, I then sewed the flowers together.

When I had about half of the quilt top sewn together, Rick died, as a result of complications from his disease. I put the quilt top aside and just did not have the heart to work on it any longer. Much later, when I finally decided I could no longer quilt, I boxed up all my fabrics (6 boxes of it!) and gave them to Father Gary's mother to do whatever she wanted to do with the fabric, along with the Flower Garden quilt top. His mother made several quilts and other projects from that fabric, but the quilt top remained unfinished.

Several months ago, Father Gary asked the ladies in his parish to finish the project. I have been told that they spent approximately 450 hours of time in the quilting process and that this quilt was one of their most challenging ones. It measures 64 x 86 inches.

I want to thank the OLV quilters, who took on the project to finish this quilt. Now my son, Rick, can rest in peace. His flower garden quilt is complete. Rosie Giesie

Editor's Note: The quilt set a record at the Our Lady of Victory parish festival auction, when it was purchased for over \$8,000 and was then presented back to Father Gary, to give to his cousin, Rosie, of the story. A story about this special quilt, "Quilters Finish Mother's Labor of Love," was written by Jennifer Preyss Mathlouthi and published in the Victoria Advocate on November 2, 2018. To read full article follow the following link: https://www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/quilters-finish-mother-s-labor-of-love/article_442e1a48-deb7-11e8-a998-ff3765702cb8.html

East Bernard KJT Raises Funds

EAST BERNARD—The KJT Society #40 of East Bernard, hosted a Pastry Raffle benefiting Texas Neurofibromatosis Foundation (NF). They raised \$1,768 plus the State KJT Home Office matched \$250 in funds. Society President Edwin C. Marik presented the check to the Kyle Marik Family, representing NF. The donation will also benefit the NF Clinics at the University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center, and Texas Children Hospital.



Hope for a Brighter Future

The following sermon was written by Father Charles Kram for the Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B

God has surrounded us with so many reminders of our mortality and of the fact that one day all things will pass away. The buds of spring growing to maturity and then the harvest time and finally the dead of winter.

The infant growing into childhood, then youth, then maturity and finally old age.

The decay and disintegration of things that were once new—all these things keep before our minds the thought of how one day all things will come to an end, and so will we.

Such realizations can make one angry or frustrated or anxious, but rather than say, "What's the use" we Christians say, "Death is the gateway to life" and "Thanks be to God for the many blessings he hides in our trials."

If we have no secure existence here, it is so much better to learn not to hold on too tightly to anything God has given us and to learn to love and cherish HIM above all things.

When Pope John was nearing death he said, "My bags are packed." He got ready, and soon he died. One cancer patient I visited in the hospital kept saying, "I'm so

ready" and soon she died.

Many a faithful soul has seen God's hand preparing him for his departure.

God has a kind way of preparing his children for their exit from this world. When the time comes, they are ready and can leave gracefully without any regrets.

So, what if I in the meantime many of our plans fail; what if happiness seems always to be just around the corner; what if we see the innocent suffer and the guilty prosper. God does not balance his books once a month, but there will one day be a day of reckoning for us all, when all our hopes will be fulfilled and every wrong made right.

But when will the end come for each of us? When will Jesus return and the world come to an end? Every now and then someone comes up with a prediction. You probably noticed a book on the market recently, again setting the time. As with other such prediction, the date came and went and life goes on.

The fact is that no one knows, and Jesus won't tell, even when asked.

Meanwhile, we Christians, striving to persevere to the end, and to be always ready, struggle on, in full confidence that no man will be able to frustrate the final achievement of God's saving purpose, and that it will all be fulfilled.

Lord Jesus, thank you for bringing us such bright hopes for a happy future sooner or later. Help us wisely to heed every sign that can guide us. Grant that after all the disappointments of this life are over we may be found worthy to begin our lives anew with you.

Amen.



Advent Prayer

Heavenly Father, your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us, a great sign of your love. Guide us as we strive to walk in that love together as a family this Advent. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, bring us closer to each other and to your son. Give us the grace and strength we need every day. Help us to always trust in you. Come, Lord Jesus, lead all people closer to you. Come and dispel the darkness of our world with the light of your love. Amen.

DECEMBER 23, 2018
4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
GOSPEL – Luke 1:39–45

A **reading** from the **holy Gospel** according to **Luke**: **Mary** set **out** / and **traveled** to the **hill country** in **haste** / to a **town** of **Judah**, / where she **entered** the **house** of **Zechariah** / and **greeted Elizabeth**. / When Elizabeth **heard** Mary's **greeting**, / the infant **leaped** in her **womb**, / and Elizabeth, **filled** with the **Holy Spirit**, / **cried** out in a loud **voice** and said, / “**Blessed** are you **among women**, / and blessed is the **fruit** of **your** womb. / And **how** does this **happen** to me, / **that** the **mother** of my **Lord** should **come** to me? / **For** at the **moment** the **sound** of your greeting **reached** my **ears**, / the **infant** in my womb leaped for **joy**. / Blessed **are** you who **believed** / that **what** was **spoken** to you by **the** Lord / **would** be **fulfilled**.”

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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.

Sunday Readings from December 2 - January 13

- December 2 ~ First Sunday of Advent*
Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalms 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14
1 Thessalonians 3:12—4:2
Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

December 8 ~ Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Genesis 3:9-15, 20
Psalms 98:1, 2-3AB, 3CD-4
Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12
Luke 1:26-38

December 9 ~ Second Sunday of Advent
Baruch 5:1-9
Psalms PS 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6
Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11
Luke 3:1-6

December 16 ~ Third Sunday of Advent
Zephaniah 3:14-18A
Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:10-18


December 23 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent
Micah 5:1-4A
Psalms 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45
- December 25 ~ The Nativity of the Lord – Christmas - Mass During the Night*
Isaiah 9:1-6
Psalms 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14

The Nativity of the Lord – Christmas - Mass at Dawn
Isaiah 62:11-12
Psalms 97:1, 6, 11-12
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2:15-20

December 30 ~ Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
Psalms PS 128:1-2, 3, 4-5
Colossians 3:12-21
Luke 2:41-52

January 6 ~ The Epiphany of the Lord
Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalms 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13
Ephesians 3:2-3A, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

January 13 ~ The Baptism of the Lord
Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
Psalms 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10
Acts 10:34-38
Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

For daily and Sunday readings, as well as a daily reflection video, visit
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Holy Day of Obligation
Saturday, December 8
Feast of the Immaculate Conception



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- **January 30-February 9** ~ Holy Land with DOV Diocesan Priest: Fr. Patrick Knippenberg ~ Cost: \$3,595 ~ Walk in the footsteps of Jesus and experience the Gospels as they come to life!
- **May 15-26** ~ Holy Land to Pray with all God’s Gifts with Fr. Michael Sparrough, Betsey Beckman, and Valimar Jansen ~ Cost: \$3,995
- **September 18-28** ~ Pilgrimage to Poland and Czech Republic with Fr. Dan Cambra and Anna Nuzzo ~ Cost: \$3,795 ~ Visits to include Warsaw, Czestochowa, Auschwitz, Krakow, Salt Mines, Lagiewniki, Prague. This pilgrimage will feature praying and singing the Divine Mercy!

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Oración de San Juan Pablo II a la Virgen de Guadalupe

¡Oh Virgen de Inmaculada, Madre del verdadero Dios y Madre de Iglesia! Tú, que desde este lugar manifiestas tu clemencia y tu compasión a todos los que solicitan tu amparo; escucha la oración que con filial confianza te dirigimos, y preséntala ante tu Hijo Jesús, único Redentor nuestro.

Madre de misericordia, Maestra del sacrificio escondido y silencioso, a Ti, que sales al encuentro de nosotros, los pecadores, te consagramos también nuestra vida, nuestros trabajos, nuestras alegrías, nuestras enfermedades y nuestros dolores.

Da la paz, la justicia y la prosperidad a nuestros pueblos; ya que todo lo que tenemos y somos lo ponemos bajo tu cuidado, Señora y Madre nuestra.

Queremos ser totalmente tuyos y recorrer contigo el camino De una plena fidelidad a Jesucristo a su Iglesia: No nos sueltes de tu mano amorosa.

Virgen de Guadalupe, Madre de las Américas, te pedimos por todos Los Obispos, para que conduzcan a los fieles por senderos de intensa vida cristiana, de amor y de humilde servicio a Dios y a las almas.

Contempla esta inmensa mies, e intercede para que el Señor infunda hambre de santidad en todo el Pueblo de Dios, y otorgue abundantes vocaciones de sacerdotes y religiosos, fuertes en la

fe y celosos dispensadores de los misterios de Dios.

Concede a nuestros hogares la gracia de amar y de respetar la vida que comienza con el mismo amor con el que concebiste en tu seno la vida del Hijo de Dios. Virgen Santa María, Madre del Amor Hermoso, protege a nuestras familias, Para que estén muy unidas, y bendice a la educación de nuestros hijos.

Esperanza nuestra, míranos con compasión, Enséñanos a ir continuamente a Jesús y, si caemos, ayúdanos a levantarnos, a volver a Él, mediante la confesión de nuestra culpas y pecados en el sacramento de la Penitencia, que trae sosiego al alma.

Te suplicamos que nos concedas un amor muy grande a todos los santos sacramentos, Que son como las huellas que tu Hijo nos dejó en la tierra.

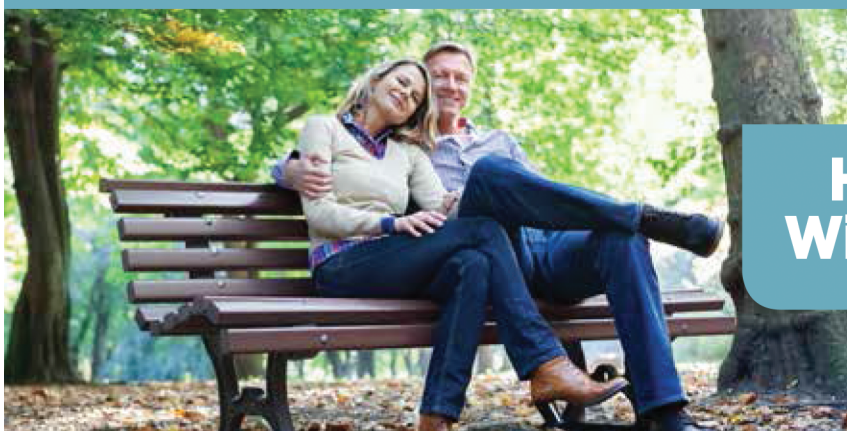
Así, Madre Santísima, con la paz de Dios en la conciencia, Con nuestros corazones libres de mal y de odios, Podremos llevar a todos la verdadera alegría y la verdadera paz, que vienen de tu Hijo, nuestro Señor Jesucristo, que con Dios Padre y con el Espíritu Santo, vive y reina por los siglos de los siglos.

Amén

Juan Pablo II
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BISHOPS MEET IN BALTIMORE—New Orleans Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond, center, listens to a speaker Nov. 14 at the fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)

Papal nuncio urges U.S. bishops to restore trust, bring about reform

BALTIMORE (CNS)—At the start of the annual fall meeting of the U.S. bishops in Baltimore, Archbishop Christophe Pierre encouraged the U.S. bishops to work hard together to restore trust and bring about church reform amid the current crisis in the church. The nuncio's Nov. 12 address – part pep talk, mixed with encouragement and advice – urged the nation's church leaders to face the issue of clergy sexual abuse straight on, not to run from the challenges that confront them but “face them realistically and courageously.” He also said that as they face blame, they need to lead the way to reform and healing. “The responsibility, as bishops, of this Catholic Church is ours, to live with, to suffer with and to exercise properly,” he said to the group, who had just heard moments before that they would not be voting on two proposals in their response to the clergy sex abuse crisis, at the Vatican's urging. The archbishop, who met privately with Pope Francis just two days before ad-

ressing the U.S. bishops, noted at the start of his 26-minute talk that the “events of this past year, which we have lived and continue to experience, have been both challenging and sobering. We must accept our responsibility as spiritual fathers,” he stressed and continued to reiterate.

USCCB assembly hears proposal on commission for complaints about bishops

BALTIMORE (CNS) — A proposed commission that would air complaints against bishops in cases of sex abuse or harassment bears similarities to the model of diocesan review boards that hear such allegations against priests. Details of the full function of the commission continue to be discussed by leaders of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, but the concept was introduced Nov. 13 during the bishops' fall general assembly in Baltimore. The commission would hear reports about bishops who reportedly have failed to comply with the proposed standards of episcopal accountability, which also received a first public airing the same day. No action was to be taken on either proposal during the assembly. The Vatican Congregation for Bishops asked the USCCB to delay any formal action approving the hand-in-hand protocols pending further review of their compliance with canon law and the pending meeting of presidents of bishops' conferences around the world in Rome in February. Detroit Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron, chairman of the Committee on Doctrine, outlined the function of what is being called the “Special Commission for Review of Complaints Against Bishops for Violations of the Standards of Episcopal Conduct.”

Vatican asks USCCB to delay vote on sex abuse response proposals

BALTIMORE (CNS)—At the urging of the Vatican, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops will not vote on two proposals they were to discuss regarding their response to the clergy sex abuse crisis. Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, USCCB president, informed the bishops as they opened their fall general assembly Nov. 12 in Baltimore that the Vatican wanted the bishops to delay any vote until after a February meeting with the pope and presidents of the bishops' conferences around the world that will focus on addressing clergy abuse. Affected are proposed standards of episcopal conduct and the formation of a special commission for review of complaints against bishops for violations of the standards. Cardinal DiNardo said he was disappointed that no action would be taken during the assembly, but that he was hopeful that the delay “will improve our response to the crisis we face.” The cardinal's announcement came two days after Pope Francis met with Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States, at the Vatican. Archbishop Pierre returned to the United States Nov. 11 in time for the first day of the U.S. bishops' general fall assembly in Baltimore. However, at a midday news conference, Cardinal DiNardo said the request to delay action came from the Congregation for Bishops. The USCCB assembly planned to move forward with discussion of both proposals from the bishops' Administrative Committee.



Cardinal Daniel
N. DiNardo

Bishops discuss hotline devoted to collecting complaints against them

BALTIMORE (CNS)—The U.S. bishops discussed the establishment of a hotline devoted to collecting complaints about a bishop's alleged abuse of a minor, sexual harassment or misconduct involving adults, or his reported failure to respond adequately to those types of complaints. Los Angeles Archbishop Jose H. Gomez said the “third-party system” that would collect complaints specifically involving bishops was already approved by the bishops' Administrative Committee during its meeting on Sept. 19. “With this new system we are trying to address problems that some people have. Right now they have no clear avenue to report allegations or complaints against bishops,” he told bishops gathered Nov. 13 for the second day of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' fall meeting in Baltimore. “In light of recent events, we're now talking about complaints against bishops,” said Archbishop Gomez, vice president of the USCCB. “The practical issue is this: If the faithful send a complaint about a bishop to a diocese, understandably they might be concerned how that complaint might be handled,” he said. “Some people may decide to complain to police or civil authorities and we certainly encourage them to do this when the complaint involves sexual abuse of a minor.”



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:

- First:** Contact Civil Authorities, if individual is a minor
Second: Contact one of the following
- Call Vicki L. Pyatt, LMSW, Pastoral Care and Outreach, at (361) 827-7186 or email: pastoralcare@victoriadiocese.org
 - 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”



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.



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EVENTS

The Catholic Lighthouse
Page 15 — December 2018

Masses • Retreats and more

Come and See—Wondering where Jesus is calling you? Single Catholic women 18-40 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 8-9, and/or January 19-20, 2019 at Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria, call (361) 575-7111, email iwbsvoc@yahoo.com or see www.iwbsvictoria.org

Amor Meus

Contact: Sr. Emilie Eilers at (361) 575-7111
e-mail: amormeus@yahoo.com
website: www.amormeusspiritualitycenter.org
IWBS Convent • 1101 NE Water St. • Victoria

One-Day Retreat: “Look Who Is Coming” (Advent theme) presenter, Mary Frazier, Saturday, December 8, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Guided retreats include at least two reflections, ample time for personal prayer, walking, and reflecting. A box lunch is available for \$5. There is a suggested donation of \$20 or a love offering.

Solemn Advent Vespers: December 2, 9, 16, and 23, from 5:00-5:45 p.m. Solemn Vespers is the Liturgical Evening Prayer of the Church. This prayer focuses on praying the psalms, giving thanks for the day and offering praise to God. Vespers closes with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Upcoming Retreats

January 19, 2019—God Works with our Hands: Knitters, Crafters, Quilters; etc. Sister Roselle Haas.

January 26, 2019 The Gift you Give Yourself—Deacon Leo Sharron, Terry Robinson, Sister Emilie Eilers, IWBS “Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened and I will give you rest.”

Pilgrimages

Holy Land Pilgrimage with Very Rev. Charles Otsiwah, pastor of Immaculate Conception, Goliad. Walk the footsteps of our Lord Jesus Christ on April 29-May 9, 2019. Some locations to be visited are Jerusalem, Mount of Olives, the Room of the Last Supper, Bethlehem, Old City of Jerusalem, Holy Hour in Gethsemane – Dead Sea, walk the Way of the Cross, Nazareth, Cana, Acre, Caesarea, Jaffa, and Tel Aviv. For a full itinerary, please contact Dora Silva at (361) 550-0103 or dsilva4415@gmail.com. Cost is \$3,599 – includes airfare, hotels, breakfast, and dinner.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land October 30-November 10, 2019, with Bishop Brendan Cahill and the Southwestern Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre. Some locations to be visited are Jerusalem, Nazareth, Bethlehem, Mt. Beatitudes, Sea of Galilee, Gethsemane, and Tiberias. Departing from Houston, with daily Mass, three meals daily, and more. For further information, contact Michele Malloy at (713)819-7318 or email mmalloylaw@gmail.com.

Pilgrimage to Poland, Czech Republic, and Germany for 10 days (August 22-31, 2020) including tickets to the 2020 once a decade Oberammergau Passion Play. Bishop Brendan Cahill will be the spiritual director. Reservations and deposit must be made by December 2018 by contacting Susan DeBartol at (888)843-7373 or susan@littleflowerpilgrimages.com. For information call (361)

For more pilgrimages see Journeys of Faith with Ceci on pg. 12.

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.

Crisis Pregnancy Center of Victoria—An organization staffed by volunteers that offers help to girls and women who find themselves in a difficult situation due to an unplanned pregnancy. Office located at 1501 E. Red River, is open 1:00-4:00 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. A free pregnancy test is offered and medical referrals are made for prenatal care. They are a sister organization to the Gabriel Project. New volunteers are welcome. For more information call (361) 575-6171.

Emmaus Center—Offers individual, couple, family, adolescent and children’s counseling as well as specialized support groups. Spiritual direction is also available on request. Appointments may be made by calling (361) 212-0830. For more information see pg. 3.

Engaged Encounter—2019 Dates: Jan. 25-27, April 5-7, May 31-June 2, Sept. 20-22, and Nov. 15-17, registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Fee must accompany registration form. For more information, call (361) 573-0828 or visit www.victoriadiocese.org.

Gabriel Project—Helps women experiencing a crisis pregnancy- an alternative to abortion. **Victoria:** Meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at 101 W. Convent. Light supper included. For angel workshop/training dates, contact Lisa Kainer (361) 676-3264 or lisa_heysquierdo@yahoo.com; **Meyersville:** Sts. Peter and Paul, meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. (during the school year) at 11220 FM 237 (77974), the coordinators for DeWitt Chapter are Wayne and Margie Smith (361) 564-3742; **Lavaca County:** Meets 6:00 p.m. (during the school year), contact Julie Kubena Lavaca County Coordinator at (361) 798-3579 for dates and location. See ad on pg. 6.

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. Adults who have experienced the death of a loved one, may attend (after three months have passed). Please call Sharon at (361) 578-7572 before attending.

i.d.9:16 Ministry—For adults in their 20s-30s, single or married. 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. Childcare 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. For more information contact Jennifer Ruiz at jenniferschobey.ruiz@yahoo.com.

Natural Family Planning—NFP is the only church-approved form of family planning. 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. **UPCOMING:** Annual Mass for the Feast Day of the Holy Innocents at Raphael’s Refuge will be December 28, with Bishop Cahill as celebrant. Beginning with a rosary at 10:00 a.m. Mass begins at 11:00 a.m. Refreshments will be served following the Mass. All are welcome. 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.

Meals • Picnics and More

December

Victoria—Annual Advent Dinner with Bishop Cahill and Bishop Fellhauer at the Spiritual Renewal Center, Dec. 8 at 5:00 p.m. For more information call (361) 572-0836.

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BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR**